



Annex V to BS/TM/R(2008)1

**JOINT DECLARATION  
ON COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION  
(ODESSA, 10 APRIL 2008)**

The Ministers of Transport of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Odessa on 10 April 2008, within the framework of the Ukrainian Chairmanship in BSEC;

The Ministers,

**Recognizing** the importance to continue working closely for the development of reliable, efficient, safe, integrated and sustainable transport systems in the BSEC region;

**Being determined** to make every effort to develop environment friendly transport in the BSEC Region through introduction of advanced technologies;

**Considering** the importance of transport for the close trade relations in the BSEC Region;

**Acknowledging** that the development of efficient and safe transport routes in the BSEC Region will provide additional transport options to existing and future trade flows between the BSEC Region, Europe and Asia, as well as facilitate participation of national economies of the BSEC Member States in global economy;

**Committed** to the removal of both physical and non-physical barriers in the BSEC Region at the key transport nodes and transshipment points including maritime ports,

**Reiterating** the significance of the development of transport infrastructure, multimodal transport connections and logistics centres in the BSEC Region;

**Convinced** that the realization by the Member States of common projects on the development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region will advance the development of transport infrastructure and transport routes;

**Recognizing** the usefulness of sharing experiences in transport field with participation of relevant international organizations and financial institutions;

**Stressing** the importance of BSEC interaction with the EC and international organizations and bodies, such as UN ECE, UN ESCAP, TRACECA, CIS, EurAsEC, as well as IRF, IRU, on the development of the Euro-Asian transport linkages, passing through the BSEC region;

**Acknowledging** the necessity to intensify efforts for promoting road transport of goods in the BSEC Region through facilitation of border crossings and reduction of waiting times at the borders;

**Acknowledging** the importance of the UN ECE activities on developing internationally harmonized transport norms and standards for the efficient transport operations in the BSEC transport network;

**Stressing** the need and importance of following-up the implementation of the Joint Declarations previously adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States;

**Have agreed:**

1. **To intensify** joint efforts for promotion of reliable, efficient, environmentally sound, safe, secure, integrated, sustainable transport systems and policies in the BSEC Member States;
2. **To make** every effort to develop environment friendly transport in the BSEC region and strengthen sustainable development, according to the relevant international conventions and treaties to which BSEC Member States are parties;
3. **To promote** the development of transport infrastructure, multimodal transport connections and logistics centers, sea ports in the BSEC Region with a view to providing additional transport options to the existing and future trade flows between the BSEC Member States, Europe and Asia, facilitate participation of national economies of BSEC Member States in global economy;
4. **To ensure** that practical measures are taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region as an important tool for coordinated development of the road transport at the regional level.
5. **To ensure** implementation of the internationally harmonized transport norms and standards stemming from UNECE transport conventions as a necessary step for efficient transport operations in the BSEC transport network;
6. **To encourage** BSEC and the EU to develop cooperation on an equal footing in the BSEC region, and work towards the establishment of a Black Sea Partnership on Transport, which will support the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea, as well as any future projects in the field of transport in the region.
7. **To take** appropriate measures for the removal of both physical and non-physical barriers in the BSEC region at key transport nodes and transshipment points including maritime ports;
8. **To develop** cooperation in civil aviation without prejudice to international obligations of the BSEC Member States on regulatory/legal issues, training, airport infrastructure projects, as well as to encourage cooperation between the Civil Aviation Service providers (Airlines, ANSPs, Airports, etc.);
9. **To strengthen** cooperation of BSEC with the EC and international organizations and bodies, such as UN ECE, UN ESCAP, TRACECA, CIS, EurAsEC, as well as IRF, IRU on the development of the Euro-Asian transport linkages, passing through the BSEC region in order to coordinate ongoing activities in the field of transport;
10. **To encourage** the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners to continue making their contributions to the BSEC efforts on the development of transport in the Region;
11. **To promote** the organization of regional training seminars, conferences and projects aimed at the exchange of experiences and best practices in the transport sector among experts of the BSEC Member States, other states and international organizations.

The Ministers expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Ukraine for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Meeting in Odessa.

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