



**BS/WG/MWS/R(2008)2**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA**

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 6-7 May 2008**

1. The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) was held in Istanbul, at the BSEC Headquarters, on 6-7 May 2008.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ioannis METAXAS, Director for Economic Relations with SE Europe, CIS and BSEC to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. The Chairman informed that the Hellenic Republic exercises up to now these duties, taking into consideration its initiative to conclude the MoU on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, as well as the request of some delegations to exercise provisionally these duties, since the draft Rules of Procedure of the Ad Hoc Working Group are not yet adopted.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States – Parties to the MoU:

Republic of Albania  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC (PABSEC) and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) also participated in the Meeting.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

5. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

**STATUS OF THE MoU AND INFORMATION OF THE PARTIES ABOUT NOMINATION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE MoU**

6. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the state of affairs with regard to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region. The respective information is attached as Annex III. Following the fact that one more ratification/approval of the MoU is still pending in order for the MoU to enter into force, the Ad Hoc Working Group considered its meeting to be of an informal character.

7. The Ad Hoc Working Group raised the issue of the possibility for the BSEC Member States – Parties to the MoU, which have not yet completed their necessary internal procedures, to participate in voting, after this MoU enters into force.

8. The Ad Hoc Working Group invited the BSEC PERMIS to provide legal opinion with regard to the issue.

9. The Ad Hoc Working Group considered also that, until this issue is discussed and settled, no voting would take place.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AD HOC WG MoS, DISCUSSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE OF A COORDINATORSHIP OF THE AD HOC WG MoS**

10. The Ad Hoc Working Group decided to use the draft Rules of Procedure of the BSRH Steering Committee and the draft Regulations of the BSRH Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat as a basis for elaboration of the same regulatory documents of the same nature for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea to be considered at the next meeting.

11. Considering the above mentioned paragraph 10, the Hellenic delegation expressed also its disappointment, because it performed until now the duties of provisional Presidency, sparing no efforts to supply the Parties to the MoU and the BSEC PERMIS with all requested draft Rules of Procedure and documents for the implementation of the present MoU and hosting the first informal Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group in Piraeus, Greece, on 29-30 January 2008. In this respect, taking into consideration that the Hellenic Republic has a special interest in providing international maritime services, the Hellenic delegation declared that it will continue to fully support the implementation of the MoU, since the latter, along with the MoU on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, constitute, at this moment, the two most important projects of the BSEC Organization.

12. The comments of the BSTDB that were sent to the BSEC PERMIS and circulated to the Parties by the BSEC Letter No: BS/C.2008.031 will be also considered at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

13. The Ad Hoc Working Group invited the BSEC PERMIS to prepare the said drafts and circulate them to the Parties to the MoU before 6 June 2008.

14. The Ad Hoc Working Group also decided to consider the issues of the Coordinatorship, as well as of the elections of the Coordinator and seat of JPTS at its next meeting.

15. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the proposal made by Romania to host the JPTS which might be established in the future.

16. The Hellenic delegation suggested that a procedure for the nomination of the body, which might perform the duties of the JPTS could be the following: Each Party could express its interest that a body residing in this Party be selected to undertake such duties. At the same time, each Party could submit a candidature file, within a specific deadline, determined by the Group. These files could be communicated to all Parties through the BSEC PERMIS and could be evaluated by the Parties, within the Group. Then, the Group could approve, by a 2/3 - simple majority of all the Parties the selection of the body to undertake the duties of the JPTS. If more than two (2) candidatures will be presented, a second round of voting could be held, in order to vote one of the two more voted candidatures. A similar procedure could be agreed upon for the election of the Coordinator.

17. The Russian delegation suggested that the decision on the establishment of the JPTS should be taken after the approval of the draft Rules of Procedure of the Ad Hoc Working Group on MoS, bearing in mind the outcome of the discussions on the eventual concrete projects within the framework of the concept of the MoS in the BSEC Region.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE ELABORATION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR THE MoS AT THE BSEC REGION**

18. The Russian delegation informed on several project ideas to be incorporated in the concept of the elaboration of the Master Plan for the MoS at the BSEC Region. The presentation in writing will be forwarded to the BSEC Member States – Parties to the MoU through the BSEC PERMIS in due course.

19. The Ad Hoc Working Group welcomed the proposals of the Russian delegation and invited the interested Parties to the MoU to contribute with relevant observations and proposals in this field.

20. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the considerations for the elaboration of a future Master Plan for the MoS at the BSEC Region, presented by the Hellenic delegation, attached as Annex IV.

21. Furthermore, the Hellenic delegation informed that, for the time being, no national funding was secured to finance the tender for such a Master Plan.

22. The Parties were also informed that the BSEC PERMIS will take into consideration the views of some Parties expressed under this Agenda item, in order to formulate and forward a questionnaire to the Parties, requesting information regarding major candidate ports to be taken into consideration in the future Master Plan of the MoS at the BSEC Region.

23. The Turkish delegation expressed its willingness to provide to the BSEC PERMIS a similar questionnaire, prepared by the Republic of Turkey for use within the United Nations, which could constitute the basis for the BSEC PERMIS questionnaire to be submitted to the Parties.

## **INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A “BLACK SEA PARTNERSHIP ON TRANSPORT”**

24. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the information provided by the Chairman on the recent developments concerning the possibility of the establishment of a “Black Sea Partnership on Transport” in the future.

25. The relevant information can be found in the reports and declarations of the following meetings:

- First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on BSEC-EU Interaction (Athens, 4 April 2008);
- Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (Odessa, 10 April 2008);
- Eighteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Kyiv, 17 April 2008).

26. The Hellenic delegation expressed the opinion that, in view of an eventual future establishment of a “Black Sea Partnership on Transport”, the presidency of the BSRH Steering Committee and the presidency of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea could be exercised by the same Party, during the same period of time, ensuring, in this way, the effective coordination of the implementation of both MoUs.

27. The Russian delegation is of the opinion that the issue of the eventual establishment of a “Black Sea Partnership on Transport” should be considered in its integrity exclusively by the BSEC Working Group on Transport, as the BSEC Subsidiary Organ.

## **DISCUSSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “MOTORWAYS OF THE BLACK SEA SUPPORT FUND”, PROPOSED BY THE BLACK SEA TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BANK**

28. The Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the proposal by the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank for the establishment and administration, in the future, of the “Motorways of the Black Sea Support Fund”, in order to facilitate the funding of the relevant projects and invited the Bank to provide additional detailed information in this respect.

29. The Chairman stated that, in his view, in order to coordinate the implementation of the present MoU with the MoU for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, both the BSRH Steering Committee and the Ad Hoc Working Group could examine, in the future, the possibility to invite the BSTDB to facilitate the funding of the implementation of both MoUs.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

30. The Hellenic delegation declared that it does not wish to continue any more to perform the duties of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

31. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Hellenic Republic and the BSEC PERMIS for the excellent organization of the Meeting and warm hospitality extended to them.

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

32. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group will be communicated by the BSEC PERMIS after consultations with the Chairman-in-Office.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

33. The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the present Report.

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