



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

Odessa, 28 May 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held in Odessa, on 28 May 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Elena PROSKURA, Deputy Director of the Department for International Relations, Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine.
3. The Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, Ambassador Victor TVIRCUN welcomed the participants of the Meeting of the Working Group.
4. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
5. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt participated in the Meeting as BSEC Observer.
6. The representatives of the Black and Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA), Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs) and Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS) participated in the Meeting in the capacity of Sectoral Dialogue Partners.

The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Implementation of the resolutions, decisions, recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and follow-up of the “The Izmir Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Sphere of Transport in the BSEC Region” (Izmir, 28 November 2012)

8. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS about decisions of the 27th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Istanbul, 15 December 2012), and activities undertaken for implementation of the Izmir Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Sphere of Transport in the BSEC Region (Izmir, 28 November 2012) and decisions of the previous meeting of the WG on Transport (Izmir, 26-27 November 2012).

a) Presentation by Ukraine, a Country-Coordinator, of the Evaluation Report of the BSEC Transport Cooperation for a period 1 July 2011-31 May 2013;

9. The Working Group took note of the presentation by Ukraine, a Country-Coordinator in the BSEC Working Group, of the Evaluation Report on the BSEC transport Cooperation for a period of 1 July 2011-31 May 2013, prepared with assistance of the BSEC PERMIS. The said report is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The Working Group expressed high appreciation to Ukraine for its great contribution to promotion of transport in the BSEC region, as a Country-Coordinator of the BSEC WG on Transport during 1 July 2011-30 June 2013, and submission of a comprehensive Evaluation Report for the said period.

11. Following the Ukraine’s proposal presented at the previous and present meetings the Working Group decided to recommend to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States to establish a Task Force on studying possibilities of cooperation on intermodal transportation in the BSEC Region.

12. Furthermore, the Working Group requested the BSEC PERMIS to place the Evaluation Report of Ukraine at the BSEC website as a document promoting BSEC in general, and transport cooperation, in particular.

13. The Working Group welcomed applications of Romania and Ukraine for the post of a Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for a period of 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2015 and decided to defer consideration of the issue to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

b) Way forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership;

14. The Working Group took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS about approval by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of a document “The Way Forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of the Economic Agenda towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”, further prioritizing the priorities contained in the Economic Agenda, and decided to invite the incoming Country-Coordinator to incorporate its provisions related to transport to

the Draft Plan of Action of the WG on Transport for the period 1 July 2013-30 June 2015 to be presented in accordance with the BSEC regulations.

c) Implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy.

15. The Working Group continued discussion on the BSEC Public Communication Strategy, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States at its 26th meeting in Belgrade, on 11 June 2012 and noted that the BSEC transport cooperation, as it was mentioned in the Evaluation Report of Ukraine, is in line with the provisions of the said document.

16. The Working Group appreciated the efforts of Ukraine and Sectoral Dialogue Partners (BSEC-URTA, BRASS, BASPA and BINSAs) in organizing a series of events, including the Transport Week in Odessa (27-31 May 2013), promoting BSEC and transport cooperation.

17. The Working Group invited the incoming Country-Coordinator to incorporate the relevant provisions of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy to the Draft Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period 1 July 2013-30 June 2015 to be presented in accordance with the BSEC regulations.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Consideration of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Union of Railways

18. The document “A Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Union of Railways” was discussed and amended. The text as amended is attached as **Annex IV**.

19. The BSEC PERMIS was requested to present the document to the Committee of Senior Officials for further consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Consideration of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region, presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation

20. The Working Group exchanged views on a Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region, presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and agreed on the following:

- to invite the Member States, which have not yet done so, to present to the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS JTS) via BSEC PERMIS their proposals to the draft Memorandum of Understanding by 15 July 2013;
- to invite the Bulgarian Chairmanship in MoS Ad Hoc WG to include the issue “Consideration of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region, presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation” to the Agenda of the next meeting of the MoS Ad Hoc WG;
- to consider the state of affairs regarding consideration of the MoU at the next meeting of the WG on Transport.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Consideration of the Draft Final Document of the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (29 May 2013, Odessa)

21. “The Draft Odessa Joint Declaration on the Development of Cooperation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region – Opportunities and Challenges for Intermodal Transport in the BSEC Region” was considered, amended and submitted to the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States for adoption. The text of the final draft is attached to the present Report as **Annex V**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No issues were raised under this Agenda Item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22. The date and venue of the next meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport will be communicated at a later stage.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

23. The Working Group adopted the present Report to be submitted to the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States and the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.