

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT
(Odessa, 28 May 2013)

BSEC TRANSPORT COOPERATION

EVALUATION REPORT OF UKRAINE, A COUNTRY-COORDINATOR
IN THE BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT,
for a period 1 July 2011 - 30 May 2013

Prepared with assistance of the BSEC PERMIS

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Evaluation Report has been prepared in accordance with the Resolution “Monitoring the implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations approved by the BSEC Council of Ministers” that was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs at its 15th Meeting held in Moscow on 1 November 2006.
2. The Evaluation Report corresponds to para III.1.3 of the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership related to the close monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations approved by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Declarations adopted at the meetings of the Heads of State and Government, Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and sectoral ministers of the Member States and evaluating the existing challenges and the possible steps that could be taken to support and facilitate the implementation process, where applicable.
3. The Action Plan in the field of Transport (Attached as Annex 1), presented by Ukraine, as a Country-Coordinator, set the main guidelines for enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation between the BSEC Member States for the period 2011-2013 directed at the integration of the national transport networks into the regional ones and furthermore into the Trans European Network, Pan European and Euro-Asian Corridors.
4. During the period since 1 July 2011 the work the Working Group was guided by:
 - resolutions and decisions of the 24th (Bucharest, 8 June 2011), the 25th (Moscow, 16 December 2011), 26th (Belgrade, 11 June 2012) and 27th (Istanbul, 15 December 2012) meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States,
 - decisions of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States reflected in:
 - the Sofia Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Co-operation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region “*Through enhanced BSEC regional transport co-operation towards a sustainable economic growth and prosperity*” (15 April 2010, Sofia, Bulgaria – “Sofia Declaration”),
 - the Moscow Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Co-operation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region “Towards secure, coherent and efficient transport system in the Black Sea Region” (21 October 2011, Moscow, Russian Federation-Moscow Declaration), and
 - the Izmir Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Sphere of Transport in the BSEC Region (28 November 2012, Izmir, Republic of Turkey),
 - the WG’s decisions of its meetings in Istanbul on 13-14 April 2011, in Moscow on 19-20 October 2011 and in Izmir on 26-27 November 2012.
5. The BSEC transport cooperation during this period represents concerted actions of the Russian (1 July -31 December 2011), the Serbian (1 January- 30 June 2011), the Turkish (1 July – 31 December 2012) and the Ukrainian (1 January-30 June 2013) BSEC Chairmanships-in-office, the Bulgarian Chairmanship in the Steering Committee of the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the

Sea, the Serbian Chairmanship in the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, the Ukrainian Coordination in the BSEC Working Group on Transport, the Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Black Sea Ring Highway, the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat and the BSEC Related Bodies, in particular, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank. The activities represent consistency with work which had been carried out by BSEC Working Group on Transport in accordance with its Action plan for 2009-2011 implemented under the Romanian Coordination.

6. The actions were directed at the further implementation of the Memoranda on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Development of the Motorways of the Sea and Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods; continuation of a dialogue on cooperation in road safety; civil aviation; strengthening transport institutional capacity; undertaking new initiatives aimed at developing modern transport infrastructure and facilitating transportation. The List of the BSEC transport events for the period 1 July 2011-30 May 2013 is attached as Annex 2.
7. The BSEC countries continued the practice of exchanging information regarding transport national strategies and investment projects being implemented in the BSEC Member States as well as on best practices used on transport. The great role in this work belongs to the strengthened institutional capacity of BSEC in transport field through cooperation with the international organizations and associations representing the business community, participation of representatives of private companies in the BSEC work and implementation of joint projects.
8. More specifically the BSEC actions on transport are mentioned below:

I. DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

9. The work in this field was continued in line with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway. At its 6th Meeting in Rostov-on-Don on 27 September 2011 the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway agreed on most of the points of alignment of the Black Sea Ring Highway. With regard to the unresolved points it was decided that the final version of the main route would be considered as adopted upon receiving the notifications from the relevant Member States that they accept the proposals. The interested Member States presented their positions to the Bulgarian Chairmanship in the BSRH Steering Committee. As the issue has not been resolved it was brought to the agenda of the Meeting of the Working Group on Transport in Izmir on 26-27 November 2012 and still remains unresolved.

The Model Highway Initiative

10. In Rostov-on-Don the Steering Committee also decided to include the issue of creating the Model Highway along the Black Sea Ring Highway sections into the future project of the Master-Plan and to cooperate with the International Road Transport Union in preparing the Feasibility Study on the Model Highway Initiative project. With the Model Highway Initiative the BSRH concept has received the additional positive development as the IRU's Initiative is directed at creation of modern highways and bringing ancillary road infrastructure to the highest European standards.
11. On 19-20 October 2011 in Moscow the Working Group on Transport supported inclusion of the MHI approach in the future work related to the BSRH Master-Plan and took note of the IRU's proposal to organize a workshop with participation of IRU, BSTDB and BSRH JTS in

Thessaloniki in 2012. The WG invited the BSRH Steering Committee to continue strengthening cooperation with UNECE and IRU as well as with other international organizations in developing the Black Sea Ring Highway.

12. On 21 October 2011 in Moscow the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States agreed to assist to the implementation of transport, auxiliary and logistic infrastructure development projects in the BSEC region in cooperation with other international organizations and financial institutions and by involvement of the business community, particularly on the basis of the public-private partnership, notably by inclusion of the IRU Model Highway Initiative (MHI) into the future project of the BSRH Master Plan and cooperation in preparation of required feasibility studies.
13. At its 25th Meeting in Moscow on 16 December 2011 the Council welcomed the initiative of IRU on the development of the Model Highway as contributing to the development of the Black Sea Ring Highway
14. On 6-8 March 2012 in Thessaloniki the participants of the BSEC-BSTDB-IRU Workshop on Investment, Financial and Technological Issues of Model Highway Initiative Implementation presented and discussed in detail practical issues of implementation the MHI and further development of the Black Sea Ring Highway based on the world best practices in road transport industry.
15. On 14 November 2012 the first pre-feasibility study “Development of the Baku – Tbilisi – Batumi – Trabzon Model Highway” was presented at the premises of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey. The pre-feasibility study was done by the public Greek company “Egnatia ODOS S.A.” (the company also represents the Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Black Sea Ring Highway) with financing of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and International Road Transport Union (IRU). The IRU presented a background and main elements of the Model Highway Initiative. “Egnatia ODOS S.A.” submitted the main findings of the pre-feasibility study. The event showed advancement of the MHI as an important contribution to the development of the ancillary road infrastructure in the Black Sea Ring Highway and the Euro-Asian Transport links.
16. On 26-27 November 2012 in Izmir the Working Group appreciated the efforts of the IRU, the BSTDB, “Egnatia ODOS S.A” and respective countries for a concrete contribution to the development and promotion of the Model Highway Initiative which, in accordance with the Moscow Declaration, has become an integral part of the Black Sea Ring Highway concept. The Working Group also agreed to further strengthen the established cooperation on the Model Highway Initiative through concrete plans and actions including inviting the IRU to consider expanding the MHI to territories of other Member States.

2. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region

17. At the meeting in Novorossiysk on 6-7 October 2011, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea discussed and amended the Draft Regulations of the Joint Technical Secretariat and the Draft Terms of Reference of the Experts Correspondence Network.
18. The Ad Hoc Working Group requested the Parties who have applied for hosting the JTS to resolve the issue of the JTS hosting in order to start its work as soon as possible. The issue was

resolved at the Meeting of the Working Group on Transport in Izmir on 26-27 November 2012 and at the meeting on 28-29 March 2013 in Istanbul the Ad Hoc Working Group accomplished formalities, which were necessary for the formation of the institutional capacity, and set up actions for starting an active phase in implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region.

19. In particular, it was decided that the Republic of Turkey will host the MoS Joint Technical Secretariat during a two year period starting from 1 May 2013 followed by Romania – (1 May 2015 – 30 April 2017), the Russian Federation (1 May 2017-30 April 2019) and Ukraine (1 May 2019- 30 April 2021).

Development of the Multimodal Freight and Passenger Black Sea Ferry Lines

20. At the meeting in Novorossiysk the Russian Federation presented its initiative on the Development of the Multimodal Freight and Passenger Black Sea Ferry Lines. The initiative was welcomed by the BSEC Member States at the said meeting as well as at the meeting of the Working Group on Transport on 19-20 October 2011. The representatives of business community also noted that implementation of the initiative would greatly facilitate business opportunities in the maritime transportation in the BSEC Region. Furthermore, in Moscow the Ministers of Transport highly appreciated the initiative and proposed to start the work on the new Memorandum for its further discussion within the framework of the Working Group on Transport. As a follow up, the issue was included to the agenda of the Meeting of the Working Group on Transport in Izmir, on 26-27 November 2012.
21. On 5 April 2013 the BSEC PERMIS disseminated a draft of the “Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region”, prepared by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, with a proposal of the Latter to discuss it at the forthcoming meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport and the meeting of the Ministers of Transport to be held in Odessa in May 2013.
22. At the meeting in Izmir Ukraine proposed to consider the issue “Development of Multimodal Transport in the Black Sea region taking into account the experience of the combined transport train “VIKING””. Taking into account the necessity to elaborate complex decisions, Ukraine proposed to establish a BSEC Working Group on Intermodal Transportation with participation of representatives of transport authorities, customs services and other organizations involved to transportation and expressed its readiness to develop and to promote such transportation taking into account the existing experience. The Member States were invited to present their views in this regard. On 19 February 2013 the BSEC PERMIS disseminated a Note of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia informing that the Republic of Armenia supports the proposals by Ukraine. The issue is expected to receive its further consideration at the forthcoming meeting of the BSEC WG on Transport and the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States on 28 and 29 May 2013 in Odessa.

Elaboration of an Integrated Maritime Policy in the field of Maritime Transport, Ports, Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing in the BSEC Region

23. In the Sofia Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Co-Operation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region adopted on 15 April 2010 in Sofia the Ministers of Transport, in particular, agreed to consult with competent national authorities to consider the possibility of elaboration of an

Integrated Maritime Policy in the field of Maritime Transport, Ports, Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing in the Region as an important factor for sustainable economic growth.

24. At its meeting in Istanbul on 13-14 April 2011 the Working Group recommended to the Ad Hoc WG on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea to consider the Background paper “Integrated Maritime Policy in the Field of Maritime Transport, Ports, Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing in the Black Sea Basin” with a view to take into account the said recommendations during the elaboration of the Master Plan to be elaborated by the Ad Hoc WG.
25. The issue was brought again to the agenda the Working Group on Transport at the Meeting in Izmir on 26-27 November 2012 and the Working Group suggested to the BSEC PERMIS to bring the issue to the consultations with the European Commission and to the COEST–BSEC meeting as such policy has already been elaborated within the EU’s framework and the EU’s experience in this field would greatly facilitate consideration of the subject in BSEC. It should be noted that at the said meeting the EU representative informed that the integrated maritime policy, including on the Black Sea, is a priority area. Also motorways of the sea and short sea shipping are priorities under the EU’s transport policy.

II. FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS

26. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region the BSEC Member States continued intensively its work on the issues of gradual liberalization of transport, visa facilitation, harmonization of charging policies, introduction of the UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate, adherence by the Member States to major UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport etc.
27. The Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region had three meetings - in Rostov-on-Don on 28 September 2011, in Belgrade on 29 March 2012 and in Izmir on 26 November 2012.
28. This work resulted, at first, in establishment of a Fast Track Cooperation among Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Turkey on a pilot project for the issuing of a BSEC transit permit for trucks, and, at second, transformation of the pilot project to the project to be carried out on a permanent basis. In Izmir, the delegation of Romania proposed to expand a number of BSEC permits and usage of the permits for transit, bilateral and for the third countries transport of goods. The Steering Committee requested the Member States participating in the project, willing to increase the number of BSEC permits and to extend its validity to the third countries transport to inform the Steering Committee about their willingness via BSEC PERMIS.
29. The work of the Steering Committee was also accompanied by a Meeting of Experts for Elaboration of Measures to start Implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) under Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Belgrade, 28 March 2012) and a Joint BSEC-IRU Meeting of Experts on Taxation Related to Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Member States (Belgrade, 28 March 2012). The BSEC cooperation in this field was considerable strengthened by precious support of the International Road Transport Union and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC.
30. The Steering Committee agreed to continue consideration of the issue on taxation related to road transport of goods and evaluation of progress achieved in this field. The valuable support was provided by IRU which offered to use its database including information on road user charges

and other charges and taxes. The BSEC Member States can have advantage of its usage for analyzing the situation in question as well as other issues related to the MoU on a permanent basis.

31. Following the proposal of the Steering Committee ¹supported by Working Group on Transport², the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States agreed to establish a Task Force, within the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, on elaboration of a road map for the BSEC Pilot Project on the introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (Task Force on the BSEC IVWC Pilot Project)³.
32. In Izmir, discussing on a new project on implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) under annex 8 to the UNECE Harmonization Convention, the Steering Committee took note of the support provided to the project by the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Serbia and of readiness by the International Road Transport Union, BSEC-URTA, UNDP to provide technical assistance, country missions and other possible contributions which are necessary for introduction and implementation of the certificate.
33. The First Meeting of the Task Force on Elaboration of a Road Map for the BSEC Pilot Project on the Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in Istanbul on 11 March 2013). The participants exchanged their views on the possible ways for introduction of the IVWC.
34. The UNECE briefed the Task Force about legal, technical and procedural aspects as well as about the present problems in implementing Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention. Information also included the experience in introduction of the CIS IVWC.
35. The UNDP expressed readiness and will to promote introduction of the UNECE IVWC in the BSEC Region and informed about the Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of a new BSEC Pilot Project on early introduction of the UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region between the UNDP and the BSEC-URTA signed in Chisinau, Moldova, on 3 October 2012.
36. The Task Force discussed the Draft Road Map, as it was presented by the BSEC-URTA, and legal aspects of the issue taking into account the accepted practice in BSEC. As an outcome of the discussions, the Task Force agreed that the road map for the BSEC Pilot Project on introduction of the UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate should come through several stages: Preparatory stage, Implementation stage and Preparing First evaluation report.
37. At the meeting the delegations of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Romania and the Republic of Serbia reiterated their willingness to participate in the project (On 18 April 2013 the MFA of Georgia sent a Note informing about readiness of the Georgian Side to join the Project).It was agreed to organize the next meeting of the Task Force back-to-back with a meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in October-November 2013.

¹ Belgrade, 29 March 2012 and Izmir, 26 November 2012.

² Izmir, 26-27 November 2012.

³ 27th meeting, Istanbul, 15 December 2012

III. STRENGTHENING THE BSEC INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

38. In the Moscow⁴ and Izmir⁵ Declarations the Ministers of Transport emphasized the great importance of co-operation development in the field of transport between the BSEC and the European Union, international organizations of the UN system and other international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as organizations of regional economic cooperation and international financial institutions.
39. They welcomed the enhanced cooperation that exists between BSEC and UNECE, IRU, IRF as well as the Sectoral Dialogue Partners in Transport field BASPA, BINSAs, BRASS and BSEC-URTA in developing road transport in the BSEC region as well as they recognized the necessity of more extensive involvement of the business community in the implementation of projects for the development of transport infrastructure and transport links, particularly on the basis of public-private partnership.
40. It should also be noted that EU representative took part in the meetings of the BSEC WG and Ministerial on Transport in Izmir and he informed that the European Union has been working on revitalizing the Black Sea Synergy and reviewing its various financial cooperation schemes in the Black Sea region as well as on the BSEC's Economic Agenda for future. The ultimate aim is to link the EU's internal and external instruments and policies in a coherent way towards cooperation with the Black Sea region.

BSEC-UNECE COOPERATION

41. At the Meeting in Moscow on 19-20 October 2011 the BSEC Working Group on Transport deliberated on achieving synergy with other international organizations on the development of road infrastructure in the BSEC Region. The representative of the UNECE made a detailed presentation on the results produced by the Euro-Asian Transport links (EATL) Project Phase II, being implemented under the UNECE EATL Group of Experts with the participation of 27 countries from Euro-Asian Region including 10 BSEC Member States. He stressed the sufficient interaction and synergy in this work with that being developed under BSEC auspices, notably the Black Sea Ring Highway, Motorways of the Sea and the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods. The WG expressed its support for the coordination of the EATL work in a new Phase III and the organization by UNECE of a meeting of the EATL Ministers of Transport.
42. Further view on the BSEC-UNECE synergy was presented by the BSEC PERMIS at the 74th and 75th (jubilee) sessions of the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE in Geneva (respectively, 28 February- 1 March 2012 and 26-28 February 2013). A synopsis "The BSEC-UNECE Transport Cooperation" is attached as annex 3.
43. Following the Ioannina Declaration on Improving Road Safety in the BSEC Region (19 November 2010), which was adopted in implementation of UN Resolution 64/255 proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, the BSEC and the UNECE strengthened joint actions in addressing road safety and invited the BSEC Member-States to set their own national road traffic casualty reduction targets and monitor progress. The UNECE and the BSEC PERMIS exchanged letters regarding the follow up of the UNECE-BSEC Road Safety Conference of Ioannina.

⁴ Moscow, 21 October 2011

⁵ Izmir, 28 November 2012

44. In their Declarations the Ministers of Transport reaffirmed the importance of implementing measures to reduce the number and decrease the gravity of road crashes in the BSEC region in the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) and the Ioannina Declaration of November, 2010.
45. Following arrangements done by the UNECE and the BSEC with regard to the actions of the BSEC countries on the UN Decade Bulgaria, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine completed the Questionnaire “UNECE-BSEC Pilot Project on Readiness Assessment for the Implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) in the BSEC Region” which was communicated to the UNECE.

COOPERATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY (IRU and BSEC-URTA)

46. The IRU and the BSEC-URTA provided their expertise at the BSEC Meeting of Experts for Elaboration of Measures to start Implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods and at the Meeting of Experts on Taxation Related to Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Member States which were held in Belgrade on 28 March 2012. The Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods (Belgrade, 29 March 2012) appreciated the offer of IRU to use its database, which includes information on road user charges and other charges and taxes.
47. In September 2012, in their document “The Joint IRU and BSEC-URTA proposals: a Medium-Term Action Plan aimed at Coordinating the Efforts for the Implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda in the 2013-2015 period” the two organizations presented comprehensive ideas and proposals regarding the BSEC Economic Agenda which were submitted for consideration of the WG on Transport in Izmir on 26 November 2012.
48. The valuable partnerships were establishment during the BSEC-IRU-BSTDB Workshop on Investment, Financial and Technological Issues of Model Highway Initiative Implementation in Thessaloniki on 6-8 March 2012. During a year the IRU in cooperation with BSEC, BSRH JPTS, BSTDB and national authorities substantially advanced in promoting the Model Highway Initiative and in preparing the pre-feasibility study “Development of the Baku – Tbilisi – Batumi – Trabzon Model Highway”.
49. On 28 November 2012 in Izmir the IRU and the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey organized the International Conference on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Black Sea, Central Asia and Middle East Regions with participation of the Ministers from the mentioned regions. The event was organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey. It was held back-to-back with a Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States. At the margins of the Ministerial meeting a *Joint Statement of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey on the creation of Model Highway on the Motor Road Baku-Tbilisi-Batumi-Trabzon* was signed.
50. In accordance with the Joint Statement the first meeting of the newly established Working Group on creation of the Model Highway Baku-Tbilisi-Batumi-Trabzon was held in Tbilisi on 14 May 2013.

BSEC- SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS (BRASS, BASPA, BINSAs and BSEC-URTA)

51. The BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners in the field of transport continued its active participation in the BSEC transport activities making contribution to the work of the meetings of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States, the BSEC WG on Transport, the Steering Committee on the Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, the Ad Hoc WG on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea and the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods. The Board meetings the Sectoral Dialogue Partners pay due attention to the issue of practical contribution to the BSEC transport development.
52. The SDPs take active part on such issues as gradual liberalization of transport, visa facilitation, harmonization of charging policies, introduction of the UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate, a pilot project for the issuing of a BSEC transit permit for trucks, elaboration of the Integrated Maritime Policy in the Field of Maritime Transport, Ports, Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing in the Black Sea Basin” etc.
53. During a year and half the following events promoting trade and transport facilitation, development of transport were organized by the SDPs under the BSEC auspices: the International Black Sea Transport Forum 2011 (Odessa, 19-21 October 2011), the BSEC Forum on Trade and Road Transport Facilitation (Istanbul, 25 November 2011), the 11th Exhibition and International Transport Conference “INTERTRANSPORT” (Odessa, 30 May-1 June 2012), the 6th International Container Summit (Odessa 5-7 September 2012), the 3rd International Conference “Black Sea Cruise 2012” (Odessa, 20-21 September 2012), International Black Sea Transport Forum and the 10th international Exhibition on the Shipping, Shipbuilding, Development of Ports and Trading «Odessa 2012» (Odessa, 23–25 October 2012). The short summary of the events are attached as Annex 4.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

54. The BSEC transport cooperation is in line with the the Istanbul Summit Declaration on the occasion of the Twentieth anniversary of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (26 June 2012) and the Goal 3: “Establishment of an Efficient Transport Network“ and the provisions related to the improvement of functioning of the Organization contained in the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership. Most of provisions of the Goal are in the active phase of their implementation. Through its actions, cooperation with international public and non-governatal organization, bussines community the BSEC becomes more and more visible as an important actor in transport field what fully corresponds to the provisions of 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.
55. It should be noted that at the 27th Meeting in Istanbul on 15 December 2012 the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States expressed its appreciation to:
 - The “Egnatia ODOS S.A.”, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the International Road Transport Union for a concrete contribution to the development and promotion of the Model Highway Initiative which, in accordance with the Moscow Declaration, had become an integral part of the Black Sea Ring Highway concept.
 - The Serbian Chairmanship in the FRTG Steering Committee for dedicative work on the implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region during two successive chairmanships.

- The IRU and the BSEC-URTA, in particular, for the long-lasting fruitful cooperation resulted in implementation of some initiatives in the past and continuing in 2012 with such endeavors as the Model Highway Initiative, the Project for the issuing the BSEC permit, elaboration of the IVWC Pilot Project and submission of joint proposals for the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda in transport field in 2013-2015.
- The BASPA and the BINSAs for their contribution to organization in 2012 of a series of conferences and fora under the BSEC auspices promoting transport and visibility of the BSEC as well as to the BSEC activities in the maritime field.
- The BRASS along with the BINSAs for their continued support to consideration in the BSEC of the issue on Integrated Maritime Policy in the field of maritime transport ports, shipbuilding and shiprepairing in the region and to the necessity to take into account the environmental aspects in the transport processes in the Black Sea.

The Council commended the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey, as well as International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) for organizing meetings of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, the Working Group on Transport (Izmir, 26-27 November 2012), the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (Izmir, 28 November 2012) and the International Conference on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Black Sea, Central Asia and Middle East Regions (Izmir, 28 November 2012).

56. Combining the achievements of the past and the present it can be concluded that the BSEC transport cooperation was quite successful in further implementation of the Memoranda on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Development of the Motorways of the Sea and Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods and strengthening transport institutional capacity resulted in creation of the relevant transport project units –
- Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Black Sea Ring Highway on the basis of Hellenic public company “Egnatia ODOS S.A.”;
 - Joint Technical Secretariat of the Motorways of the Sea to be managed on the rotation basis by the Republic of Turkey, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine;
 - Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods – managed by the BSEC PERMIS in cooperation with the BSEC-URTA.
57. As it is seen from the Report the project units have already started producing their projects contributing to the achievements of the goals of the MoUs, in particular, and goals of the BSEC in transport area, in general.
58. The initiatives of the Russian Federation on the development of multimodal transport and of Ukraine regarding establishment of a BSEC Working Group on Intermodal Transportation are expected to broaden the cooperation by widening the frameworks for participation of different modes of transport and by creating horizontal synergies in their work.
59. Proper actions should be taken for the achieving of the Goals proper of the BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership. In addition, the issue on the development of cooperation in civil aviation should also receive a proper consideration as it was reflected in the BSEC Economic Agenda and declarations of the Ministers of Transport.

60. This work also demands further coordination of actions of the BSEC chairmanships-in-office, the chairmanships of working organs, the BSEC PERMIS, BSRH JTS, MoS JTS, the BSEC Related Bodies as well as strengthening the BSEC institutional capacity through cooperation with other international organization, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and businesses.

Annex III to BS/WG/T/R(2011)2

BSEC WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2011- 30 JUNE 2013

The present Action Plan in the field of Transport sets the main guidelines for enhancing mutually beneficial co-operation between the BSEC Member States for the period 2011-2013 directed at the integration of the national transport networks into the regional ones and furthermore into the Trans European Network, Pan European and Euro-Asian Corridors.

In its work the Working Group will be guided by the resolutions of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the decisions of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.

This Action Plan represents consistency with work which had been carried out by BSEC in transport cooperation in accordance with previous action plans.

In this regard, the actions are foreseen for further implementation of the Memoranda on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Development of the Motorways of the Sea and Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods; continuation of a dialogue on cooperation in road safety; civil aviation; strengthening transport institutional capacity; undertaking new initiatives aimed at developing modern transport infrastructure and facilitating transportation. The WG will continue the practice on exchange by information regarding the transport national strategies and investment projects being implemented in the BSEC Member States as well as on best practices used on transport. The WG will continue its work on better utilizing the BSEC Project Development Fund for initiating transport projects.

More specifically the actions are mentioned below:

I. DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD AND MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

The Parties to the MoU will be encouraged to apply their every effort to finalize the BSRH main route and start working on elaboration of the BSRH Master Plan.

2. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region

The Parties to the MoU will be encouraged to accomplish the work on establishment of the Joint Technical Secretariat and to start working on elaboration of the MoS Master Plan.

The Ad Hoc WG will be invited to consider the possibility of elaboration of an Integrated Maritime Policy in the BSEC region.

II. FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS

Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

The FRTG Steering Committee will continue its work on the issues of gradual liberalization of transport, visa facilitation, monitoring of border waiting times, harmonization of charging policies, introduction of the UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate and adherence by the Member States to major UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport.

III. ROAD SAFETY

Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between BSEC and UNECE the WG will continue its cooperation with UNECE on implementing the Decade of Action on the Road Safety (2011-2020).

IV. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL AVIATION¹

The WG will continue exploring the possibilities for cooperation in the field of civil aviation sector.

V. UTILIZING THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

The WG will encourage its members and partners to initiate joint projects in accordance with the established priorities.

IV. STRENGTHENING THE BSEC INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

In order to preserve and exploit the great potential and accumulated expertise as assets for national and regional development, the BSEC WG on Transport and other transport organs (SC BSRH, SC FRTG and Ad Hoc WG MoS) will continue the practice of developing networks of transport authorities in the relevant fields in order to exchange information on the issues of substance and of organizational matters related to the BSEC transport cooperation.

In order to achieve synergy in international transportation, the WG will continue its cooperation with other international organizations (UNECE, OSCE, CEI, IRU and IRF) and organizations having Sectoral Dialogue Partnership with BSEC (BASPA, BINSAs, BRASS and BSEC-URTA). For that purposes the European Commission will be invited to attend the WG's.

¹ With regard to the issues related to aviation the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation noted that this area of air transport is already regulated by ICAO and the work in BSEC should not have any impact on obligations of the states in the field before this and other international organizations.

The WG will continue to provide its support to training seminars and conferences aimed at the exchange of experiences and best practices in the transport sector among experts of the BSEC Member States, other countries and international organizations;

VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Action Plan will be supplemented by the Work Program to be elaborated by the Working Group annually.

The Working Group on Transport, as a permanent subsidiary body of BSEC, will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan and submit regular progress reports to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and to the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.

Whenever necessary, at the initiative of the Country Coordinator and the Chairmanship-in-Office, an ad-hoc meeting at expert level may be convened to review the implementation of the Action Plan, to update the Work program, to prepare an interim report for the Working Group meeting and to propose new activities.

The Action Plan should by no means be construed as exclusive or precluding any other initiative to be implemented at local, national, bilateral or regional level. The activities comprised into the present Action Plan will be carried out without prejudice to the obligations of the Member States deriving from their membership in other international organizations.

VII. APPROVAL AND REVISION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan was approved by the BSEC Working Group on Transport at its meeting on 20 October 2011 in Moscow.

When needed, the Action Plan is subject to revision by the WG.

BSEC TRANSPORT EVENTS IN THE PERIOD 1 July 2011- 31 May 2013

27 September 2011	Rostov-on-Don	Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Black Sea Ring Highway
28 September 2011	Rostov-on-Don	Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region
6-7 October 2011	Novorossiysk	Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea
19-20 October 2011	Moscow	Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport
21 October 2011	Moscow	Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States
25 November 2011	Istanbul	BSEC Forum on Facilitation of Road Transport and Trade
6-8 March 2012	Thessaloniki	The BSEC-IRU-BSTDB Workshop on Investment, Financial and Technological Issues of Model Highway Initiative Implementation
28 March 2012	Belgrade	Meeting of Experts for Elaboration of Measures to start Implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) under Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods
28 March 2012	Belgrade	Joint BSEC-IRU Meeting of Experts on Taxation Related to Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Member States
29 March 2012	Belgrade	Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region
5-7 September 2012	Odessa	6 th International Container Summit
30 May-1June 2012	Odessa	11th Exhibition and International Transport Conference "INTERTRANSPORT"
20-21 September 2012	Odessa	3 rd International Conference "Black Sea Cruise 2012"
23-25 October 2012	Odessa	International Black Sea Transport Forum and the 10th international Exhibition on the Shipping, Shipbuilding, Development of Ports and Trading «Odessa 2012»
26 November 2012	Izmir	Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region
26-27 November 2012	Izmir	Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport
<u>28 November 2012</u>	<u>Izmir</u>	<u>Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States and International Conference on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Black Sea, Central Asia and Middle East Regions with participation of the Ministers from the mentioned regions, which was organized by the IRU and the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and</u>

		Communications of the Republic of Turkey
11 March 2013	Istanbul	Meeting of Task Force on the BSEC IVWC (International Vehicle Weight Certificate) Pilot Project
28-29 March 2013	Istanbul	Ad Hoc WG on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea
28 May	Odessa	Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport
29 May	Odessa	Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States
29-31 May 2013	Odessa	XII International Exhibition “INTERTRANSPORT” and XII Transport Conference “The Black Sea Area Transport Network: Complex of Communications between Europe, Asia and other Continents”
May 2013	Anapa	Research and Practice Conference “State of affairs and Problems of the Ship Repairing Industry in the Azov - Black Sea Basins” (BRASS)

MEETINGS OF BOARDS OF THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS

1-2 November 2011	Baku	15 th Meeting of the Council of the Black Sea International Association of Shipowners (BINSAs)
24 November 2011	Istanbul	20 th BSEC-URTA General Assembly
4 May 2012	Tirana	21 st BSEC-URTA General Assembly
29 May 2012	Odessa	BASPA Council Meeting
29-31 August 2012	Batumi	Report-back Election Conference of the Black and Azov Seas Association
19-20 September 2012	St. Petersburg	33 rd Meeting of Members of BRASS and Meeting of Board and Control Commission
3 October 2012	Chisinau	22 nd BSEC-URTA General Assembly
6 November 2012	Baku	16 th Meeting of the Council of the Black Sea International Association of Shipowners (BINSAs)
15-16 May 2013	TBC	Kiev 31 st Meeting of the BSEC-URTA Management Council and 23 rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly
29-31 May 2013	Odessa	Meeting of the BASPA Council

THE BSEC-UNECE TRANSPORT COOPERATION

75th jubilee session of the UNECEC Inland Transport Committee
(Geneva, 26-28 February 2013)

1. For more than a Decade the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) work closely together for the stability and prosperity of member countries of both organizations, seeking, wherever feasible, complementarities and synergy of their efforts for the attainment of their respective objectives in the areas of their competence in accordance with their respective mandates and the principles and procedures.
2. The cooperation was substantially strengthened with adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Resolution 54/100 of 5 October 1999 by which the latter granted observer status to the BSEC Organization and conclusion of the “Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation” of 2 July 2001.
3. In the field of transport the Cooperation Agreement, in particular, states that

“The UNECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS will jointly promote the development of international transport infrastructure networks, transport and border crossing facilitation, as well as harmonization of safety and environmental norms and standards in the area of transport in the BSEC region, through *inter alia* accession to and implementation of UNECE international transport agreements and conventions by the BSEC Member States”.
4. On a regular basis, the UNECE Secretariat and the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (BSEC PERMIS) provide each other with professional support, consultations of experts on professional issues, mutual invitation of experts to seminars, conferences and symposia organized by the UNECE and the BSEC. Periodic consultations between the UNECE Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS take place on the issues of transport cooperation between the two Organizations.
5. Giving the importance to achieving synergy in work on 11-13 November 2009 in Istanbul BSEC hosted the Third EATL Expert Group Meeting and Regional Workshop on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Links.
6. At the meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport in Moscow on 19-20 October 2011 the representative of the UNECE made a detailed presentation on the results produced by the Euro-Asian Transport links (EATL) Project Phase II, being implemented under the UNECE EATL Group of Experts with the participation of 27 countries from Euro-Asian Region including 10 BSEC Member States. He stressed the sufficient interaction and synergy in this work with that being developed under BSEC auspices, notably the Black Sea Ring Highway, Motorways of the Sea and the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods. The WG expressed its support for the coordination of the EATL work in a new Phase III and the organization by UNECE of a meeting of the EATL Ministers of Transport.

7. Further view on the BSEC-UNECE synergy was presented by the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS at the 74th Session of the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE that was held in Geneva from 28 February to 1 March 2012.
8. The BSEC transport cooperation resulted in the development of three important mutually supplemented projects on cooperation in facilitation of road transport of goods, development of road and maritime infrastructure based on the implementation of relevant memoranda. Most of the BSEC initiatives in the field of transport were elaborated within the Working Group on Transport - a subsidiary organ of the BSEC Organization¹.
9. This cooperation goes in harmony with the work of the UNECE on the development of transport, in particular, on the development of TEM Master Plan, hinterland connections of seaports, facilitation of custom procedures, etc. It should also be noted that the BSEC's institutional capacity in transport area has been substantially increased as a result of its developing cooperation with the BSEC Transport Partners, in particular, UNECE, International Road Transport Union (IRU), International Road Federation (IRF), as well as the BSEC sectoral partners - Black and Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA), Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs), Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS), Union of Road Transport Association in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA).
10. On a regular basis the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States consider the state of the BSEC-UNECE cooperation and in their decisions provide BSEC with a guidance on strengthening the cooperation, assuring complementarity and achieving synergy in activities.

FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS:

Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

11. The Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region (signed in Kyiv in 2002) entered into force on 20 July 2006.
12. The work on the MoU was institutionalized – the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods was established. The BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) carries out the duty of its secretariat. This work is being done in a close cooperation and with valuable support of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the Union of the Road Transport Association in the BSEC region (BSEC-URTA).
13. The Steering Committee, at present chaired by the Republic of Serbia, works on the issues of gradual liberalization of transport, monitoring of border waiting times, introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate, harmonization of charging policies etc. Its work is also based on a relevant research and conclusions on the implementation of the MoU prepared by the “NEA Research and Study” in 2009. The research was initiated by IRU, BSEC PERMIS and BSEC-URTA.
14. The MoU is in line with the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) and in particular with its Annex 8.

¹In fact, the WG has become a policy-making organ, which analyzes the transport developments in the region and brings its conclusion to the ministers of transport (meet, at least, once per year) and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (the BSEC principal body, having meetings every half a year). The WG is coordinated by a country-coordinator on a biannual basis. Ukraine assumed this duty for a period 2011-2013.

15. On 18 June 2009 in Geneva the UNECE and BSEC had a Seminar on the Implementation of Annex 8 to the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982), Geneva, 18 June 2009. The Seminar brought together all potential participants of the process of introduction and implementation of the Annex 8 and proved opportunity to look thoroughly to the existing problems related to the cross-border facilitation as well as to share the best practices on the development of border infrastructure and procedures.
16. Currently the BSEC works on the following matters related to facilitation of road transport of goods.

BSEC Pilot Project on Transit Permit

17. On 16 February 2010, seven BSEC Member States launched a BSEC Pilot Project on Transit Permit similar in nature with the ECMT license. The Permit system is expected to facilitate the work of the road transporters and to contribute to trade relations among the participating countries.
18. The Project was successful and the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to make it permanent. The participating countries also decided to extend the validity of the permit for the bilateral shipments and to consider the possibility of extending it to the third countries transport as well.

BSEC Pilot Project on introduction of the IVWC

19. The NEA Study showed that introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC region can bring the following advantages:
- Harmonization of procedures;
 - Road damage can be surveyed and reduced;
 - Fair competition between all hauliers;
 - Guarantees the technical security to avoid overloaded truck;
 - Shorter border delays, faster procedures;
 - Decrease of costs of transport operations;
 - Less chances for corruption;
 - By joint cross border options further costs can be saved.

20. These conclusions were reiterated at the the Joint BSEC-IRU Meeting of Experts for Elaboration of Measures to start Implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) under Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods in Belgrade on 28 March 2012.

21. At the 27th meeting in Istanbul on 15 December 2012 the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to establish a Task Force on elaboration of a road map for

the BSEC Pilot Project on the introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (Task Force on the BSEC IVWC Pilot Project). Its first meeting will be held on 11 March 2013 in Istanbul.

Accession to international agreements

22. The MoU stipulates that “The Parties shall endeavor to accede, as soon as possible, to the agreements and conventions established under the auspices of the UNECE” and it contains 16 conventions, which have a priority for its implementation. The issue of accession is permanently on the agenda of the Steering Committee (see attachment).

Facilitation of Visa Procedures for the Professional Drivers

23. At the 19th Meeting on 23 October 2008 in Tirana the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States approved the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States and invited the interested BSEC Member States to sign the said Agreement. The Agreement was signed by the Republic of Albania, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Republic of Turkey. The Republic of Turkey has already ratified the Agreement.

Harmonization of charging policies

24. The issue of harmonization of charging policies in the BSEC Region remains in a row of major problems related to transportation. There are different systems for road levies and user charges in the Region and it is important to reach the objective of MoU related to rationalization and gradual harmonization of charging policies for the international road transport of goods as well as to create a common framework for charging the heavy goods vehicles in the BSEC Region. The issue is on the agenda of the Steering Committee. More detailed consideration was provided at the Joint BSEC-IRU Meeting of Experts on Taxation Related to Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Member States in Belgrade on 28 March 2012.
25. An IRU database, which includes information on road user charges and other charges and taxes, represents for BSEC a valuable source of information and the BSEC Member States have advantage of its usage for analyzing the situation in question as well as other issues related to the MoU on a permanent basis.

Best Practices at Border Crossings Practices

26. Facilitating legitimate trade and transport across borders is among the key factors in the advancement of economic development, which in turn contributes to the promotion of regional stability and co-operation. The OSCE-UNECE edition “Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings –A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective” has become a valuable source for consideration of various aspects of the border crossing facilitation and a practical guide both for government agencies and for the private sector bodies providing a pragmatic advice regarding the development of new border-related policies and the introduction of new best-practice procedures and technologies.
27. On 1-5 April 2013 in Istanbul, a meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters back to back with the Joint OSCE-BSEC Workshop on Best Practices of Border Crossings will take place to discuss, in particular, application of the best practices reflected in the OSCE-UNECE handbook to the needs of the BSEC Region.

DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE:

Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

28. The coordinated plan of road construction and rehabilitation for BSEC is vital to build and extend ties with the EU, Black Sea and Asian countries, in order to satisfy the requirements for international traffic in the future. Such a plan was incorporated into the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (signed 19 April 2007 in Belgrade), which entered into force on 1 November 2008.

29. The BSRH project envisages a four lane ring highway system, approximately 7500 km long, to connect the BSEC Member States with each other. The Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) will promote co-operation in the development of multimodal transport infrastructure in order to have adequate road interconnections with the Trans-European, the Pan-European and the Euro-Asian Transport Networks.
30. The work on the project was institutionalized – the Steering Committee (at present chaired by the Republic of Bulgaria), as a main driving force, and Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat were established. The Secretariat is managed by the public Greek company “Ignatia Odos”.
31. Meanwhile, in September 2011 the Steering Committee decided to include the issue of creating the Model Highway along the Black Sea Ring Highway sections into the future project of the Master-Plan and to cooperate with IRU in preparing the Feasibility Study on the Model Highway Initiative project. The Model Highway Initiative (MHI), presented by IRU, is directed at creation of modern highways and bringing ancillary road infrastructure to the highest European standards. The IRU was proposed to play a role of the coordination organ (secretariat) on the development of the ancillary road infrastructure and MHI.
32. In November 2012 the pre-feasibility study “Development of the Baku – Tbilisi – Batumi – Trabzon Model Highway” was done by “Egnatia ODOS S.A.” with financing of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and IRU. The established cooperation should be considered as a follow up to the Workshop on Investment, Financial and Technological Issues of Model Highway Initiative Implementation (Thessaloniki, 6-8 March 2012), which was organized under auspices of the BSEC Organization, BSTDB and IRU.
33. At present, the BSRH Steering Committee is at the stage of finalizing the Ring route. After the work has been accomplished it will proceed with elaboration of a Master Plan and project financing schemes.

DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE:

Memorandum of Understanding on Development of the Motorways of the Sea

34. The Memorandum of Understanding on Development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) was signed on 19 April 2007 in Belgrade and entered into force on 1 December 2008.
35. The MoS are intended to concentrate flows of freight on sea-based logistical routes and in such a way to improve existing maritime links or to establish new viable, regular and frequent maritime links for the transport of goods and persons among the BSEC Member States and/or between BSEC Member States and the EU Member States, when possible, creating a real competitive alternative to land transport.
36. Activities within this project include upgrading ports facilities, identification of projects of common interest and securing free and fair competition in international shipping. The work resulted in the following:
 - a. The Ad Hoc Working Group (at present chaired by the Republic of Bulgaria) was established.
 - b. The Concept of the MoS Master Plan was approved. Master Plan. In accordance with the Concept of the MoS Master Plan the future work on the development of the MoS will be done in 4 steps:
 - Designation of MoS in the BSEC area;
 - Evaluation of MoS projects and preparation of a Master plan;

- Investment and time planning - financial instruments;
 - Public Awareness Actions.
- c. 41 ports were proposed for their participation in the development of the MoS.
- d. Currently the MoS project is at the stage of accomplishment of institutionalization. It is expected that this work will be accomplished with establishment of a Joint Technical Secretariat (to be managed by the Turkish Maritime Authorities) at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc WG on 28-29 March 2013 in Istanbul.
37. The BSRH and MoS projects also constitute regional contribution to the extension of the Trans-European Networks and the development of Euro-Asian transport links. They are in line with the EU policy concerning the extension of major Trans-European Transport Axes to the neighboring countries.

ROAD SAFETY:

The UN Decade of Action for Road Safety

38. Following the Ioannina Declaration on Improving Road Safety in the BSEC Region (19 November 2010), which was adopted in implementation of UN Resolution 64/255 proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, the BSEC and the UNECE strengthened joint actions in addressing road safety and invited the BSEC Member-States to set their own national road traffic casualty reduction targets and monitor progress.
39. In the Moscow on 21 October, 2011 and in Izmir on 28 November 2012 the Ministers of Transport reaffirmed the importance of implementing measures to reduce the number and decrease the gravity of road crashes in the BSEC region in the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) and the Ioannina Declaration of November, 2010.
40. Following the arrangements done by the UNECE and the BSEC with regard to the actions of the BSEC countries on the UN Decade some countries have completed the Questionnaire “UNECE-BSEC Pilot Project on Readiness Assessment for the Implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) in the BSEC Region” which was communicated to the UNECE.
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41. These are only some of the most vivid examples of the potential value of the BSEC cooperation on transport with UNECE. A lot has been done and is currently underway in this area for fostering the spirit of transport cooperation in the region. BSEC will do its utmost in order provide modern infrastructures and effective procedures. This believe is based on the strong cooperation ground between BSEC and the BSEC Transport Partners.
42. The BSEC transport cooperation is a good example how the efforts at the regional level can supplement the efforts, which are being done in the development of Euro-Asian transport links under the UN auspices and vice-versa – how the development of global transport trends may contribute to the transport development in a particular area, in our case - in the BSEC area.

State of affairs with regard to accession by the BSEC Member States the UNECE transport agreements and conventions
(Status as of 22 January 2013)

	Nr	Agreements/Conventions	BSEC Member States											
			AL	AR	AZ	BG	GE	GR	MD	RO	RU	SRB	TR	UA
Infrastructure	1	Construction Traffic Arteries 1950				X		X		X		X	X	
	2	E Road Network 1975	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	3	E Comb. Tr. Network, 1991	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	4	Protocol Int. Nav. to AGTC, 1997				X		S		X		X		
Road traffic and road safety	5	Road Traffic, 1949	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
	6	Road Traffic, 1968	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	7	Prot. Road Signs & Signals, 1949				X		X		X	X	X		
	8	Road Signs & Signals, 1968	X			X	X	X		X	X			X
	9	Suppl. 1968 Conv. Road Traffic, 1971	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	10	Suppl. 1968 Road Signs & Signals, 1971	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
	11	Weights and Dimens, 1950							X				X	
	12	Suppl. 1949 Conv & Protocol, 1950							X				X	
	13	Road Markings, 1957	X			X				X		X	X	
	14	Protocol Road Markings 1973	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
15	Issue & Validity of Driving Permits				X						X			
Vehicle	16	Vehicle Regulations, 1958			X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
	17	Tech. Inspect. Vehicles, 1997	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X
	18	Global Vehicles Reg., 1998			X				X	X	X		X	
Other legal instruments	19	Work of Crews Intl. Road Transport(AETR) 1970	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	20	Tax Priv Road Vehic, 1956	X						X	X		X		
	21	Taxation Road Passengers Vehicles, 1956	X							X		X		
	22	Tax Road Goods Vehic 1956								X		X		
	23	Contract Road Goods Transport(CMR) 1956	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	24	Protocol to CMR, 1978	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X
	25	Contract Passengers and Lugg. Road Trans(CVR)1973							X			X		X
	26	Protocol to CVR, 1978										X		
27	Econ. Reg. Road Trans 1954							X						
Border crossing facilitation	28	Touring Facilities, 1954				X		X		X	X	X	X	
	29	Protocol Touring Facilities, 54				X		X		X	X	X	X	
	30	Temp. Imp. Priv. Road Vehicles, 1954	X			X				X	X	X	X	
	31	TIR Convention, 1959	X			X		X		X	X		X	
	32	TIR Convention, 1975	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	33	Temp. Imp. Commercial. Vehicles, 1956			X	X		X		X		X	X	
	34	Customs Cont Conv, 1956				X		X		X		X		
	35	Customs Cont Conv, 1972		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	36	Customs Treatment Pallets, 1960	X			X				X		X	X	
	37	Harmonization Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
38	Customs Pool Cont, 1994													
Danger. Goods	39	Dang. Goods by Roads(ADR) 1957	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	40	Protocol to ADR, 1993	X			X		X	X	X	X			
	41	Liab.Dang.Goods-CRTD1989												
	42	Perishab.Foodstuff-ATP,1970	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BSEC Member State's participation to UNECE Road Transport related Convention:			23	8	14	29	14	29	16	32	24	32	23	17

Legend: X = Ratification, accession, definite signature; S = Signature;

- agreements mentioned in the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods

SHORT SUMMARY OF EVENTS ORGANIZED/CO-ORGANIZED BY THE BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERS UNDER THE BSEC AUSPICES PROMOTING TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION/ AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION

The International Black Sea Transport Forum was held in Odessa on 19-21 October 2011. The Forum included several exhibitions, conferences and seminars. Expositions represented transport sector, in particular, companies of railway sector, logistics, commercial and special vehicles, spare parts, road-construction equipment etc. The participants were involved in many events in accordance with the program giving the evaluation to the present state of the transport industry, discussing its perspectives and business opportunities. The participants recognized the International Black Sea Transport Forum as the place for effective collaboration of the parties of the transport market. BASPA and BINSА were co-organizers of the event.

The BSEC Forum on Facilitation of Road Transport and Trade was held on 25 November 2011 in Istanbul. The Forum was organized by the IRU and the BSEC-URTA under the patronage of the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS. Forum was focused on the future design of the BSEC road transport market for more trade and economic growth; the challenges and business opportunities facing trade and transport facilitation in the region; the role of the BSEC national parliaments for an efficient road transport and trade facilitation through the ratification of key UN trade and transport facilitation instruments; funding priorities for road transport projects for a better infrastructure and greener industry and the steps to be taken in the next decade.

The Eleventh Exhibition and Conference “InterTransport 2012” took place from 29 May to 1 June 2012 in Odessa (Ukraine) within the Transport Week. The events of the Week also included: the 10th International Freight Forwarder’s Day, the Round-Table “The Black Sea Transport Complex in the system of Global Sea Trade Market”, the Conference “Industrial Safety of Lifting Facilities and Vertical Transport in Ukraine and Russia in the light of their Membership in WTO” and other. BASPA and BINSА were co-organizers of the event.

The events were concentrated on the tendencies of globalization and role of different modes of transport in facilitating trade. Exceptional attention was paid to the role of the Black Sea and its ports, organization of ferry and cruise lines, rail transportation, logistics, cross-border facilitation, science and technology in transportation etc.

The 6th International Container Summit (Odessa, 5-7 September 2012) brought together more than 140 representatives of the world largest container shipping line, global container terminal operators, top-managers and representatives of ports, stevedoring companies, manufacturers of container handling equipment, transport and freight forwarding companies. Impact of global trends on the state of container transportation market in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, competition between shipping companies and container terminal operators in present conditions, the potential of rail container transport in the light of the new EU strategy, modern technologies of container stuffing were addressed by the participants of the Summit. BASPA and BINSА were co-organizers of the event.

The 3rd International Conference «Black Sea Cruise 2012» (Odessa, 20-21 September 2012) is one of the largest events dedicated to the Black Sea cruise tourism, in particular, for reviving and developing cruise destinations in the Black Sea. The representatives of the leading global cruise

operators, state authorities and municipalities of Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, the Black Sea port administrations, world experts of the cruise industry took part in this traditional event.

The participants focused on the trends of the world cruise market development, challenges and prospects of development of the Black Sea cruise destinations, the port and city infrastructure, investment opportunities in the region, quality of shore services rendered to cruise tourists, presentation of the shore products in the region, promotion of the region as a unified cruise destination on the international cruise market, development of the marketing project “Cruise Black Sea”. BASPA and BINSА were co-organizers of the event.

The International Black Sea Transport Forum and the 10th international Exhibition on the Shipping, Shipbuilding, Development of Ports and Trading «Odessa 2012» (Odessa, 23–25 October 2012) brought together more than 110 representatives of ports, port terminal operators, shipping companies, manufactures of cargo handling equipment, forwarding companies from 16 countries . The Forum discussed the issues of development of the Trans Black Sea Transport System, constructing of new effective port terminals and improving of border–crossing procedures at sea ports of the Black Sea Region. New effective cargo handling equipment, machines and appliances were demonstrated during the Exhibition as well as their application was discussed at the Forum. The Forum and Exhibition provided a solid ground for the development of cooperation in the shipment and ports cargo-handling operations. BASPA and BINSА were co-organizers of the event.