



BS/TR/WG/R(2003)1

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

Baky, 1-2 October 2003

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Transport was held on 1-2 October 2003 in Baky, the Republic of Azerbaijan.
 2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States :

Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
 3. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC), BSEC Business Council (BC), the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) also participated in the Meeting.
 4. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan as Guests.
 5. The representatives of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) and Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) participated in the Meeting as NGOs having sectoral dialogue partnership with the BSEC.
 6. The welcoming speech to the participants of the Meeting was delivered by Mr. Musa PANAKHOV, Deputy Head of Railways of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
 7. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Ashraf SHIKHALIYEV, Head of Division, Department for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Igbal A. HUSEYNOV, Deputy Chief of Finance and Credit Department, Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
8. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN FOR THE BSEC

a) Country-Coordinator of the BSEC Working Group on Transport

9. The WG took note of the “Plan of Action of the Working Group on Transport for 2004-2005” presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the provisions of the Terms of Reference for the Institution of Country-Coordinator. The said Plan of Action is attached as Annex III.

b) Reports by the Member States about completion of the internal procedures regarding the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, Draft Time-Table for the implementation of the MoU

10. The WG considered the status of the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods and Draft Time-Table prepared by the PERMIS for its implementation to be applied right after the entry into force of the said MoU. The Draft Time-Table is attached as Annex IV.

11. Paying attention to the importance of this MoU, the WG suggested that future work on its implementation should concentrate on reaching a consensus on two substantive criteria- progressive liberalization of transport in the region and harmonization of transport legislation (charging policies, technical specifications, etc.) This work should result in the preparation of legally binding documents (agreements) with their technical annexes to be signed by the Member States’ Governments which are parties to the said MoU.

12. The WG welcomed the fact that an important issue of the MoU- Facilitation of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers has already received relevant consideration in the BSEC.

13. The Delegation of Ukraine informed the WG about the completion by Ukraine of necessary internal legal procedures for the entry into force of MoU.

c) Transformation of the BSEC Working Group on Transport into project-oriented endeavor and consideration of project proposals for utilization of the Project Development Fund

14. The participants expressed their appreciation for the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS and comments made by the BSEC Business Council on the operational modalities of the Project Development Fund and related institutional capacity.

15. The WG welcomed the applications by Romania and the BSEC-URTA for funding BSEC projects.

i) Romania presented an application for funding a BSEC project concerning a “Study on the Development of Short Sea Shipping in the Black Sea” whose beneficiaries might be all the BSEC Member States and whose main objectives are to promote and improve the integration of short sea shipping into intermodal transport chains and to investigate new potential short sea trading routes in the Black Sea.

ii) The BSEC-URTA presented an application for funding a BSEC project titled “Development of Distant Professional Learning Software for the International Road

Transportation Industry” aimed at developing a sophisticated professional competency training software for the international road transport industry as well as implementing and monitoring a harmonized and sustainable distance-learning program with the intention of delivering the CPC (certificate of professional competence) training for international freight transport operators in the BSEC region.

The above-mentioned applications are attached as Annex V.

16. It was further agreed that the national views on the afore-mentioned project proposals should be communicated to the BSEC PERMIS as soon as possible in order to enable the Committee of Senior Officials to consider the applications at its forthcoming Meeting (Baky, 29-30 October 2003) and possibly submit them for funding to the next Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Project Development Fund (3-4 December 2003).

17. The participants emphasized the significance of the fact, that for the first time a substantive discussion on the implementation of specific regional projects, presented by Romania and the BSEC-URTA, was initiated.

18. The participants reached the common understanding that this respective item should be included into the agenda of every meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group should play the role of a panel, selecting the concept ideas for their further pipelining through the network of the Organization.

19. The participants expressed their readiness to mobilize human resources and actively contribute to the process.

d) BSEC Transport Ring Corridor

20. The WG appreciated the work done by the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey in preparing the map of the BSEC region distributed at this Meeting. The delegations took note of the Turkish proposal to specify port facilities on the map instead of showing sea connections as the latter change from time to time. The WG suggested that Member States should send to the Turkish Ministry of Transport through PERMIS their views and complementary information in order to improve and update the said map.

21. The BSEC PERMIS was requested to also contact UNECE in order to receive its assistance in improving and updating the above-mentioned map and make use of its data on e-roads, railroads and waterways.

e) Operation and interaction of different modes of transport

22. The WG highly appreciated the Working Paper on Operation and Interaction of Different Modes of Transport and Possible Fields of Synergy Between Road and Maritime Transport, prepared by the BSEC-URTA in accordance with the request of the last meeting of the WG and encouraged the BSEC-URTA to continue the research.

23. Recognizing the importance of sharing experience and expertise in the field with the ECMT, UNECE and other international organizations, the WG encouraged the BSEC PERMIS to expand the scope of its cooperation with these organizations accordingly.

f) Harmonization of transport legislation

24. The WG took note of the latest status report on the accession by the countries to the major UN international transport agreements and conventions, provided by the UNECE.

25. The WG welcomed the information of the Republic of Azerbaijan on its accession to following international conventions in the field of transport:

1. Convention on Road Traffic (08.11.1968)
2. Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (19.05.1956)
3. Customs Convention on Containers (02.12.1972)

g) Training programmes for transport management

26. The BSEC-URTA representative presented detailed information on Training for Transport Management, and a Draft Agreement among BSEC Member States on mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for road haulage operator and road passenger transport operator intended to facilitate for the persons practicing these professions the right to freedom of establishment in national and international transport operations.

27. The said Draft Agreement was prepared by the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The WG expressed its appreciation to the IRU, for submitting to the BSEC PERMIS the said Draft Agreement as well as for its suggestions and recommendations expressed in IRU's letter of 22 September 2003.

28. Highlighting the importance of setting international standards in professional training and welcoming the readiness of the IRU to give its utmost support to the BSEC in order to achieve this goal in the BSEC region, the WG agreed that Member States should communicate to the BSEC PERMIS their opinions and comments on such an Agreement and their recommendations to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to establish a relevant Ad hoc Group of Experts.

h) Consideration of situation in shipbuilding, shiprepairing and shipping field

29. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the WG has decided to reconsider the issue, to the extent needed, after the Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development and on Banking and Finance have considered the results of the Meeting of Experts on Shipbuilding, Shiprepairing and Shipping. The latter shall be held in accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference for such a Meeting. The WG invited the BSEC PERMIS to recommend to the next Chairmanship to consider this issue a priority matter.

CONSIDERATION OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

30. The PERMIS informed the WG that it continued the exchange of information with the Secretariats of the IGC TRACECA, SC Black Sea PETrA and SECI RRTC in the period between the meetings of the WG on Transport.

31. The PERMIS also continued consultations with the UNECE on the possible assistance of the latter in the matters considered by the BSEC.

32. In order to speed up the exchange of information on the activities of other transport organizations and following the request of the WG, the PERMIS has placed links to these organizations and Ministries of Transport of the BSEC Member States at its web-page.

33. The Member States were invited to send their proposals to the PERMIS with regard to the improvement or updating of the BSEC web-page related to the field of transport.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPING AND ACCELERATING TRANSPORT PROCESS

34. No specific presentations with regard to this agenda item were delivered.

2004 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK FOR THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

35. The WG on Transport elaborated on and approved its 2004 Annual Plan of Work. The said Annual Plan is attached as Annex VI.

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BSEC PERMIS AND PS IGC TRACECA

36. The WG considered the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the BSEC PERMIS and PS IGC TRACECA, elaborated by the Secretariats of the two Organizations. It was agreed that the Member States will send to the PERMIS their proposals and amendments to the said MoU, if any, by 15 October 2003, in order to facilitate proper consideration of the MoU by the Committee of Senior Officials with a view to signing the MoU on the occasion of the forthcoming Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Baky, 31 October 2003). The text of the Draft MoU is attached as Annex VII.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

37. The participants expressed their appreciation to the outgoing Executive Manager of the PERMIS, Mr. Yevgen KOZIY for his significant contribution to the Working Group on Transport and wished him all the success and good luck in his new endeavors.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

38. The WG agreed that the date and venue of its next meeting would be communicated to the Member States through the BSEC PERMIS.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

39. The participants expressed their satisfaction for the fruitful outcome of the Meeting as well as their thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to the Ministry of Transport in particular, for the warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

40. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Meeting of Committee of Senior Officials (29-30 October 2003) and the Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (31 October 2003) to be held in Baky.
