



**BS/SC/FRTG/R(2009)2**

**REPORT  
OF THE FOURTH (EXTRAORDINARY) MEETING  
OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE  
ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS  
IN THE BSEC REGION**

**Istanbul, 9 September 2009**

1. The Fourth (Extraordinary) Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region was held in Istanbul on 9 September 2009.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Nurhan TUFEKCIOGLU, Head of Section of the Directorate General of Land Transport of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Turkey.

3. The representatives of the following Contracting Parties to the MoU participated in the meeting:

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

4. The representatives of IRU and BSEC-URTA also attended the Meeting.

5. The representatives of the Hologram Company and the Quattro Advertising Agency also attended the Meeting.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

6. His Excellency Ambassador CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, the Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS, addressed the participants of the Meeting. He underlined the importance of issues to be considered for the road transport industry, in particular, and for the development of transport in the BSEC region in general.

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

## **GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF TRANSIT AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION**

### **State of affairs with regard to:**

#### **The BSEC Matrix Table to identify existing transit and bilateral quotas between the BSEC Member States.**

8. The Republic of Turkey presented an updated Matrix Table on the existing transit and bilateral quotas between the BSEC Member States. The following countries provided their information to the Matrix Table: the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey.
9. The countries, which have not yet done so, were invited to send their information to the Matrix Table.
10. PERMIS was requested to place the Matrix Table on the PERMIS website and update it regularly upon receiving relevant information.

#### **Taking action on the possible three alternatives related to the progressive liberalization of the international road transport of goods in the BSEC Region:**

##### **a. Consideration and eventual approval of the Draft Template and Usage Guidelines of the BSEC Permit.**

11. The following countries informed the Steering Committee about their position on the three alternatives as discussed at the previous meeting: the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey. The table is attached as Annex III.
12. The Steering Committee invited other parties which have not yet done so to inform about their position regarding creation of the multilateral license system similar to the ECMT license.
13. The Steering Committee noted that the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey are ready to join the implementation of a pilot BSEC Permit in 2010 on the experimental basis for one year.
14. The delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation stated that the creation of a BSEC Permit as such is based on voluntary participation of interested Member States and therefore it is not binding for them.
15. The delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria confirmed its position, reflected in Note No: 04-11-149 of 1 July 2009, disseminated by PERMIS with Note No: BS/INFO.2009.0608 of 6 July 2009. In particular, the Bulgarian side has reservations on the three alternatives for the progressive liberalization of the international transport of goods in the region of BSEC, and the draft BSEC permit for Transit Transport. The permit foresees exemption from road charges, which is unacceptable for the Bulgarian side. For Bulgaria a future liberalization of the transit transport and a new type of permit would cause rather negative effects, such as unlimited transit traffic, difficult control on the road transport. In the framework of different International

Organizations in the field of Road Transport, the Bulgarian side has expressed its support to a gradual liberalization of the road transport on the condition that the requirements for the access to the market and the access to the profession are equal for all carriers.

16. The interested parties considered the draft format and usage guidelines of the BSEC Permit and requested the PERMIS to produce their updated versions by the end of September 2009. The participating Member States will provide their final feedback, if any, to the BSEC PERMIS on these updated materials by 23 September 2009.

17. The interested parties mandated the PERMIS to manage this finalising stage and print 200 pilot BSEC Permits for each of the participating Member States on an experimental basis. These pilot BSEC permits will be additional to all kinds of permits that the countries already have.

18. The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Russian Federation reserve their positions with regard to the funding of the BSEC permits. The Hellenic Republic clarified that it does not undertake any obligation for funding this BSEC permit.

19. The delegation of Romania reserves its position, for any additional funding concerning the printing the permits.

20. Those Permits will be delivered to the participating Member States through diplomatic channels within November 2009.

21. The PERMIS will monitor the pilot project in close cooperation with the participating Member States under guidance of the Chairman of the Steering Committee. In order to facilitate this process, the BSEC PERMIS will convene an Expert Group Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Transport of each participating Member State. Each country that will be in the BSEC Permit system will inform PERMIS about their national delegate who will be in this expert group, within two weeks the latest. This group is also open to the participation of the other countries.

22. The PERMIS will present a detailed analysis report about the implementation of the 2010 pilot project to the Steering Committee in the last quarter of 2010 so that the Steering Committee will make a final decision on the creation of a BSEC Permit within the BSEC region and among the participating Member States.

23. The countries that will be in the application of the BSEC Permit as from 2010 will fill in the particulars which will be an annex, referring to the BSEC Permit within one month at the latest and submit it to PERMIS.

**b. Establishment of an Ad Hoc Project Group of interested countries for creation of the multilateral license system similar to the ECMT license.**

24. The Steering Committee noted that the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey are ready to support the creation of a regional license system in nature with the ECMT License.

25. The delegations of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation stated that the creation of a regional license system as such is based on voluntary participation of interested Member States and therefore it is not binding for them.

26. The interested parties decided to create an Ad Hoc Project Group composed of representatives of abovementioned interested countries, which will work under the coordination

of the BSEC PERMIS for creation of a multilateral license system similar in nature with the ECMT License.

27. The Ad Hoc Project Group will report about its activities and results of its work to the next meeting of the Steering Committee on a regular basis.

28. The Hellenic Republic stated its position on agenda items 2.2 a & b, which was distributed at the beginning of the meeting and is attached as Annex IV and forms part of this Report.

29. The Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria with regard to the agreements reached among the interested parties during the meeting concerning a draft BSEC Permit and a multilateral license system (items 2.2 a&b of the agenda), stated that they cannot recognise these agreements as agreements among the Member States in the context of the MoU but they consider those as agreements between the interested states. The Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria stated that they are not bound by these agreements and will not participate in their realisation.

30. As regard to the draft BSEC Permit, the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria clarified that they cannot recognise the use of this permit for transit through their territory.

31. The Russian Federation aligns itself with the positions of the Hellenic Republic and the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria with regard to the juridical aspects of the proposed introduction of system of BSEC Permits.

32. Moreover the Russian delegation is of the opinion that at present it is premature to discuss introduction of the system of BSEC permits starting from 2010 in the absence of necessary regulations on rights and obligations of the parties and procedures of issuing BSEC permits.

33. At the same time the Russian delegation stressed its readiness to implement the necessary measures for the liberalization of bilateral and transit road transport of goods.

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

34. The Steering Committee requested BSEC PERMIS to combine the proposals of the Hellenic Republic to the Timetable with the existing Timetable and present them to the next meeting of the Steering Committee for consideration.

35. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed to introduce a new item into the Timetable with respect to the Article 2 of the MoU:

*-elimination of barriers in the international road transport of goods as a basic principle of the liberalization of international road transport of goods.*

36. The parties are invited to present their views formally to the aforementioned proposal to the Timetable.

37. This issue will be considered at the next Steering Committee meeting.

#### **ELECTION OF THE NEXT CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE STEERING COMMITTEE.**

38. The Steering Committee approved the Republic of Serbia for the position of the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee for one year period.

39. The Steering Committee expressed its gratitude to the outgoing Turkish Chairmanship in the Steering Committee for the excellent work done during two consecutive terms.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

40. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

41. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Steering Committee will be communicated to the Parties through BSEC PERMIS in due course.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

42. The Steering Committee adopted the present Report for submission to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials to be held in Istanbul on 14-15 September 2009.