

Black Sea organization chief receives IRU Order of Merit

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The International Road Transport Union, or IRU, has awarded its order of merit to the secretary-general of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, or BSEC, Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos.

The award was given in recognition of Chrysanthopoulos' contributions to the development of Euro-Asian road transport links across the BSEC region, as well as for his continuous support of the IRU's work.

Chrysanthopoulos supported the Black Sea Ring Highway Caravan in 2007, a public-private partnership initiative between IRU and BSEC aimed at facilitating road transport around the Black Sea basin. The caravan also helped connect national economies within the region by collecting valuable data en route in regards to non-physical barriers to road transport in the BSEC region and to road infrastructure around the Black Sea Basin.

"Due to your vision, due to your understanding of the difficulties faced by the road transport industry and due to your diplomatic talents, you were able to persuade the heads of state of the 12 BSEC countries to support the organization of the Black Sea Ring Highway Truck Caravan," said IRU President Janusz Lacny in presenting Chrysanthopoulos with the award.

"You again managed to obtain the support of the heads of state for the implementation of the newly-created BSEC permit. Your talent for overcoming the many difficulties and obtaining support in all your endeavors, also in the promotion of further facilitation for the road transport industry, must serve as an example to each of us in our tasks of representation vis-à-vis our governments," Lacny said.

"The BSEC could not have done anything without this unique cooperation with IRU and BSEC-URTA," said Chrysanthopoulos.

“The BSEC and IRU, through their close cooperation, have [succeeded] in making our presence felt to our peoples, not by propaganda, but by visible infrastructure projects in the area of transport,” he said.



AWARD: Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos (L), Theocharis Iordanidis, a Greek driver and Haydar Özkan (R), the IRU general delegate to the EU, are seen in this photo.