

**EVALUATION REPORT OF ROMANIA
AS COUNTRY-COORDINATOR
OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT (BSEC WGT)
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD
1st JULY 2015 - 30 JUNE 2017**

1. The Action Plan of the Working Group on Transport for the period between 1st July 2015 – 30 June 2017 represented a general framework to promote the cooperation in the field of transport among the BSEC Member States. This Plan presented consistency with the work, which had been carried out by BSEC on transport cooperation in accordance with the previous action plans, and it was directed at promoting sustainable transport systems that meet economic, social and environmental needs in the Black Sea Region.

2. The Action Plan set the main guidelines for enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation between the BSEC Member States directed towards both the integration of the national transport networks into the regional ones and further into the Trans European Network Transport (TEN-T) and Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL), and the development of reliable, efficient, safe, integrated and sustainable transport systems in the BSEC region.

3. The present Evaluation Report has been prepared in accordance with the Istanbul Summit Declaration signed on the occasion of the Twentieth anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (26 June 2012), provisions of the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership (Goal 3), resolutions of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, decisions of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States and the BSEC public communication Strategy.

4. Respectively, during the said period the activity of the Working Group was guided by:

a) Resolution and decisions of the 33th (Bucharest, 11 December 2015), the 34th (Sochi, 1 July 2016), the 35th (Belgrade, 13 December 2016) and the 36th (Istanbul, 29 June 2017) meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States,

b) Decisions of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States reflected in:

- Declaration of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Prospects of Cooperation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region “New opportunities for better transport connectivities” (Bucharest, Romania, 21 October, 2015);
- Sochi Joint Declaration on Prospects of Cooperation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region - through the synergy of transport and tourism to further development of the BSEC region (Sochi, 1 June 2016);
- Belgrade Joint Declaration on Prospects of Cooperation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC region - BSEC Region, Integrate to Grow, Partnership for the Future (1 November 2016, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia).

c) Decisions of the Working Group at its meetings held in the BSEC HQ on 21 September 2015 and in Sochi on 30-31 May 2016.

5. The BSEC transport cooperation during this period signified joint actions of the Turkish Chairmanship in the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, the Romanian Chairmanship in the ad hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorway of the Sea, the Moldavian Chairmanship in the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, the Romanian Chairmanship of the Task Force on Studying possibilities of cooperation in the intermodal transportation in the BSEC region, the Romanian Coordination in the BSEC Working Group on Transport, the Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Black Sea Ring Highway (Egnatia Odos, Thessaloniki, Greece), the

Joint Technical Secretariat of the Motorways of the Sea (Constanta Port, Romania and Russian Federation), the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat and the BSEC Related Bodies.

6. The activities represented consistency with work, which had been carried out by BSEC Working Group on Transport in accordance with its Action Plan for 2013 - 2015 implemented under the Ukrainian Coordination.

7. The actions were directed at the further implementation of the Memorandum on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea ring Highway, Development of the Motorways of the Sea and Facilitation of road Transport of Goods; development of the intermodal transportation, simplified procedure for transport and goods, computerization of TIR procedures, development of Multimodal Ferry Lines, development of a regional integrated maritime policy, cooperation for joint meeting on transport and tourism, undertaking new initiatives aimed at developing modern transport infrastructure and facilitating transport.

The list of the BSEC transport events for the period 1 July 2015-30 June 2017 is attached as Annex 1.

8. The BSEC countries continued the practice of exchanging information regarding the transport national strategies and investment projects being implemented in the BSEC Member States as well as on the best practices used on transport.

9. The WG encouraged the Member States and partners to initiate joint projects within the priority areas of the Project Development Fund and the newly established Project Management Unit.

10. During this period the BSEC PERMIS took the initiative in order to revitalize the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) and the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) projects, and organized the Informal Meeting on Implementation of the “Black Sea Ring Highway” (BSRH) and the “Motorways of the Sea” (MoS) projects, which was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 9 September 2016. The representatives of the BSEC PERMIS (at the level of the Secretary General), the BSTDB (at the level of its President), Country-Coordinator of the WG, the governing bodies of the memoranda, the IRU and the BSEC-URTA exchanged information on the state of affairs concerning the two projects and determined the remaining actions for finalizing the preparatory phase of the projects. Furthermore, they agreed to coordinate efforts to enable the coherent promotion of the projects and to prepare the compilation of comprehensive files for both projects, to be used, in a coordinated way, in all subsequent interlocutors, including, in particular, IFIs.

11. During its meetings, the WGT continued consideration of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry and Passenger Lines in the Black Sea.

12. The BSEC continued its fruitful cooperation with the BSEC partners on the development of the transport infrastructure, facilitation of transport and the relevant BSEC projects. Especially, UNECE, IRU, BSEC-URTA, BASPA, BINSAs and BRASS contributed much to these areas by presenting their concrete proposals.

13. BSEC started fruitful cooperation with the International Union of Railways - on 3 March 2016 at the BSEC Headquarters, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Union of Railways was signed by H.E. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, and Mr. Jean-Pierre LOUBINOUX, Director General of the International Union of Railways (IUR).

14. Following the participation of H.E. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General, in the Annual Summit of the International Transport Forum (ITF), which was held in Leipzig from 31 May to 2 June 2017, the PERMIS intends to organize with the relevant stakeholders a “BSEC stand” at the next edition of the ITF in 2018, in order to better present the Organization’s activities in transport sector.

15. Therefore, it depends to us all (BSEC chairmanships-in-office), the chairmanships of working groups, the BSEC PERMIS, BSRH JTS, MOS JTS, the BSEC Related Bodies, sectorial dialogue Partners) to collaborate in order to extend the activities of the BSEC in the field of transport and to develop the main common projects.

Annex. 1

List of the BSEC transport events for the period 1 July 2015-30 June 2017 1 July 2015-30 June 2017

Country-Coordinator: Romania

a/ MINISTERIAL MEETINGS:

PLANNED

- 2015 – A meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (Bucharest, October 2015) proceeded by a Meeting of Experts to prepare a Final Document of the Ministerial meeting.
- 2016 – A meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (upon the decision of the BSEC Chairman-in-office) proceeded by a Meeting of Experts to prepare Final Document of the Ministerial meeting – proposed Sochi, May 2016

IMPLEMENTATION

- Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States, Bucharest, Romania, 21 October 2015.
- Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States, Sochi, 1 June 2016.
- Meeting of the Ministers of the BSEC Member States in Charge of Transport, Belgrade, the Republic of Serbia, 1 November 2016.

b/ MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

PLANNED

- Meeting – September 2015, BSEC Headquarters – coordinated by both Romania (as Country-Coordinator for 2015 – 2017) and Ukraine (former-Country-Coordinator for 2013-2015), presentation and adoption of the Action Plan of Romania and the Evaluation Report of Ukraine,
- Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport – Sochi, May 2016
- Meeting (September-November 2017, TBD) - Presentation of the Evaluation Report of Romania for 2015-2017.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Meeting of the Working Group on Transport, BSEC Headquarters, 21-22 September 2015.
- Meeting of the Working Group on Transport, Sochi, 30-31 May 2016.
- Meeting (October-November 2016, TBD) – Evaluation of projects and other transport activities.
- Meeting of the Group of Experts to Prepare the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (Belgrade, 1 November 2016), BSEC Headquarters, 13 October 2016
- Meeting of the Working Group on Transport, Kyiv, 16 November 2017 - pending.

c/ MEETINGS OF SUBORDINATED ORGANS:

Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

PLANNED

- Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region (will be scheduled by the Chairmanship in the BSRH Steering Committee), BSEC Headquarters – TBD.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Informal Meeting of the Steering Committee of Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods (BSEC Headquarters, 19 October 2017).

Project “BSEC PERMIT System

PLANNED

- Meeting of Countries participating in the Project “BSEC PERMIT System”, BSEC Headquarters – TBD.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Meeting Related to the Implementation of the Project “BSEC PERMIT System”, BSEC Headquarters, 20 November 2015.
- Meeting Related to the Implementation of the Project “BSEC PERMIT System”, BSEC Headquarters, 2 December 2016.
- Meeting Related to the Implementation of the Project “BSEC PERMIT System” (BSEC Headquarters, 18 October 2017).

Task Force on intermodal transportation

PLANNED

- Task Force on intermodal transportation in the Black Sea region, BSEC Headquarters – 16 November 2015.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Meeting of the Task Force on Intermodal Transportation in the Black Sea Region, BSEC Headquarters, 16 November 2015.

Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

PLANNED

- Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (will be scheduled by the Chairmanship in the BSRH Steering Committee) – Sochi, March 2016

IMPLEMENTATION

- Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Sochi, 30 May 2016.
- Informal Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, BSEC Headquarters, 15 May 2017.

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Motorways of the Sea

PLANNED

- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Motorways of the Sea, Bucharest, Romania, 20 October, 2015.
- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Motorways of the Sea – Sochi, February 2016

IMPLEMENTATION

- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, Bucharest, 20 October 2015.
- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, Sochi, 30 May 2016.
- Informal Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, BSEC Headquarters, 15 May 2017.

d/ MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BOARDS OF THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS

BSEC-URTA/ IRU

- 38th Meeting of the Management Council of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) BSEC Headquarters. 4 February 2016 BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0049 dated 4 February 2016.
- 31st Meeting of the General Assembly of the BSEC-URTA, Istanbul, 16 June 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017.0333 dated 21 June 2017.
- 32nd Meeting of the General Assembly of the BSEC-URTA, Tirana, 13 October 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note – pending
- TOBB – BSEC URTA – IRU - AULT International Black Sea Transport Forum, under the auspices of H.E. Ambassador Michael B. CHRISTIDES, the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the BSEC-URTA and 50th Anniversary of accession to the TIR Convention by the Republic of Turkey, Istanbul, 23 November 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0610 dated 2 December 2016.
- BSEC PERMIS - IRU - BSEC URTA - TOBB Seminar on Computerization of TIR Procedures and Other Road Transport Related Documents, Istanbul, 15 June 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017.0333 dated 21 June 2017.
- BSEC-IRU-BSEC URTA Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the BSEC Region, BSEC Headquarters, 18 October 2017.
- The IRU-ASMAP of Ukraine XVI International Conference "International Road Transport - Problems, Solutions and Development", Odessa 8-9 September 2015/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2015.0443/16 September 2015.
- IRU - ASMAP of Ukraine XVII International Conference “International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”, Kyiv, Ukraine, 19-20 October 2016, BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0525 dated 28 October 2017.

- IRU - ASMAP of Ukraine XVIII International Road Transport Conference «Road Transport – Problems, Ways of Their Solution and Development Prospects», Odessa, 6-7 September 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017. 0393 dated 14 September 2017.

BASPA

- BASPA Council Meeting 1 June 2017 BS/INFO.2016.0302 dated 7 June 2016.

BASPA-BINSA

- 9th International Container Summit, Odessa, 10-11 September 2015/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2015.0448 dated 18 September 2015.
- Odessa International Transport Week, 31 May-3 June 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0302 dated 7 June 2016.
- Odessa Transport and Trade Week, 30 May - 3 June 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017.0315 dated 8 June 2017.
- 11th Black Sea Container Summit, Odessa, 7 September 2017, BSEC PERMIS Note dated 14 September 2017.
- International Black Sea Transport Forum “TRANS EXPO ODESSA 2017”, Odessa, 27-29 September 2017.

BRASS

- Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Black Sea Region Association of the Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers, Varna, 14-15 September 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0424 dated 21 September 2016.

UNECE

- UNECE Workshop on “Road-Rail Transport Corridors along Europe and Asia”, Geneva, 7 September 2015/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2015.04279 dated September 2015.
- UNECE 78th Session of the Inland Transport Committee, Geneva, 23-26 February 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0082 dated 29 February 2016.
- UNECE 70th Anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee, Geneva, 21 February 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017.0098 dated 24 February 2017.
- UNECE 30th session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, Geneva, 4-6 September 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017. 0391 dated 13 September 2017.
- UNECE International Workshop on the development of intermodal transportation, Odessa, 31 May 2016/ BS/INFO.2016.0302 dated 7 June 2016.

Other UN organizations

- UN-OHRLLS, High Level Meeting for the Euro-Asia Region on Improving Cooperation on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, Hanoi, Vietnam, 7-9 March 2017/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017.0133 dated 13 March 2017.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM

- 2017 International Transport Forum, Leipzig, Federal Republic of Germany, 31 May - 2 June 2017. BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2017.0312 dated 6 June 2017.

DANUBE COMMISSION

- Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations, hosted by the Secretariat of the Danube Commission, Budapest, 19 April 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0257 dated 20 May 2016.

SILK ROAD

- Silk Road Countries Forum: Energy, Resources and Sustainable Development, Astana, Kazakhstan, 25-26 May 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0286 dated 31 May 2016.
- Georgia International Maritime Forum 2016, Batumi, 13 - 14 September 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0413 dated 16 September 2016.
- International Transport Conference “Integrated Transport Corridors in Europe-Asia Connection”, Odessa, 8 September 2016/ BSEC PERMIS Note BS/INFO.2016.0408 dated 16 September 2016.