



**BS/TR/WG/R(2002)2**

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

**Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 12-13 September 2002**

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Transport was held on 12-13 September 2002 at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul.

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States :

Republic of Albania  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Hellenic Republic  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

3. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of Israel and of the Republic of Poland as BSEC Observers. The representatives of the BSEC-URTA, BRASS, BASPA, BINSAs and BSUN attended the Meeting as NGOs having a sectoral dialogue partnership with the BSEC.

4. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC, BSEC Business Council and Black Sea Trade and Development Bank attended the Meeting in the capacity of the BSEC Related Bodies.

5. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the TRACECA Coordination Team in Odessa, Permanent Secretariat of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission, International Transporters Association of Turkey as Guests.

6. The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Yllka ZALOSHNIJA, Director General of Monitoring and Programming Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Albania

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

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

## COORDINATION WITH THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

8. The WG took note of the information provided by the PERMIS with regard to the activities of the Steering Committee of the Black Sea PETrA (SC Black Sea PETrA) and Regional Road Transport Committee of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI RRTC) .

9. Amb. Z. Kvatchantiradze, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission informed that the TRACECA (PS IGC TRACECA) has a dynamic development involving the countries of the Black Sea Region as well as the countries of Central Asia. He supported the idea of better coordination of activities of different organizations, initiatives and programmes active in the region through mutual participation in the meetings.

10. The WG welcomed participation of the TRACECA representatives in the meeting. It was agreed that the BSEC PERMIS and PS IGC TRACECA will discuss modalities of cooperation on the basis of legal procedures used by these organizations.

11. The WG stressed that coordination of activities of different organizations, initiatives and programmes in the region is very important in order to avoid duplication and combine efforts in creation of a stable and reliable transport system in the region.

12. The WG requested the PERMIS to get in touch with the secretariats and chairmanships of the IGC TRACECA, SC BS PETrA, RRTC SECI, UNECE and ECMT and regularly report on their activities relevant to the development of transport in the BSEC region at the future meetings of the WG on Transport.

## ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK 2002-2003 FOR THE BSEC WG ON TRANSPORT

13. The Draft Annual plan of work 2002-2003 for the BSEC WG on Transport was discussed and adopted.

14. The WG supported the proposal of Romania to establish a regional data base on the BSEC site that would comprise useful information at the national and regional level and links to the sites of the ministries of transport of the BSEC Member States, international organizations, initiatives and programmes in transport field. The PERMIS was requested to collect the views and information of the Member States and NGOs with regard to establishment of such data base.

## TRANSFORMATION OF THE BSEC WG ON TRANSPORT INTO PROJECT-ORIENTED ENDEAVOR

15. The BSEC PERMIS presented information on the progress in establishing the BSEC Project Development Fund and related institutional capacity aimed at reinforcing the BSEC decision-making mechanism in the project development. It was underlined that once approved by the Council of Ministers the Project Development Fund will be the heart of new machinery where the role of the sectoral Working Groups, including Transport, will be substantially increased.

16. The BSTDB Representative said that the BSTDB considers the establishment of the Project Development Fund a very important step for vitalization of intra regional projects in transportation sector. For that, BSTDB fully supports the Fund at this initial stage and considers that extension of this

Fund in the future will contribute significantly for the development of transportation sector in the Black Sea Region.

17. Taking into account eventual adoption of the establishment of the BSEC Project Development Fund in the nearest future, the WG suggested that Member States should provide project proposals for better utilization of the Fund after it became operational. Provisions of the documents of the Fund, e.g. Rules and Regulations of the BSEC Project Development Fund, Role of the BSEC organs in the Project Development; Project selection criteria within the BSEC should be taken into account.

18. The WG referred to the resolution of the Sixth meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs “Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the institution of Country-Coordinator” and stressed the need to appoint the Country-Coordinator of the Working Group on Transport as soon as possible in order to better facilitate utilization of opportunities stemming out from the eventual adoption of the Fund as well as for the better organization of the WG’s activities. In view of that Member States were invited to manifest their interest in being appointed Country-Coordinator of the WG on Transport in accordance with aforesaid resolution.

#### BSEC TRANSPORT RING CORRIDOR

19. Under this agenda item thorough discussion was paid to the Draft map of the Black Sea Ring Corridor, prepared by the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey.

20. Appreciating the work done by the Turkish side the delegations expressed the view that the draft map demands substantial improvement taking into consideration present transport developments in the region.

21. In particular, the delegations stressed that the map should reflect Pan-European Transport Corridors; Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia; E-roads, railroads, inland waterways, servicing international traffic; ports and international ferry lines in the Black Sea. The map should also follow the internationally accepted practices of showing geographical names.

22. The WG supported the proposal of the Greek delegation that the Member States should send their proposals to the draft map along with their national maps, reflecting international transport routes passing through their territories, to the Ministry of Transport of Turkey through the PERMIS before 15 October 2002.

23. Discussing on this agenda item the Delegation of Azerbaijan also informed the participants about the establishment of the Ministry of Transport in that country which, in their opinion, would further improve transport processes in Azerbaijan.

#### REQUEST OF THE CIS COORDINATION TRANSPORT CONFERENCE FOR GRANTING IT STATUS OF SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP IN THE BSEC.

24. The WG took note of the letter of H.E. Mr. Sergey Frank, Chairman of the Coordination Transport Conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS CTC), Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation, requesting for granting status of sectoral dialogue partnership in the BSEC and for introduction of the CIS CTC, made by Mr. Evgeniy Kazantsev, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CIS CTC.

25. In accordance with the existing legal procedure the WG requested the PERMIS to prepare legal conclusion on the subject for the Committee of Senior Officials on the basis of documents to be provided by the CIS Coordination Transport Conference.

#### OPERATION AND INTERACTION OF DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT

26. The Representatives of BASPA and BSEC-URTA expressed mutually complementary views highlighting the importance of creating synergies between different transport modes. Giving appropriate examples from world experience they showed the importance of striving for combined transport alternatives between different modes that can lead to opportunities for the BSEC Region as a whole to benefit better from the global trade.

27. The BSEC Business Council informed the delegations about First Caspian and Black Sea Transport Conference and Show Case – Intermodal and Shipping to be held on 27-28 February 2003 in Istanbul with support of the BSEC BC. The Conference will be of relevance to the subjects of operation and interaction of different modes of transport discussed at the present Meeting and in view of that the BSEC BC invited interested parties to participate in the Conference. The Working Group agreed to ask the Council of Ministers to support this Conference.

28. Taking into account the importance of the issue the Working Group stressed that relevant experience of the European Commission, ECMT, UN ECE in the field should be carefully studied in order to apply their best practices in intermodal transportation in the BSEC Region.

29. The Working Group also recommended BASPA and BSEC-URTA to study jointly possible fields of synergy between road and maritime transport in the region and asked the two sectoral NGOs to bring common proposals for consideration of the Working Group on Transport.

#### HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT LEGISLATION

30. Under this Agenda item the WG considered the latest status report on the accession by the countries to the major UN international transport agreements and conventions, kindly provided by the UN ECE.

31. The delegation of Romania informed that Romania ratified Global Technical Regulations Agreement (1998) this year .

32. The delegation of Albania said that it will inform the PERMIS additionally about recent changes in the Status report of their country.

33. The WG expressed its readiness to consider on a case-by-case basis possible difficulties in implementation of these agreements and conventions or in accession to them by the BSEC Member States in order to identify possibilities for assistance, if necessary.

#### REPORTS BY THE MEMBER STATES ABOUT COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL PROCEDURES REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS

34. The PERMIS informed the WG about the current status of receiving notifications from the signatory parties to the Memorandum on Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, in particular, that the notifications were received from Albania and Bulgaria. It was recalled

that in accordance with the final provisions the MoU shall come into force on the thirtieth day following the deposit to the depository, by all signatories, of the notifications regarding the accomplishment of their national legal procedures for the entry into force of the international agreements. Non-signatory BSEC Member States may become Parties to the MoU only after its entry into force.

35. The delegation of Greece informed that the MoU does not require additional procedure in their country. Relevant notification will be sent to the PERMIS soon.

36. The Delegation of Armenia informed the WG about intention of their country to sign the MoU.

37. The WG stressed that it is necessary to speed up the process of completion by the signatory parties of their national legal procedures in order to start the implementation of the MoU and enable non-signatory Member States to join it.

38. The signatory parties were kindly invited to present information on the present stage of legal procedures to the PERMIS by the end of October 2002.

39. The WG suggested that the PERMIS should start elaboration of the draft time-table and collecting necessary information relating to the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region in order to create solid ground for the effective implementation of the MoU after its entry into force.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC MEETING OF EXPERTS ON SHIPBUILDING, SHIPREPAIRING AND SHIPPING

40. The Working Group considered and adopted the Draft Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts on Shipbuilding, Shiprepairing and Shipping, prepared by the PERMIS. In the same time the WG stressed that the results of the Ad Hoc meeting should be also considered by the BSEC Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development and on Banking and Finance in the field of their competence before they be submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials.

41. The WG took also note of the explanation on the subject discussed, given by the representative of BRASS.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPING AND ACCELERATING TRANSPORT PROCESS

42. The delegation of Turkey stressed the importance of implementing information technologies in transport sector and stated that the public authorities could go into public-private partnership projects in order to enable themselves to benefit from such technologies.

43. In this regard the Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed about the recently realized Project Transport Network (KUBIS) together with the International Transporters Association of Turkey (UND).

44. The Working Group took note with interest of the Transport Network Project (KUBIS), which is a wide area network project connecting main entry-exit points of Turkey, Ministry of Transport and

UND. The system works with a specially developed software to monitor online and historically all the vehicles entering, exiting or transiting Turkey.

45. Working Group took note with interest about the global positioning Project to track the vehicles in particular trucks, presented by the International Transporters Association of Turkey, UND.

46. Romania made a presentation on a successful experience of a Romanian company implementing a GPS system developed by it and a freight and truck exchange Internet based.

47. Following the three presentations the WG expressed its appreciation of the fact that there is already considerable know how and experience within the Black Sea region and expressed its hope that these can form the basis for more extended cooperation projects among the BSEC Member States

48. BSEC-URTA presented a slide show about the issue of facilitating visa for professional drivers in the BSEC Region.

49. The Representatives of the BSEC-URTA gave a summary of the results of the BSEC-URTA Visa Specialists Meeting dated 19 July 2002 which was held at the BSEC Headquarters.

50. BSEC-URTA provided in-depth information about its ongoing studies that include elaboration of the BSEC countries matrix table indicating bilateral visa practices, good and bad examples, practices with SCHENGEN countries in terms of visas for drivers as well as a pre-feasibility survey that assesses technical capabilities of each BSEC-URTA Member Association.

51. The Working Group took note of the progress achieved by the BSEC-URTA in development of the Visa Project for Professional Drivers and recommended the relevant competent authorities of the BSEC Member States to study it.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

52. Under this Agenda item the Working Group took note of the activities of the Black Sea Universities Network and its information about Regional Partnership Forum for Innovation and Technology Transfer “Intermodal Transportation and Environment Protection” to be held on 17-19 October 2003 in Constantza (Romania).

#### DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

53. The date and venue of the next Meeting will be reported additionally.

#### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

54. The Report was adopted for submission to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to be held in Tirana on 25 October 2002.