



BS/TR/WG/R(2000)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON TRANSPORT**

Istanbul, 11-12 December 2000

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held at the BSEC premises in Istanbul on 11-12 December 2000.

2. The Meeting was attended by the delegates from the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt, France and Republic of Poland as Observers, as well as BSEC NGOs (BRASS and BINSAs).

4. The representatives of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly and the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting in the capacity of BSEC Related Bodies.

5. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and the European Commission as Guests.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ruslan ZHILIN, Counselor of the Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted with amendments. The agenda, as adopted by the Working Group, is attached as Annex II.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT NETWORK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE THIRD PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CONFERENCE (HELSINKI) AND SECOND INTERNATIONAL EURO-ASIAN CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT (ST. PETERSBURG)

8. The delegations discussed the decisions of the Third Pan-European Transport Conference (Helsinki) and the Second International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport (St. Petersburg) in the context of the transport infrastructure needs of the BSEC region.

9. While considering the Declaration of the Second Euro-Asian Conference on transport, the delegation of Azerbaijan expressed its view that the Declaration contains wrong wording with regard to TRACECA. Following the decision of the European Commission in May 1993 in Brussels TRACECA should be defined as Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia.

10. The Russian delegation proposed to disseminate among the BSEC Member States the information on the Second Coordination Meeting of the chairs and observers of Steering Committees for Pan-European transport corridors and areas held in Brussels on 7 December 2000.

FINALIZATION OF THE TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN FOR THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

11. The participants finalized the text of the draft Transport Action Plan for the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation with amendments. The draft Transport Action Plan will be submitted to the Ministers of Transport for approval. The said draft Action Plan is attached as Annex III.*

ELABORATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION (IN COOPERATION WITH THE UN/ECE)

12. The delegations welcomed the idea of concluding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region and exchanged general views in this respect.

* The Ukrainian delegation requested a two-weeks period so that the draft Action Plan could be examined by its national experts.

13. It was suggested that detailed discussion on the draft MoU could be continued at the next meeting of the Working Group on Transport after the Member States have considered the draft Memorandum and elaborated their views on its further elaboration.

ELABORATION OF A COMMON APPROACH FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT AREA (PETrA) OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN

14. The Working Group discussed the issue of upgrading the status of the BSEC in PETrA and requested the BSEC PERMIS to study the mechanism of upgrading the BSEC observer status in PETrA to the full participation.

15. The delegations referred to the decision of the Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States and reiterated the view that merger of the Black Sea PETrA and TRACECA would create difficulties of legal, financial and organizational character.

16. At the same time they expressed the opinion that cooperation between the Black Sea PETrA and TRACECA could be valuable.

17. The Working Group noted that it should not exclude itself from the region-wide discussion on the issue, which is not a direct competence of the WG on Transport, and would continue the discussion on it after the Black Sea PETrA and TRACECA have made concrete steps towards cooperation and coordination of their activities.

18. The delegations took note of the profound explanation made by the EC representative on the subject discussed.

COOPERATION OF THE MEMBER STATES WITH THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

19. Under this item the delegations took note of the proposal made by the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS) and the Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs) to work out a regional concept for the development of maritime industry of the BSEC region.

20. The delegations were of the opinion that the position of BRASS and BINSAs to the above-mentioned issue was worth further examination by relevant subsidiary bodies of the BSEC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. The Bulgarian delegation made an announcement about the Third International Conference on “Black Sea Ports and Exhibitions” to be held in Burgas, Bulgaria on 10-11 October 2001. The Bulgarian Side requested the support of the BSEC Member States with regard to their participation in the Conference and stressed that it will provide relevant information in due course.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22. The Russian Chairmanship announced that the next Meeting of the WG on Transport will be held on 26-27 February 2001. The venue of the Meeting will be duly communicated by the Russian Side at a later stage.

23. The Russian delegation expressed the readiness of the Chairman-in-Office to hold a Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States on 30 March 2001 in Sochi. Official invitations will be sent in the shortest possible time.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

24. The delegations expressed thanks to the Chairman for his able and constructive chairing of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. The present Report was adopted for submission to the Fourth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Moscow in April 2001.