

BAKU DECLARATION
OF THE
MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
“INITIATIVES OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS IN TRADE FACILITATION”

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 26 November 2014

We, the Heads of Customs Administrations of Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, gathered in Baku on 26 November 2014 to consider initiatives of Customs Administrations in Trade Facilitation;

Acknowledging the importance of further development of mutual trade and economic relations among the BSEC Member States;

Recognizing the need for making systematic efforts towards the creation of a more favourable trade environment through our combined actions aimed at further improvement of trade relations among our countries;

Taking into account the recommendations of international organizations supporting the regulation of trade and transport in the BSEC Region;

Emphasizing the necessity of increasing the attractiveness of transit transport corridors existing in the BSEC Region and of improving the efficiency of release capabilities;

Acknowledging the significant role of capacity building for the customs administrations of the BSEC Member States;

Stressing the importance of automation of customs operations through using the best practices in the field of Information and Communication Technologies;

Appreciating the activities undertaken within the BSEC framework aimed at trade facilitation and at promoting initiatives such as Single Window, in cooperation with other international organizations, in particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);

Taking into account the instruments developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) towards trade facilitation;

declare our willingness to:

- Encourage the implementation of the provisions of the Revised Kyoto Convention (International Convention on simplification and harmonization of customs procedures) by the BSEC Member States;
- Explore the ways on fulfillment of the requirements of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards;
- Conduct workshops and training courses with a view to increasing the professional knowledge of customs officers in the field of risk analysis and risk management;
- Regularly improve the customs procedures and legislation considering the best practices on facilitation and promotion of trade, with a view to further developing the customs control system and providing contributions to the economic security of the BSEC Member States;
- Use human resources more efficiently, as well as regularly improve the activities on capacity building based on modern tools and principles;
- Continue the efforts towards solving the issues of common interest in customs matters among the BSEC Member States;
- Efficiently use and benefit from the tools and mechanisms provided by the relevant international conventions;
- Support the wider usage of existing international transit systems among the BSEC Member States;
- Promote the best practices gained on establishment and development of Authorized Economic Operator institutes in the BSEC Member States;
- Increase the competitiveness of transport corridors and achieve more efficiency in cargo turnover in the BSEC Member States;
- Enhance the cooperation with relevant stakeholders;
- Encourage fulfilment of ongoing projects among the BSEC Member States for facilitating flow of passengers and goods;
- Provide support to the development of innovation projects such as Time Release Study (TRS) and Single Window through using ICT solutions;
- Invite the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters, other relevant BSEC Working Groups and the BSEC Related Bodies to continue their activities related to trade facilitation, taking into account the present Declaration.

The Participants express their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to the organizers of the Meeting for the excellent arrangements and their warm hospitality.