

**BELGRADE JOINT DECLARATION ON PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION IN
THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION**

BSEC Region, Integrate to Grow, Partnership for the Future

(1 November 2016, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia)

We, the Ministers of Transport of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Belgrade on 1 November 2016, within the framework of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Serbia,

Bearing in mind that BSEC through its almost 25 years of existence has endeavored to bring its members together around common ideas, goals and principles,

Recognizing that the BSEC region, with its unique geographical location, has a strategic importance in connecting Europe and Asia,

Stressing a common approach for developing Euro-Asian transport links;

Guided by the provisions of the main BSEC documents;

Reiterating the efforts for the development of the transport operations in the BSEC region according to the Memoranda on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, interoperability based on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea and establishing adequate framework within the Coordinated Development of on the Black Sea Ring Highway;

Considering the implementation and the development of the project for issuing BSEC Permits towards the facilitation of the international transport of goods in the BSEC region by the interested Member States;

Commending the existing cooperation of BSEC with the international organizations, as well as with the sectoral dialogue partners in transport field in promoting, developing and facilitating transport in the BSEC Region;

Reaffirming the importance of training and educational measures to reduce the number and the gravity of road accidents in the framework of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020);

Promoting exchange of information in the field of transport security as well as introduction of innovations, intelligent transport systems and global navigation systems;

Welcoming the development of intermodal transportation in the BSEC region;

Believing that after almost 25 years of experience it is time for BSEC to finalize already taken steps and achieve results in the area of transport with a view to living up to the potential of the region

HAVE AGREED TO:

Continue the cooperation under the Memoranda on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea and the Coordinated Development of on the Black Sea Ring Highway, as well as the BSEC projects already started;

Pursue the work on harmonization and signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region;

Implement measures aimed at creating an effective transport infrastructure and transport connections in the BSEC region in order to promote the development of trade mobility and multimodality, as well as to improve overall well-being of the BSEC Member States population;

Support harmonization of the related transport documents in order to make faster traffic flow in the BSEC region;

Work on reducing the physical and non-physical barriers arising during border crossings within the respective competences;

Promote the improving of safety level on the BSEC region international transport routes;

Develop connectivity between transport and tourism, including on routes of international tourism, including the intensification of the cruise shipping;

Continue the work on the BSRH route and to emphasize the importance to focus all efforts on concrete pre-feasibility studies of the project;

Recognize the importance of the active involvement of IFI's, business community, its related associations and other stakeholders in the process of shaping proposals on implementation of the transport projects, that contribute to the development of the region, based on public-private partnerships mechanisms;

Provide support necessary to fulfil the objectives mentioned above;

Congratulate BSEC-URTA on occasion of its 15th anniversary since establishment and highly appreciate its important contribution to the road transport sector in the BSEC Region;

Continue the work on the issues of this Declaration in the framework of the next BSEC Transport Ministers meeting, the date and venue will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

The BSEC Ministers of Transport expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia for the warm welcome and the excellent organization of the event.