



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Permanent International Secretariat

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### REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION (INFORMAL)

BSEC Headquarters, 15 May 2014

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 15 May 2014.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Branimir RADEV, Coordinator of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Organization of BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.
3. The representatives of the following BSEC Member States participated in the meeting:
  - Republic of Armenia
  - Republic of Bulgaria
  - Republic of Moldova
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Ukraine
4. The representative of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) attended the Meeting as Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
5. The representative of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) also attended the Meeting as Guest.

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

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

### **ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

7. The Steering Committee called on the Member States to improve the effectiveness of their actual participation in its further activities.

a/ Nomination representatives of the Member States to the Steering Committee.

8. The Steering Committee took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS regarding nomination by the Parties to the MoU of their representatives and alternate representatives in accordance with Article 8 of the MoU.

9. In order to ensure adequate co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation of the MoU, the Parties were invited to update information on their representatives and alternate representatives to the Steering Committee and respectively to inform the BSEC PERMIS about the nominations (a List of Members of the Steering Committee is attached as **Annex III**).

b/ Election of a Chairman of the Steering Committee.

10. Taking into consideration the term in office of the Chairmanship of the Republic of Serbia in the Steering Committee has expired, the participants welcomed willingness of the Republic of Moldova to assume chairmanship in the Steering Committee.

11. The participants also expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Serbia for fruitful and constructive work at the position of the Chairmanship.

**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)

12. The representative of BSEC-URTA presented comprehensive information on transport cooperation among the Member States and a movie, promoting the BSEC Organization, arranged by the BSEC-URTA and IRU.

13. The participants took note of information provided by the Secretariat about the outcome of the Meeting of the Member States participating in the project “BSEC Permit system”, which was held in Istanbul on 26 November 2013, and exchanged views on the possibilities to extend validity of permit to third countries transport operations.

14. Upon request of the delegation of Ukraine, the Member States, participating in the project “BSEC Permit System”, were invited to provide via BSEC PERMIS information on practices and legal mechanisms used for distribution of the BSEC permits at national level.

15. Following the request of the delegation of Ukraine, the BSEC-URTA made clarification regarding existing restrictions on usage of Permits in the participating states. In particular, it was noted that the only restriction imposed by Romania was that the Permit on its territory would be valid for trucks of Euro 3 and higher grade.

16. With regard to the objective 3 regarding development of effective and adequate Ro-Ro and Ro-La transport services in the BSEC Region, the participants suggested that the Steering Committee should seek achieving synergy with the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea and the Task Force on Intermodal Transport.

17. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova expressed interest of its country in active work of the Steering Committee on liberalization of road transport of goods and projects elaborated within the framework of the MoU.

18. The participants took note of the support of the International Transporters’ Association (UND) in implementation of the MoU.

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

19. The participants considered the state of affairs with regard to accession by the BSEC Member States to the UN Transport Conventions and Agreements and reiterated the importance of the UNECE legal instruments for the proper implementation of the MoU. (A relevant table is attached as **Annex IV**).

20. The participants took note of the information by the delegations of the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Turkey about actions taken at national level regarding the UNECE legal instruments.

21. The participants took note of the decision of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, made at its Forty Second Meeting in Tirana on 11-12 March 2014, that the main topic of the next meeting of the Committee to be held in Batumi on 29-30 September 2014 will be “*The Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Enhancement and Regulation of International Passenger and Cargo Transportation in the BSEC Region*”.

22. The participants underlined the need for further decisive steps to be taken by the States participating in the BSEC IWVC Pilot Project which are necessary for its commencement.

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

23. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC-URTA and BSEC PERMIS on development in relation to the issue of charging policies. (Background information of BSEC PERMIS is attached as **Annex V**).

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

24. The Steering Committee reiterated its invitation to the interested Member States who have not yet done it so, to inform via BSEC PERMIS about their readiness to sign the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States. (A relevant table is attached as **Annex VI**).

**REVIEW OF THE TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU**

25. The Steering Committee decided to defer consideration of the Timetable to its next meeting and invited the BSEC PERMIS to collect views of the Member States regarding necessary updates on deadlines in the Timetable.

**PERSPECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS**

26. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on cooperation with PABSEC, UNECE, IRU and BSEC-URTA and expressed their readiness to continue strengthening the cooperation on the issues that represent common interest in the BSEC Region.

27. The participants appreciated presentation by the BSEC-URTA of its priorities for 2014 which would substantially contribute to the facilitation of road transport of goods in the BSEC region (the presentation is attached as **Annex VII**).

28. Furthermore, the participants expressed their appreciation to the IRU and BSEC-URTA for constructive and fruitful cooperation with BSEC on transport matters.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

30. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

31. The Steering Committee adopted the present Report for submission to the next Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.