



BS/TR/WG/R(2001)3

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

Istanbul, BSEC PERMIS, 20 September 2001

1. The Third Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held at the BSEC premises in Istanbul on 20 September 2001.
2. The Meeting was attended by the delegates from the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Tunisia as Observers, as well as of the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS) and the Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSIA), as NGOs having sectoral dialogue partnership with the BSEC.
4. The representatives of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council attended the Meeting in the capacity of BSEC Related Bodies.
5. The Meeting was also attended by the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and the Turkish International Transporters Association as Guests.

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

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Ümit ARMANGİL, Consultant.
7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the Working Group, is attached as Annex II.

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

8. The WG considered the latest data of accession by the BSEC Member States to the international conventions and agreements. The UN/ECE representative said that no substantial changes occurred in accession by the BSEC Member States to the UN legal instruments.
9. The BSEC PERMIS noted that most of the BSEC Member States participating in the SECI gained accession to most of the UN international conventions and agreements in transport field which provided a good basis for multilateral cooperation.
10. It was suggested that in order to achieve sufficient work of transport in the BSEC region all BSEC Member States should consider the possibility to access these legal instruments.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS (BLACK SEA PETRA, TRACECA, SECI, ETC.) INTERACTION WITH THE WOULD-BE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT BLACK SEA PETRA STEERING COMMITTEE

11. The representative of the UN/ECE provided information on the latest transport developments in SECI noting that activities undertaken will give positive results for future cooperation among the SECI countries.
12. The representative of Turkey also drew attention of the WG to the SECI activities and recent developments within TRACECA.
13. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants about the work done by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant instructions of the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Chisinau, 27 April 2000), in particular, concerning the improvement of cooperation between the BSEC WG on Transport and the Steering Committee of the Black Sea PETrA.
14. Taking into account the similar composition and working programs of the two entities, during the consultations held with the European Commission in March 2001, the BSEC PERMIS offered the use of its premises for establishing a permanent secretariat for the Black Sea PETrA. The response of the European Commission was favorable to the said proposal subject to the decision of the Steering Committee. The BSEC PERMIS

expressed the view that if the Steering Committee decided to establish its secretariat and use the PERMIS premises this would create a great basis for further cooperation between the two entities.

15. The Delegation of the Republic of Armenia expressed the view that it would be desirable if the present observer countries were to be granted full membership in the Black Sea PETrA.

16. The Working Group welcomed the proposal of the BSEC PERMIS to establish an office of the Steering Committee of the Black Sea PETrA at the premises of BSEC, as communicated to the European Commission, provided that the modalities of interaction between the BSEC PERMIS and such an office would be determined at a later stage.

17. The Working Group recommended that the Council of Ministers authorize the Troika in close cooperation with the PERMIS to continue its efforts towards the realization of this proposal.

ELABORATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

18. The BSEC PERMIS informed the WG that no comments on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been received from the BSEC Member States since the last WG meeting. At the same time, the Delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine expressed their reservation to Article 3.

19. The WG decided not to change the substance of the MoU taking into account that certain reservations could be made by the Member States while signing the MoU. The revised version of the MoU, with minor amendments, is attached as Annex III to the present Report. The revised MoU will be presented to the Council of Ministers for appropriate action.

BSEC RING CORRIDOR

20. The Delegation of the Republic of Turkey presented to the WG a draft map of the Black Sea Ring Corridor prepared on the basis of the information collected from the BSEC Member States. It was proposed that if the Member States have any remarks before the print of the final version of the map, they would present them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey by 8 October 2001. The final version of the map will be presented to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The map will also include Pan-European Corridor connections to the TRACECA.

PROPOSAL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE CREATION OF UNIFIED SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY SATELLITE SHIPS MONITORING SAILING IN THE BLACK SEA

21. In conformity with the request of the WG the Russian Federation circulated among the Member States the relevant materials concerning the creation of the unified system of voluntary satellite ships monitoring of sailing in the Azov and Black Sea areas. The participating delegations continued discussions on the proposal of the Russian Federation.

22. The WG took note of the additional information and explanation made by the Russian Delegation on the subject discussed. The Member States expressed the need for further coordination of the proposal with their national authorities. Their views will be presented at a later date. The Russian Federation expressed its readiness to provide any additional information that might be required on this subject.

CREATION OF A BSEC UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ROAD HAULIERS

23. The WG welcomed the imminent creation of a BSEC Union of International Road Hauliers and its readiness to contribute to the realization of the BSEC objectives in the transport field. In this context the WG recommended that the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs consider the establishment of institutionalized relationship between the BSEC and the afore-mentioned Union.

24. The Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council (BSEC BC) informed the WG on the upcoming International Transport Forum to be held in Antalya on 25 October 2001. The inauguration ceremony of the Black Sea Union of International Hauliers is planned to be held during this Forum.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATED TO COOPERATION IN SEA TRANSPORT, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING

25. The WG considered the request of the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS) and Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSIA) concerning further actions on the problems related to the shipping, shipbuilding and shiprepairing industries, and agreed to hold an ad hoc meeting with the participation of the appropriate experts in order to consider the issues in detail and elaborate relevant recommendations.

APPLICATION OF THE BLACK AND AZOV SEAS PORTS ASSOCIATION (BASPA) FOR OBSERVER STATUS TO THE BSEC

26. The participants of the WG expressed their appreciation for the adoption of the founding document of the Black and Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA) and its registration in Georgia and welcomed its application to be granted an observer status to the BSEC. To this end they requested the Secretariat to complete the necessary procedure required by the BSEC legal documents in order to enable the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to take the final decision on that matter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. No issue was raised by the WG under this agenda item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

28. The WG decided that the date and venue of its next Meeting will be communicated by the PERMIS to the Member States at a later stage.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

29. The delegations expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to the participants of the WG. They also expressed thanks to the Chairperson for her efficient and constructive chairing of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

30. The present Report was adopted for submission to the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
