



Annex IV to BS/TM/R(2010)1

**SOFIA JOINT DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE CO-OPERATION IN  
THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION**

*Through enhanced BSEC regional transport co-operation towards a sustainable economic  
growth and prosperity*

**(15 April 2010, Sofia, Bulgaria)**

WE, the Ministers of Transport of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Member States gathering in Sofia on 15 April 2010, under the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-office of BSEC to discuss the ways and means of strengthening our co-operation in the field of transport,

**Stating** that peace, stability and sustainable development in the BSEC Region is of vital importance for the welfare of peoples of the Region,

**Taking note on** the necessity to implement the decisions adopted at the previous meetings of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States which are reflected in Joint Declarations,

**Considering** that transport plays a crucial role in further developing regional and international trade and provides a significant boost to economic growth and creates more confidence in the economic future,

**Recognizing** that an enhanced BSEC regional transport cooperation will contribute to sustainable economic growth within the BSEC region as well as to enhancing trade relations between Europe and Asia,

**Underlining** the importance of developed transport infrastructure, and the measures for facilitating transport procedures aimed at intensifying multimodal transport flows, as well as of the significance of overcoming physical and non-physical barriers in the Region of BSEC,

**Affirming** our responsibility for building an integrated and sustainable transport system for the BSEC Region,

**Welcoming** the joint efforts work of the BSEC Member States in maritime and road infrastructure, facilitation of road transport of goods in the BSEC Region, within the relevant subsidiary and other organs,

**Acknowledging** that an integrated approach in maritime and inland waterways activities, including the development of competitive shipping as well as of ports infrastructure, is essential for providing sustainable multimodal transport and contributing to the development of Eurasian transport links,

**Highlighting** the importance of taking concrete steps for the development of other transport modes and multimodal transport connections in the Region,

**Recognising** the importance of integrating the environmental issues in transport policies in the Black Sea Region,

**Acknowledging** the significance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010, for the BSEC Region, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety with a goal to reduce the forecasted level of road fatalities world wide by increasing activities at the national, regional and global levels,

**Bearing in mind** the benefits of further development of close co-operation of BSEC with other international organizations and institutions, such as UNECE, UNESCAP, TRACECA, IRF, IRU, CEI as well as with BASPA, BINSABRASS, BSEC-URTA as transport related Sectoral Dialogue Partners in the development and facilitation of international transport in the BSEC Region,

**Also bearing in mind** the importance of close co-operation and coordination of activities between BSEC and the EU, as well as other international organizations and institutions such as the ECO, CIS and EurAsEC,

**Have agreed to:**

**Intensify** the co-operation in the transport sector which is essential in developing international trade among BSEC Member States and accelerating regional cooperation and integration,

**Exert** joint efforts for promoting the sustainable and efficient transport operations based on mutually acceptable transport policies in the BSEC Member States,

**Focus on** facilitated procedures for the use of the transport networks in the BSEC Member States, aiming at further reinforcement of trade flows among the BSEC Member States, as well as facilitating transit of goods between Europe and Asia,

**Explore** the opportunities to improve and develop road, maritime, aviation and railway infrastructure with a view to contributing to smooth flow of passengers and goods among the BSEC Member States,

**Enhance** cooperation on the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Motorways of the Sea and Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods,

**Take note of** the commitment of the interested Member States to further develop the effectiveness and efficiency of the BSEC PERMIT Pilot Project within the framework of facilitating the road transport of goods in the BSEC Region,

**Encourage** the Member States to enhance the regional potential by focusing on the interconnectivity and interoperability of transport activities,

**Consult** with competent national authorities to consider the possibility of the elaboration of an Integrated Maritime Policy in the field of Maritime Transport, Ports, Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing in the Region as an important factor for sustainable economic growth,

**Take into consideration** the need for developing co-operation in the civil aviation sector and exploration of the possibilities for co-operation,

**Encourage** elaborating joint transport projects of regional impact with various financial schemes, including BSEC mechanisms, Public-Private Partnership, and with the participation of other international organizations and financial institutions,

**Make use** of innovative transport solutions and intelligent transport systems (ITS) for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the international transport in the region,

**Reiterate** the invitation to the BSEC Member States that have not yet done so to adhere to major UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport and effectively implement them and encourage joint activities of BSEC and UNECE in addressing the related issues in the BSEC Region including road safety,

**Encourage** organizing regional conferences, trainings, seminars on best practices on specific transport subjects,

**Present** this Declaration to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States for consideration,

The Ministers expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Meeting in Sofia.