

G2840

Bucharest, 16 May 2011

19TH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

International-Bucharest Hotel
Bucharest -Romania
Monday, 16 May 2011, at 10:00 hrs

DECISIONS¹

At its 19th Meeting, held in Bucharest on 16 May 2011, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:

1. Thanked the BSEC Secretary General, Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, the Head of Customs Administration of Romania, Mr. Viorel Comanita, the Director of Directorate for Western Balkans and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr. Alexandru Ene and the Director of Directorate of Road Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania, Mr. Sorin Sirbu for their participation and kindly addressing the General Assembly.
2. Adopted the Agenda (G2834) and approved the Minutes of its 18th Meeting (G2835).
3. Took note of the verbal report of the BSEC-URTA Management Council.
4. Thanked Mr. Sorin Sirbu, Director of Directorate of Road Transport, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Romania, for his comprehensive presentation on the road transport system in Romania.
5. Studied the updated BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report (G2836) and observed that the total number of trips by the BSEC transport operators increased by 31.7 % in 2010 compared with the 2009, bottom of the crisis, which indicates to a very strong recovery in 2010. The data shows that the trips to the trade partners outside the BSEC and the EU have increased significantly. This major increase in the number of trips is also confirmed by increasing foreign trade of the BSEC Member States in 2010. Unfortunately, the waiting times did not improve at internal or external BSEC borders according to the IRU data. Requested all Member Associations to assist IRU and BSEC-URTA in monitoring their border waiting times more efficiently and inform the International Secretariat about any major impediments or bottlenecks that could be avoided at their borders by a reinforced cooperation between the competent authorities and the road transport industry.
6. Thanked Mr. Bogdan Badea, Director, Department for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, for his valuable presentation on the Liberalization of the Road Transport Market and Free and Fair Competition between hauliers in Europe.
7. Evaluated the Report on Survey on Free and Fair Competition in the BSEC Road Transport Market (2837) and concluded that:
 - The international road transport of goods market in the BSEC region is mainly regulated by the Bilateral System of Permits.
 - The BSEC Permit is the right tool, which could lead to a gradual liberalisation in the region.
 - Conditions for access to profession need to be aligned in the BSEC region.
 - AETR Agreement is applied in 11 out of 12 BSEC Member States, except Georgia, which should also join this important Agreement as soon as possible.
 - The main cost element influencing the price of transport is the cost of diesel which varies from 0,7 EURO to 1.67 EURO due to different levels of taxation and fiscal charges imposed by each national government.

¹ Adopted unanimously unless otherwise stated

- Another important cost element is the driver's salary, which varies from 800 EURO to above 3300 EURO.
 - Since mainly the same rules apply to access to the profession and the BSEC Member States are contracting parties to same major UNECE international conventions and agreements related to road transport, national authorities should do more for enforcement of these national laws and international commitments so that the "rules of the game" are applied to all actors fairly and across the BSEC region.
 - National authorities should protect the national fleet operators by applying minimum or no taxation for the professional fuel and providing incentives for investment in new vehicles with low emissions and noise level.
8. Taking into account results of the abovementioned Survey and recommendations of the Management Council, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly adopted, unanimously, a special Resolution on Free and Fair Competition in the BSEC International Road Transport Market (Annex 1), which stresses that free and fair competition in the BSEC Road Transport Market is a main objective of the BSEC-URTA and inviting, however, the Governments to develop and provide special incentives and benefits to the industry without any discrimination between national and foreign fleet operators, notably such as lower corporate tax, reduced VAT, lower or no taxation on professional diesel and incentives for new investment in the fleet.
 9. Noted the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2011 (G2838) with appreciation and concluded that:
 - (a) Participating Member States agreed to extend the usage of the BSEC Permit to include transit and bilateral road transport of goods in 2011.
 - (b) BSEC Working Group on Transport noted the BSEC-URTA proposal to co-organise with the BSEC PERMIS a BSEC Transport Forum in October or November 2011, according to approval of the BSEC, and on the occasion of the BSEC-URTA 10th Anniversary.
 - (c) New Ro-Ro lines were announced in the Black Sea Region between Tekirdag (TR) - Ilichevsk (UA) - Pendik (TR) - Constanta (RO).
 - (d) BSEC Working Group on Customs took with interest the issue of X-ray controls of commercial vehicles at the borders and decided to further study the matter in parallel with the related IRU Resolution in 2010.
 10. Welcomed the proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council to organise a special Public-Private Search Conference in Antalya, Turkey, on 7-10 September 2011, which would target, with professional support, a joint future design for the BSEC road transport industry and a common strategic map for implementation of public and private stakeholders. In this connection, stressed that this Search Conference shall be open only to Presidents or Vice-Presidents or Secretaries General of the Member Associations or Observers, who will be responsible to ensure personal participation of a senior representative of each Ministry of Transport at a level of General Director or higher. Accommodation expenses of one representative from each Association and one representative from each Ministry of Transport and their spouses will be covered by the BSEC-URTA through own resources and sponsors.
 11. Adopted the report of the BSEC-URTA Auditors and approved the BSEC-URTA accounts for 2010 (REP/AUDIT/GA19/11).
 12. Thanked the representative of Rosgosstrakh Insurance Company (Russia), Mrs. Natalia Polunina for the detailed presentation made on the company's main activities and business opportunities.
 13. Recalling the 10th Anniversary of BSEC-URTA on 24th October 2011, decided to hold its 20th Meeting, jointly with the BSEC Transport Forum, to be organized in partnership with the IRU and under the auspices of the BSEC Secretary General, at a venue and date to be decided upon in consultation with the forthcoming Russian Federation Chairmanship of the BSEC Organization to start on 1st July 2011.
 14. Thanked the ARTRI for hosting the 19th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and the excellent arrangements as well as a very warm hospitality extended to all participants.
 15. Adopted and undersigned these Decisions of the 19th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Bucharest on 16 May 2011.

Vladimir FLOREA, BSEC-URTA President	
(ANALTIR) Eduart KASA	(AIRCA) Herbert HAMBARDZUMYAN
(ABADA) Tofiq NURULLAYEV	(AEBTRI) Viliana IVANOVA
(GIRCA) David KODANASHVILI	(OFAE) Apostolos KENANIDIS
(AITA) Vladimir FLOREA	(ARTRI) Florinel ANDREI
(UNTRR) Radu DINESCU	(TOBB) Sancar Sefer SUER
(UND) Alper OZEL	(AsMAP UA) Vitaliy BIDAkh