



BS/WG/MWS/R(2009)1

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

Constanta, Romania, 28-29 January 2009

1. The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (WG) on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) was held in Constanta, Romania, on 28-29 January 2009.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Stefana GREAVU, the Minister Counselor and Alternate Permanent Representative of Romania to the BSEC Organization at the Consulate General of Romania in Istanbul.

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

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Bulgaria
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey

BSTDB and BSEC PERMIS also took part in the meeting.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

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

5. The Ad Hoc WG was addressed with welcoming remarks by Mr. Ambroziu DUMA, the Director of Port Operations of the Safety and Security Division of the National Company “Maritime Ports Administration” of Constanta.

STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA AT THE BSEC REGION (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 BSEC PERMIS informed the participants that so far nine BSEC Member States-Parties to the MoU, expressed their consent to be bound by the MoU. Consequently, the MoU entered into force on 1 December 2008 and the present meeting of the Ad Hoc WG shall be considered as an official one.

7. The Ad Hoc WG:

- took note of the information provided by the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey that the necessary internal procedures for entering into force of the MoU will be completed in the near future.
- noted that the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, and Republic of Turkey nominated their representatives to the Ad Hoc Working Group and it reiterated its invitation to the Parties to the MoU, which have not yet done so, to nominate their representatives.
- decided to invite BSTDB to participate in its meetings on a permanent basis and to consider the issue of invitation of other international institutions and organizations to cooperate on the development of MoS.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BASIC ISSUES RELATED TO THE FUTURE OPERATION OF THE AD HOC WG MOS

a. Definition of the Motorways of the Sea

8. Having considered the definitions of the MoS proposed by the Delegations of the Hellenic Republic, the Russian Federation, and a bridge building definition offered by the Republic of Bulgaria, the Ad Hoc WG elaborated and agreed on the following definition:

“Motorways of the Sea are means to concentrate flows of a freight on sea based logistical routes so as to improve existing or new maritime links that are viable, regular and with high frequency. Aiming to achieve modal shift and cohesion of the BSEC Region, the MoS will, in an environmentally sound manner, enhance the transport supply chain in the Region and create a real competitive alternative to land transport. MoS shall include improvement of the quality of transport services, facilities and procedures concerning at least two ports in two different Member States. In this sense, they include elements, such as port infra- and superstructure, facilities, electronic logistics management systems, safety and security procedures, unified and simplified administrative and customs procedures, infrastructure for direct land and sea access etc.”

9. At the same time the Russian Federation accepted the definition ad referendum.

b. Elaboration of a Master Plan and discussion about possible projects to be included in

10. The Ad Hoc WG discussed the “Plan-Concept of the Master Plan in the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region” and agreed that it may serve as a basis for the elaboration of the Master Plan and for identification of relevant projects on the development of the MoS, which are of common interest for the BSEC countries.

11. The Ad Hoc WG agreed to elaborate the technical specifications of the Master Plan in the nearest future. It decided to establish an Experts Correspondence Network (ECN) with the task to draft the technical specifications. To that aim, the Parties were requested to designate their experts to the ECN and to communicate to PERMIS his/her contact details by 28 February 2009.

12. The Russian Federation disseminated a description of a project proposal on creation and development of a Regional Information System on Safety of Navigation (RISS, attached as Annex III) to be implemented within the framework of the MoU and offered to the Parties to consider the possibility of joining the project. The Ad Hoc WG took note in a positive manner of the project proposal of the Russian Federation and the Parties were invited to communicate their comments with regard to the project proposal to BSEC PERMIS.

13. The Ad Hoc WG noted that so far only the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania provided filled up questionnaires on their national ports to be included into the Master Plan. In correspondence with the decision taken at the previous meeting, the Parties, which have not yet done so, were invited to send to BSEC PERMIS their filled up questionnaires.

c. Establishment of a “Black Sea Partnership on Transport”

14. The Ad Hoc WG took note of the BSTDB Report on the meeting with the European Commission (EC) on the Motorways of the Sea, disseminated to the Parties with the PERMIS Note and encouraged BSTDB to continue consultations with the relevant international institutions on issues related to the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region.

d. Presidency of and Coordination in the Ad Hoc WG MoS

15. Discussing on the issue of Presidency the Ad Hoc WG agreed with the following: in a month term the Hellenic Republic will inform the Parties about its possibility to assume the Presidency in the Ad Hoc WG. In case the Hellenic Republic is not in position to assume the Presidency, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bulgaria will consider, one after another, their possibility to assume this duty.

16. The issue of the rotation scheme will be further discussed at the next meeting

e. Establishment of a MoS Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat and its location

17. The Ad Hoc WG discussed on the necessity of the establishment of a MoS Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat (JPTS).

18. Romania reiterated its willingness to host the JPTS and informed that the Port of Constanta has qualified personnel and all necessary facilities to perform this duty on a high level.

19. In the *tour de table* the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and Romania expressed their willingness to establish JPTS without any delay.

20. The Republic of Turkey supporting the establishment of the JPTS expressed its position that the issue of location of the Secretariat should be decided at a later stage.

21. The Russian Federation reiterated its position that the issue of the JPTS should be considered at the stage when the Master Plan has been drafted and agreed.

22. The Ad Hoc WG postponed the decision on this issue to a later stage. At the same time, Romania and the Republic of Turkey offered their services for a duty of a Temporary Secretariat.

23. In the *tour de table* the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria and Hellenic Republic supported Romania on the issue. The Republic of Azerbaijan provided its support to the Republic of Turkey.

24. The Ad Hoc WG postponed the decision on this issue to a later stage. Furthermore, it kindly requested that BSEC PERMIS continue to carry on the secretarial services to the Ad Hoc WG until the next meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE FUTURE OPERATION OF THE AD HOC WG MOS

a. Draft Rules of Procedure of the Ad Hoc WG on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea

25. The Delegations continued consideration of the draft Rules of Procedure of the Ad Hoc WG on Development of the Motorways of the Sea.

26. Following some discussions on the issue, it was confirmed that no wording in the text of the draft Rules of Procedure will be construed so as to imply that the Ad Hoc WG assumes the legal status of an international organization per se.

27. The Russian Federation proposed to prepare a new draft Rules of Procedure which would, to its opinion, correspond to the MoU and the general approach of the Ad Hoc WG on the basic issues of its functioning.

28. The participants kindly requested the Russian Federation to submit the said draft if that is conceived as necessary, as soon as possible.

29. The other delegations expressed their readiness to continue discussion of the present drafts as prepared by BSEC PERMIS.

30. Taking the above into consideration the Ad Hoc WG postponed the consideration of the draft documents submitted for the present meeting and invited the Parties to present their

comments and remarks to the draft documents to be submitted by the Russian Federation in order to facilitate the discussion at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc WG.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

31. The participants expressed their gratitude to Romania for the excellent organization of the Meeting and warm hospitality extended to them and for this contribution to the activity of the Ad Hoc WG. They also expressed their deep appreciation to Port Constanta, for sponsoring and hosting the Meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

32. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

33. The exact date and venue of the next meeting of the Ad Hoc WG will be communicated at a later stage via BSEC PERMIS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

34. The Ad Hoc WG adopted the present Report.
