



19 October 2017

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**REPORT OF THE  
INFORMAL TWELFTH MEETING OF THE  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS  
IN THE BSEC REGION**

**BSEC Headquarters, 19 October 2017**

1. The Informal Twelfth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 19 October 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Tudor VASILICA, Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Moldova in Istanbul
3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Ukraine
4. The representatives of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) attended the Meeting as Sectoral Dialogue Partners.
5. The representative of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) attended the Meeting as Guest.
6. The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.
7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed, amended and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:**

### **a. Nomination of representatives of the Member States to the Steering Committee**

8. The Steering Committee took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS regarding nomination by the Parties to the MoU of their representatives and alternate representatives in accordance with Article 8 of the MoU.

9. The Steering Committee invited the Parties, which have not done it so, to inform the BSEC PERMIS about changes in composition of their representatives in the Steering Committee by 20 November 2017.

10. The List of Members of the Steering Committee is attached as **Annex III**.

### **b. Election of a Chairman of the Steering Committee**

11. The participants welcomed and supported the decision of the Republic of Moldova to continue chairing the Steering Committee for the next 1 year term as of 19 October 2017.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS AT THE BSEC REGION. TIME-TABLE ON THE MOU IMPLEMENTATION.**

### **a/ Progressive liberalization of international road transport of goods (Article 3)**

12. The delegations discussed the issue of gradual liberalization of road transport of goods in the BSEC Region foreseen by Article 3 of the MoU.

13. The representative of BSEC-URTA made an analysis on implementation of the provisions and objectives of the MoU and problems identified.

14. The Steering Committee took note of the developments related to the BSEC Project on issuing the BSEC Permit and invited the participating countries to undertake the further actions for its development.

The BSEC URTA invited the Parties to the MoU to:

- upgrade bilateral intergovernmental agreements on international road transport, by removing transit and bilateral permits for the transport of goods, increasing the scope of multilateral permit system;
- to enlarge the geographical coverage of the BSEC Permit and to extend its usage to third country road transport operations on voluntary or reciprocity basis;
- To shift the BSEC Permit usage from single to multiple journeys.

### **b/ Accession to international agreements – harmonization of maximum permissible weights and dimensions, transportation of dangerous goods and social regulations (Article 4)**

15. The participants took note of the state of affairs with regard to accession by the BSEC Member States to the key UN Transport Conventions and Agreements and reiterated their call to the Member States who have not yet done so, to take further steps for acceding and implementing these legal instruments. The said document is attached as **Annex IV**.

16. They invited the Member States to ratify the Additional e-CMR Protocol promoting digitalization of the transport related documents

17. They invited the Parties to implement provisions of the key UN transport related conventions and agreements as well as the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement providing seamless cross-border transport and transit.

18. The participants invited the BSEC PERMIS to have consultations with the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office on setting-up the date of the Fourth Meeting of the Task Force on the BSEC Pilot Project on the Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate.

### **c/ Development of efficient and adequate transport services in the BSEC region**

19. The participants discussed the existing physical and non-physical barriers for transportation at the cross-border points of the BSEC Member States and possible measures that are needed for the development of efficient and adequate transport services in the BSEC region.

20. They took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS about consideration of these issues at the Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the BSEC Region, which took place at the BSEC Headquarters on 18 October 2017 under the auspices of the BSEC, IRU and BSEC-URTA.

21. They underlined the importance of implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Development of the Motorways of the Sea and Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region and welcomed elaboration of the Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region, in collaboration with the BSEC Working Groups on Customs Matters and on Trade and Economic Development.

22. The participants supported the initiative about setting-up a BSEC Task Force under the joint coordination of the Working Groups on Customs Matters, on Trade and Economic Development and on Transport with participation of IRU and BSEC-URTA, having as main task a coordinated implementation of the BSEC Strategy on Trade Facilitation, under a specific and timeframe Action Plan, and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region.

23. They recommended to BSEC PERMIS to explore the possibility of conducting a study under the BSEC leadership and with participation of the interested parties, in order to identify the bottlenecks at the major border-crossing points between the BSEC Member States.

Furthermore, they encouraged the Parties to:

- continue working on eliminating physical and non-physical barriers to trade and transportation in the BSEC Region;
- take tangible measures in order to establish the e-data exchange mechanism with the neighboring states and potential regional partners for a more comprehensive risk analysis securing the expeditious transport and trade facilitation;

- join the ongoing projects aimed at computerization of TIR procedures, such as the corridor of Ukraine-Georgia-Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan, as well as the intermodal corridor between Ukraine and Turkey, based on the successful conclusions of the Iran-Turkey Pilot project, and on the new MoU signed between UNECE and IRU;
- promote the existing TIR tools: iCarnet (a guarantee for customs transit between customs authorities of the same country); TIR+ (increased guarantee under TIR) and TIR-EPD (TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration);
- adopt the Annex XI to the TIR Convention as the legal basis for digitalization of the TIR procedures in order to further facilitate trade amongst the countries;

**d/ Charging policies - information system on charges related to road transport (Article 5)**

24. The participants recommended to terminate consideration of this Agenda Item in the future due to the fact that fiscal issues are beyond the competence of the Steering Committee and, correspondingly, to delete the Objective 7 "Rationalize and gradually harmonize the charging policies for the international road transport of goods in the BSEC region" from the Time-Table on the implementation of the MoU.

**e/ Facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers (Article 6).**

25. The participants considered the state of affairs with regard to the accession of the BSEC Member States to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States and invited the BSEC PERMIS to prepare, in cooperation with the IRU and the BSEC-URTA, a Study on the present situation with visa facilitation for professional drivers in the BSEC Member States and to bring the analysis for consideration of the next meeting of the Steering Committee in order to take the relevant decision by the latter.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU**

26. The participants recommended making the following updates of objectives' deadlines in the Timetable:

- Objective 1.a Liberalize transit international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers along the BSEC Member States, gradually. - Deadline: 01.01.2019
- Objective 1.b Liberalize bilateral international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers between the BSEC Member States, gradually. - Deadline: 01.01.2020
- Objective 7. Rationalize and gradually harmonize the charging policies for the international road transport of goods in the BSEC region. - Terminate

**AGENDA ITEM 5: MUTUAL RECOGNITION BY THE BSEC MEMBER STATES OF CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS**

27. The participants noted the importance of application of the ECMT Quality Charter as a key benchmark that fully meets the requirements for professional qualifications of drivers and managers and invited the Parties to follow the Charter.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS**

28. The BSEC-URTA informed the Steering Committee on the outcome of the 32nd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, which was held in Tirana on 13 October 2017, and decision of the IRU and BSEC-URTA to support the BSEC PERMIS in organization of the “BSEC Stand” within the framework of the Annual Summit of the International Transport Forum to be held in Leipzig, Germany, in 2018.

29. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on enhanced cooperation with IRU and BSEC-URTA and expressed their appreciation to the said organizations for their lasting valuable support.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

30. The participants supported the renewal of the Sectoral Dialogue Partner status to the BSEC-URTA as of 1 January 2018.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

31. The Steering Committee adopted the present Report for its submission to the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration.