



**BS/TR/WG/R(2004)1**

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

**Istanbul, 19-20 February 2004**

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group (WG) on Transport was held on 19-20 February 2004 at the BSEC Premises 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
    - Republic of Bulgaria
    - Georgia
    - Hellenic Republic
    - Romania
    - Russian Federation
    - Republic of Turkey
    - Ukraine
  3. The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC) and the BSEC Business Council (BC) also participated in the Meeting.
  4. The representatives of the Black Sea Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS), The Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), Black Sea International Shipping Association (BINSIA) and Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), participated in the Meeting as NGOs having sectoral dialogue partnership with the BSEC.
  5. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Elnur ALIYEV, BSEC Desk Officer, Department for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.
6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

## **HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT LEGISLATION, FACILITATING TRANSPORT PROCESSES**

7. The WG welcomed the information presented by the delegations concerning the latest status of the accession by their respective countries to the major UN international transport agreements and conventions and called upon the Member States for further advance in this process.

8. Furthermore it considered the research results presented by the BSEC-URTA on the status of UN ECE Agreements and Conventions. The WG evaluated this research as important for facilitating road transportation, removing trade barriers from the road transport perspective, and harmonizing road user charges and other charges. It is important for conducting comparison analysis of the weight certificates to be issued in the framework of SECI and CIS, and agreed to give intensive consideration on these issues.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE BSEC REGION**

### a) Finalization of the transport map of the region, BSEC Ring Corridor

9. The participants welcomed the work done so far by the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey on the elaboration of the map of the BSEC Ring Corridor with Hinterland Connections and requested the Ministry to finalize the said Map on the basis of comments and proposals made by the delegations in the course of the Meeting so that it could be forwarded to the Member States through the PERMIS by 15 March 2004 .

10. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the UN ECE Transport Division which kindly provided the BSEC with the maps of the road and railway network to be developed in accordance with the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR and AGC) dated 2001 and recommended the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey to take these into account in the final version of the aforementioned Map.

### b) Transport Infrastructure of the BSEC. Projects to be implemented

11. The WG exchanged views on the presentations by the delegations on the recent developments in the transport infrastructure of their respective countries, and requested the Member States concerned to convey the summary of presentations to the PERMIS to be duly taken into account in the process of further development of the BSEC Ring Corridor Concept.

12. The delegations took note of a presentation by the BSEC Business Council highlighting the important role that Public-Private Partnership (PPP) could play in attracting Foreign Direct Investment and building infrastructure in the Black Sea region. The Working Group welcomed the readiness of the BSEC Business Council to embark on a project aiming to building capacity for PPP within the region, that would start with a series of awareness – creation seminars for Public Works, Transport and other Ministries' officials, as well as for the private sector contractors, and expressed its support to the endeavor.

## **PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS**

13. The WG took note of the information on the state of internal procedures regarding the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods provided by some delegations, namely the Republic of Turkey that the MoU had been forwarded to the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and Romania that due to modifications occurred during the internal procedures the Romanian side was considering reservations to the MoU.

14. While deliberating on the future MoU implementation on a basis of the respective Time-Table approved at the WG Meeting of October 2003, the participants welcomed the outcome of consideration by the Ad Hoc Expert Group of the Draft Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States.

15. Having exchanged information on existing barriers hampering mutually beneficial harmonization of road transport operations in bilateral and transit transportation, the WG kindly requested the BSEC-URTA to contribute to the establishment of a data-bank as well as to the development of the regional information system following the practice applied by the IRU.

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

16. The WG took note with interest of the presentation made by the BSEC-URTA on the research on combined transport in the BSEC Region. It was agreed that the Member States will send their proposals and comments on the research, in order to facilitate further deliberations on the subject in question. The WG welcomed the establishment by the BSEC-URTA of its Web portal, and invited the Member States to inform the interested parties on the possibility to benefit from it.

17. Further, in order to facilitate development of combined transport, the WG called for the Member States to actively implement the “Resolution 2002/2 on Combined Transport” adopted by the European Conference of the Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and asked the Member States to send their proposals with regard to the cooperation in combined transport to the BSEC PERMIS.

## **PREPARATION OF A PROJECTS PACKAGE TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE BSEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND**

18. The WG took note of the presentation by PERMIS of the outcome of the Meeting of the Steering Committee of the BSEC Project Development Fund held on 2-3 December 2003, and in regard of the Project Proposals submitted by the BSEC-URTA and Romania, agreed on the following:

- Pursuant to the provision of the “Role of the BSEC Organs in the Project Development”, the WG submitted the Project Proposal of the BSEC-URTA to the Committee of Senior Officials;
- The Member States would communicate their readiness to act as a partner in the Project titled “Study on the Development of Short Sea Shipping in the Black Sea” submitted by Romania to the PERMIS so that a Standard Application for Funding a BSEC Project could be submitted in accordance with the rules pertaining the operations of the PDF.

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

19. The participants took note of the BSEC-URTA information about the successful cooperation of its Member Associations from the Republic of Albania, Romania and the Republic of Turkey on the issue of Vehicle Tracking System. The WG also took note of the presentation by the Russian Federation concerning the application of satellite monitoring technology in the maritime trafficking.

## **COORDINATION OF WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

20. With a view of future implementation of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods the WG instructed the PERMIS to coordinate actions with the activities of the other international organizations and initiatives aimed at transport facilitation in the region.

21. The participants took note of the interest expressed by BRASS, BINSAs and BASPA to renew the sectoral dialogue partnership status and of the interest of the CIS Coordination Transport Conference to be granted such a status in the BSEC WG on Transport.

## **DOCUMENT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BSEC AND THE IGC TRACECA**

22. The WG took note of the address by the Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA concerning elaboration of a document between IGC TRACECA and the BSEC, and asked the Committee of Senior Officials to consider the document.

23. The Member States were invited to forward their views and comments on the document to the BSEC PERMIS by 15 March 2004.

## **TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND DRIVERS**

24. The WG deliberated on the BSEC-URTA proposal on concluding the Agreement among the BSEC Member States on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas, Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator and, since the delegations expressed their support to it, agreed to address the Committee of Senior Officials with a recommendation to establish a relevant Ad Hoc Group of Experts to elaborate the Agreement if feasible.

25. The BSEC-URTA was kindly requested to prepare the background paper on this issue to be submitted to the Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL DATA BASE**

26. The participants invited the transport authorities of the Member States to send their proposals on possible useful Internet links that can be placed on the Web-site of the BSEC PERMIS.

27. The participants considered the idea of establishing a regional data-base on transport issues and requested the BSEC-URTA to prepare in cooperation with the PERMIS an appropriate background paper for consideration at the next WG Meeting.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

28. Following the intervention of the BRASS representative the participants agreed to give consideration at the next WG Meeting to the Memorandum in the Field of Development of the Shipbuilding, Shipping and Shiprepairing elaborated jointly by the NGOs granted sectoral dialogue partnership status, and in this connection called for implementation of the respective decision of the WG Meeting of 12-13 September 2002 concerning the Ad-Hoc Expert Group.

29. The BSUN representative informed the WG of the EU Research Projects, namely Mediterranean and Transeuropean Networks for Transport and EuroMed Transport Project aimed at promoting regional infrastructure initiatives, regional and subregional integration.

30. The participants took note of the intervention by the Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council concerning the Caspian and Black Sea Transport Conference and Exhibition to be held in Istanbul on 13-15 May 2004, supported by the BSEC Business Council.

31. The Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council and the representative of the BSEC-URTA informed the participants about the planning of a conference to be held in June 2004 in Bucharest to review ways toward a more fair distribution of transport quotas.

## **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

32. The WG confirmed that in accordance with the Annual Plan of Work for 2004 its next Meeting will be held in September 2004.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

33. The Working Group adopted the present report for submission to the Meeting of Committee of Senior Officials (18-19 March 2004) and the Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Baky on 30 April 2004.