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PRESS RELEASE

**THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUPS
ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ON CUSTOMS MATTERS
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS ON TRANSPORT**
(BSEC Headquarters, 4 March 2015)

A Joint Meeting of the BSEC Working Groups on Trade and Economic Development and on Customs Matters with the Participation of Experts on Transport was held at the BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul, on 4 March 2015.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA), which is a BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as a guest.

The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Inetta PANURCO, Head of Division of International Bilateral Relations and Cooperation with International Financial Organizations, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova.

The participants were welcomed in an opening address made by Ambassador Dr. Victor ȚVIRCUN, Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS.

The participants reaffirmed the importance of developing intra-regional trade and investments and the need to intensify the interaction among the competent BSEC Working Groups for this purpose. They focused on:

- Further collaboration among the BSEC Member States on trade facilitation in the BSEC Region, through such tools as the Single Window, the International Vehicle Weight Certificate or the BSEC Permit System;
- Developing customs cooperation by taking appropriate measures in order to implement provisions and objectives identified in the Baku Declaration of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States "Initiatives of Customs Administrations in Trade Facilitation" (Baku, 26 November 2014).
- Increasing the competitiveness and effectiveness of transport corridors crossing the territory of the BSEC Member States.

The discussions resulted in recommendations for achieving a more favourable trade environment, harmonization and simplification of customs procedures and facilitation of transport in the BSEC Region.

The participants also discussed the preparation of the Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the BSEC Member States scheduled to take place in Chişinău on 29 May 2015 and recommended a draft Joint Declaration to be adopted on that occasion.