



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

Sakıp Sabancı Cad., Müşir Fuad Paşa Yalısı, Eski Tersane, 34467 İstinye – İstanbul/Turkey

Tel: ++90 212 2296330-35 Fax: ++90 212 2296336

E-mail: bsec@tnn.net / bsec1@tnn.net / info@bsec-organization.org

www.bsec-organization.org

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**REPORT
OF THE SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS
IN THE BSEC REGION**

Belgrade, 29 March 2012

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region was held in Belgrade on 29 March 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Damir LEDENCAN, Head of International Road Transport Department, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of the Republic of Serbia.
3. The participants were addressed by Mr. Milorad ILIC, Assistant Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of the Republic of Serbia, and H.E. Ambassador CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS.
4. The representatives of the following Contracting Parties to the MoU participated in the meeting:
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Republic of Turkey
5. The representative of BSEC-URTA attended the Meeting as Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
6. The representative of IRU also attended the Meeting as a Guest.

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

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

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION:

a/ Progressive liberalization of international road transport of goods (Article 3);

8. The Delegations discussed the issue of gradual liberalization of road transport of goods in the BSEC Region foreseen by Article 3 of the MoU.

9. The representative of BSEC-URTA made a comprehensive presentation on implementation of the operative articles of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods within a concrete time framework, emphasizing on “good examples” identified in the neighboring economic cooperation organizations with a view to be considered by the Steering Committee in the implementation process of the MoU. The presentation is attached as **Annex III**.

10. The Steering Committee took note of the developments related to the Pilot Project on issuing the BSEC Permit. The countries participating in the Pilot Project agreed to undertake further concerted actions for its development.

b/ Accession to international agreements – harmonization of maximum permissible weights and dimensions, transportation of dangerous goods and social regulations (Article 4);

11. The Steering Committee took note of the report of the 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. The report is attached as **Annex IV**.

12. The participants supported the initiative to start a Pilot Project on introduction of IVWC in the BSEC region. The states interested to participate in the Project were invited to inform the Steering Committee about their decision via BSEC PERMIS by 30 May 2012.

13. The BSEC PERMIS was requested to collect information from the BSEC Member States about actions taken at the national level for introduction of the IVWC (competent organs responsible for issuing the IVWC; elaboration of rules for recognition of the IVWC by the relevant services; payment or non-payment basis for issuing the IVWC; setting up a list of stations responsible for issuing the IVWC) and bring it to the next meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport and the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States for further actions related to the introduction of the IVWC and speeding up this process.

14. The Steering Committee considered the state of affairs with regard to accession by the BSEC Member States to the UN Transport Conventions and Agreements and reiterated its call to the Member States who have not yet done it so, to take steps for joining and implementing these legal instruments in order to make possible the implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region.

c/ Charging policies - information system on charges related to road transport (Article 5);

15. The Steering Committee took note of the report of the Joint BSEC-IRU Meeting of Experts on Taxation Related to Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Member States and considered favorably recommendations contained in it. It was agreed to continue consideration of the issue on taxation related to road transport of goods and evaluation of progress achieved in this field.

16. The Steering Committee appreciated the offer of IRU to use its database, which includes information on road user charges and other charges and taxes. The database represents a valuable

source of information for the BSEC Member States and they 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.

d/ Facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers (Article 6)

17. The Steering Committee drew attention to the importance of facilitating visa procedures for professional drivers. It was noted that despite all constraints related to signing the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States, the document remains a valuable legal instrument for facilitating visa procedures.

REVIEW OF THE TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation reiterated its position with regard to the Timetable which was submitted with a Note of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul No: 29/H dated 12 May 2011. Furthermore, due to the explanations given in the Note, the Russian Federation does not consider itself binded by the provisions “b” of Objective 1 and Objective 2.

19. The representative of Romania supported the implementation of the Objective 2 of the Timetable.

20. Following the discussion and in order to avoid contradictions related to stages in achieving the liberalization of international road transport of goods, it was agreed to delete deadline date of Objective 2.

21. The Timetable, as discussed, amended and adopted, is attached as **Annex V**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. The Steering Committee re-elected Mr. Damir LEDENCAN as the Chairman of the Steering Committee for a new one-year term. It was agreed to consider amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee at its next meeting.

23. The Steering Committee expressed its high appreciation to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia for the excellent arrangements for the Meeting and hospitality extended.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24. The date of the next meeting will be communicated to the Parties through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

25. The Steering Committee adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and the BSEC Working Group on Transport.