



Annex III to BS/TRM/R(2006)1

JOINT DECLARATION
on the further developments in the field of transport in the BSEC Region
(Bucharest, 15 March 2006)

The Participants of the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States held in Bucharest on 15 March 2006,

Taking into account the high potential and strategic role of the BSEC Region, which determine a major economic significance of the BSEC transport system,

Reaffirming their willingness to undertake joint efforts in order to promote harmonized policy measures meant to support a transport system answering all the demands in terms of infrastructure and services,

Having in view the necessity to facilitate the transport of goods and passengers in the BSEC Region, by removing physical and administrative bottlenecks along the main transport axes and supporting the co-operation and communication between the relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States, especially taking into consideration the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on facilitation of road transport of goods in the BSEC Region,

Conscious of the fact that recent developments in Europe and Asia, in particular the recent and forthcoming enlargements of the EU, starting with 1 January 2007, require an integrated and coordinated approach to the development of the regional transport systems as well as its interconnections between the transport network of the BSEC Region and the Trans - European Transport Network,

Bearing in mind the priority axes, corridors and projects identified by the relevant international organizations including UNECE, UNESCAP, as well as those adopted by the relevant Decision of the EU on the new Community Guidelines for the Trans - European Transport Network (TEN-T),

Acknowledging with satisfaction the progress achieved in the development of transport cooperation among the countries of the Black and Caspian Seas region, aiming to the expansion of international trade and transport of goods, including energy resources, to the world market, in particular, through the development of the Pan-European Transport Corridors crossing the region, Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, North-South and the Black Sea Ring,

Aiming to benefit from the results obtained by the High Level Group for the extension of the major Trans - European axes to the neighbouring countries and regions (chaired by former EU Commissioner for Transport Ms. Loyola De Palacio) and to ensure the proper interconnection with the BSEC transport network,

Taking into account the measures proposed on the occasion of the Fourteenth OSCE Economic Forum/Part 1 “Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic cooperation and stability” (Vienna, 23-24 January 2006),

Noting that the exchange of best practices is important in order to strengthen the role of the public – private partnerships in accelerating the implementation of projects,

Acknowledging the significance of activities implemented by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia (UNESCAP), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), the Organization for Railways Cooperation (OSZhD), the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA (TRACECA IGC), the Coordination Transport Meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CTM CIS), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the International Road Federation (IRF) and other regional cooperation institutions involved in the development of the transport network of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Region and its integration into the European and Asian transport networks,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the Action Plan of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation in the field of transport for the period 2005-2007, as adopted by the BSEC Working Group on transport on the occasion of its meeting in November 2005,

Bearing in mind that the Declarations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States need to be properly implemented within certain deadlines,

HAVE AGREED:

- **To support** the commencement at the next Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport of work to develop an accurate and complete database of information about the status of infrastructure in BSEC Member States and useful information for the operators of all modes of transport;
- **To intensify** their efforts towards the finalization of the BSEC Ring Corridor Map, as a starting point towards the identification of projects of regional interest;
- **To develop** the concept of the Motorways of the Sea, with the assistance of experts from the EU and the involved international and regional organizations, in order to ensure a coordinated approach in this area;
- **To convene** the first meeting of the Steering Committee on the Facilitation of International Transport of Goods, to be established under the auspices of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, as soon as the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region will enter into force;
- **To recommend** to the BSEC Council to establish an ad-hoc Group of Experts, where representatives of the EU and the relevant international and regional organizations could be invited, with a consultative character, with the task to

elaborate appropriate criteria and methodology for the future regional transport projects of mutual interest;

- **To develop** an active dialogue and a close collaboration between the governments, international organizations, financial institutions and other bodies concerned, that can contribute to the identification and realization of the regional transport projects of mutual interest;
- **To encourage** the Member States to continue to participate in the Euro-Asian Transport Links Project, jointly implemented by UN ECE and ESCAP, and in the follow up to the TEM and TER Master Plan;
- **To promote** the exchange of best practices on financing options, including relevant legislation and public-private partnerships, possibly through regional workshops;
- **To encourage** a better communication mechanism between the relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States, starting with the bilateral level, in order to undertake joint actions aiming at promoting the development of trade and tourism in the BSEC Region, especially by facilitating all border crossing procedures and transport operations as well as reducing other non-technical barriers, without prejudice to the obligations of the BSEC Member States in the framework of international agreements;
- **To strengthen** the co-operation with the States having observer status within BSEC, in order to benefit of their expertise and best practices in the field of transport, while developing the communication mechanism with these states.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Romanian authorities for the warm hospitality and excellent organisation of the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.