



BS/TR/WG/R(95)1

**REPORT
OF THE
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT**

Anapa, 18-19 October 1995

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Transport of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Anapa, Russian Federation on 18-19 October 1995.
2. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Republic of Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
3. The representative of the BSEC Council attended the Meeting as Observer.

The list of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

4. H.E. Evgeni KAZANTSEV, Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation delivered an inaugural speech to the Meeting.

The Participants were also greeted by Mr. Mihail KOURKOV, Deputy Head of the Administration of the Krasnodar Region.

The texts of the messages are attached as Annex II.

5. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Youry A. MICHAILOV, First Deputy Director of the Department of Maritime Transport, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and by Mr. Andrei L. KASSIANENKO, Head of Division of the Department for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the WG, is attached as Annex III.

PRESENTATION OF THE MATERIALS OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS ON VOLUMES AND DIRECTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CARGO TRANSPORTATION BY ALL KINDS OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION INCLUDING CARGO TRANSPORTATION BY “RIVER-SEA” SHIPS (INTER-REGIONAL, REGIONAL, LOCAL), CARGO TRANSPORTATION BY FERRIES AND PROSPECTS FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT

7. The WG held an extensive exchange of updated information on existing and prospected volumes and directions of international cargo transportation by all kinds of transport in the BSEC region including cargo transportation by “river-sea” ships (interregional, regional, local), by ferries, etc.

8. The WG agreed that this information should be taken into consideration in the process of elaborating recommendations and decisions concerning development of cargo transportation in the BSEC region.

9. The WG recommended to the interested BSEC Participating States to study the possibility for extending the Ro-Ro/Ferry systems to other ports of the Black Sea and Azov Sea in addition to the lines already in operation including the ones which have recently started operating between ports of Varna (Bulgaria) and Poti (Georgia) as well as the Burgas (Bulgaria) - Poti Ro-Ro line and the Constantza (Romania) - Samsun (Turkey) Ferry line which will be introduced in the very near future.

10. The WG agreed that each Participating State should finalize its contribution to the questionnaire on the creation of a data bank on transport. It also approved the proposal of the Turkish Delegation that each Participating State should provide together with the said contribution national survey on all kinds of cargo transportation with the view to distribute to the Participating States, through the BSEC Secretariat, the updated information which will be processed by the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information.

PORT CAPACITIES AND PROSPECTS FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT

11. The WG held a thorough exchange of information regarding the existing and prospected port capacities in various Participating States.

12. It shared the view that the ports constitute a major component of the BSEC transport system. Their characteristics have to meet the requirements of the carriers as well as of the freight owners. The WG emphasized that the prospects for the development of ports depend, to a great extent, on the prospected freight flows in the region.

The participants welcomed and took note of the readiness of the Delegation of Ukraine to carry out by its own financial means the study on the prospected volumes of cargo transportations in the sea ports of BSEC region.

13. The participants expressed the view that the improvement of port services provided for ships will contribute to the transport process in the BSEC region.

They agreed that practical problems and difficulties faced by the ships of the BSEC Participating States in each other's ports should be solved on the bilateral and multilateral basis. Some delegations in this context suggested that relevant efforts should be applied to resolve these problems through infrastructural, procedural, institutional and other measures.

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THE LIGHT OF IDEAS AND PROPOSALS PRESENTED AT THE FIFTH MMFA AND BUCHAREST HIGH LEVEL MEETING REGARDING CONCRETE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT (PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION LINKS OF THE TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM, CONVENING A CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT FROM THE BSEC AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE, DEVELOPING TRANSPORTATION LINKS BETWEEN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA, SOME CONCRETE HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN THE BSEC AREA, ADVISABILITY OF CONCLUDING MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WHILE DEVELOPING TRANSPORT CORRIDORS, ETC.)

14. The WG attached great importance to the ideas and proposals presented at the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Athens on 14 April 1995 and the High Level Meeting of the BSEC Participating States held in Bucharest on 30 June 1995 regarding concrete projects of multilateral cooperation in the field of transport.

15. The Participants shared the view that the development of the transport cooperation in the framework of the BSEC area should take into consideration the necessity of interaction with neighboring regions such as: Central Europe, Baltic Sea and Northern Europe, Mediterranean Sea, Middle East, Central Asia.

16. In the light of the provisions of the Bucharest Statement, the WG agreed on the necessity of taking specific measures through their national authorities for improving the effectiveness and safety of the transport system in the region and developing the national infrastructures with appropriate links to the Trans-European Transport System including the establishment of electronic information systems for the follow-up of cargo flows.

17. The Participants exchanged views on possible directions for priority transport corridors including, inter alia, the following:

a) The Baltic Sea - Center of Russia - the Azov and Black Seas

18. They took note of the rationale presented by the Russian Delegation with the understanding that the above corridor can in principle be considered as a branch of the Crete Corridor no.9 North-South and recommended to undertake appropriate steps in order to obtain official status for the direction Moscow-Rostov/Don-Novorossyisk.

b) East-West (Crete Corridor no.8), the Adriatic Sea - the Black Sea

19. The WG came to the conclusion that this corridor will provide an effective linkage of the Mediterranean with the transport networks of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Far East and called upon all the interested parties to increase the activities for the setting up of the above corridor.

c) Crete Corridor no.7 (the Danube)

20. Opinions were expressed that the Participating States may have more intensive use of the Danube-Main-Rhein transportation opportunities.

The participants took note with interest of the information provided by the Delegation of the Russian Federation as a member of the Danube Commission that there are studies on the way in the framework of the TACIS Program to develop transportation, including Lichter Systems, on Danube-Don-Volga direction.

d) Black Sea Transport Ring, problems and prospects

21. The WG agreed on the necessity to finalize as soon as possible its conclusions on the concept of the Black Sea Transportation Ring. The participants expressed the view that the concept should be based on the existing roads and railroads networks, in the Black Sea Region, Crete transport corridors and Trans-European networks.

22. The WG also believes that the completion of the corridor “Greek-Turkish border / Greek-Bulgarian border - Alexandroupolis - Thessaloniki - Albania / Igoumenitsa” will also help towards the connection of the Black Sea with Adriatic Sea.

23. The WG welcomed the proposal of convening the Conference of Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Transport of the BSEC countries with the view of harmonizing positions prior to the Third Pan-European Transport Conference (1997).

The participants shared the view that the scope of the BSEC Conference of Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Transport should be open to the other interested countries from neighboring regions including Central Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia, etc.

24. The WG recommended that the Sixth MMFA adopt a resolution on the subject of the Conference.

25. The WG considered that it would be advisable to conclude memorandums of understanding and other international instruments while developing transport corridors among the BSEC Participating States and other interested states.

26. The WG supported the suggestion of the Greek and Bulgarian Delegations to extend the Crete Corridor no.9 from Dimitrovgrad to Alexandroupolis.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON TRANSPORT NETWORK (KYIV, 16 OCTOBER 1995)

27. The WG took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts on Transport Network as well as of the information provided by the Ukrainian Delegation and the BSEC Secretariat and approved the said Report of the GE.

28. The WG called upon the Participating States to submit their national transport network maps together with their proposals concerning the road, rail-road and maritime networks to the BSEC Secretariat to enable the Group of Experts to finalize the transportation network map for the BSEC region in the first quarter of 1996.

The WG welcomed the proposal of the Turkish Delegation to render its technical assistance to this end.

BORDER CROSSINGS AND SIMPLIFICATION OF FORMALITIES

29. The WG held an intensive exchange of views on the issue of border crossing and came to the conclusion that simplification and harmonization of the customs and border crossing procedures on the basis of the existing international agreements and practices will be a considerable contribution to increasing the effectiveness of international transportation.

The WG is of the opinion that the introduction of the suitable electronic telecommunication systems will contribute to this end.

30. The participants shared the view that it is useful to:

- invite representatives of customs authorities from the BSEC Participating States to the next meeting of the WG on Transport;

- request the Secretariat to prepare with the assistance of the interested BSEC countries a list of existing international agreements and conventions concerning border crossing formalities and other aspects of transport with the view to defining the appropriate international legal basis for cooperation in this field and getting a clear picture on the status of the BSEC Participating States vis-a-vis the said agreements;

- invite the Participating States to present their proposals on the means and modalities of exchanging information on the existing national legal framework concerning border crossing.

31. They also considered as advisable to search for technical assistance in the above field from international organizations and institutions such as: the European Union, UN ECE, OECD, etc. and requested the Secretariat to contact the respective organizations and institutions.

32. At the Meeting there was a common understanding that, while taking specific measures for the simplification of border crossing formalities, the BSEC Participating States should also act, through bilateral agreements, with the view of combating illegal border crossings, as well as illicit traffic of weapons, radio-active materials, etc.

PARTNERSHIP OF STATE AND PRIVATE INVESTORS WHILE REALIZING TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE AREA

33. The delegations exchanged information with regard to concrete opportunities for the partnership of state and private investors for the realization of specific projects of cooperation in the field of transport.

34. The participants were unanimous that the major pre-requisite for investments, in particular, foreign direct investments (FDI) in the field of transport is that of creating favorable legislative and administrative environment. They started to exchange information on the national legislation on FDI and agreed to continue this exchange taking advantage of collaboration with other BSEC Subsidiary Bodies such as the WG on Trade and Industrial Cooperation.

35. The WG took note with interest of the information presented by the BSEC Council on possible ways of private sector involvement in BSEC transport projects.

36. The WG agreed that it is advisable to initiate preparation of a reference list of existing and prospected investment projects in the field of transport which require FDI.

37. An open-ended list of such projects suggested by some Delegations will be circulated by the Secretariat for consideration and formulating additional proposals by the interested Participating States.

38. The WG requested the Secretariat in collaboration with the BSEC Council to compile and make this list available to the private sector of the Participating and Observer States with the view to stimulate its involvement in preparation of the pre-feasibility and feasibility studies at the earliest stage possible.

INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE WG ON TRANSPORT

39. The WG took note with interest of the proposals contained in the background paper prepared by the Secretariat on this subject.

40. Taking into consideration the need for ensuring continuity of the activities of the WG, the participants supported the idea of active role by the Chairman of the WG on Transport in the follow-up and implementation actions until the next meeting of the WG.

41. The participants also expressed the common view that nomination of members of Delegations and relevant Experts on permanent basis could be very useful.

42. The WG held an exchange of views on the idea of elaboration of a medium-term program and a plan of actions and invited the interested Participating States to present their suggestions on the subject to the Secretariat, at their earliest convenience, but not later than 1 February 1996.

CREATION OF A DATA BANK ON TRANSPORT

43. The Secretariat was requested to further cooperate with the BSEC Coordination Center for the Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information in processing the answers transmitted by the Participating States to the questionnaire on the creation of a data bank in the field of transport.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

44. The WG agreed that in the process of developing the transport infrastructure in the BSEC region, it is advisable to take into consideration, at the earliest stage

possible, the necessity of undertaking measures for the appropriate environmental protection as well as effective actions against pollution caused by various kinds of transport.

45. The WG agreed to examine in depth the problem concerning the safety of different transport means at its next meeting.

46. The participants considered the possibility of utilizing the results of similar studies and research made in the framework of other regional cooperation fora.

47. They also took note of the information of the Administration of the port of Sochi about the existing facilities which could be made use of in the process of development of regional programs for maritime passengers transportation, cruise tourism and yachting.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

48. The delegations expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Transport of Russia and the Administration of the Krasnodar Region for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as the warm hospitality extended to them.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

49. The WG agreed that the date and venue of its next meeting would be communicated to the Participating States through the BSEC Secretariat.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

50. The WG adopted the report for submission to the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Chisinau.
