

G3332

Istanbul, 8 April 2012

20TH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tuyap Fair Convention and Congress Center
Istanbul-Turkey
Thursday, 24 November 2011, at 15:00 hrs

MINUTES

I. WELCOMING SPEECHES

Mr. Halim Mete, Vice-President of the host association TOBB welcomed the participants and guests of the 20th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Istanbul and thanked the BSEC Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos and the IRU Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Umberto De Pretto for their participation in the meeting.

Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu, Honorary President of BSEC-URTA, recalled the day of founding the BSEC-URTA on 24 October 2001 when 11 National Associations decided to work together for finding common solutions to their common problems and the 10 years roadmap of achievements. At the same time he highlighted the actual economic crisis effects and the protectionist measures which some EU Member States are taken against international road transport operators from non-EU countries. Looking to the future he expressed his believe that solutions to the problems could be found only in a private-public partnership and he emphasized that the BSEC is a right platform for such concrete projects.

Mr. Umberto De Pretto, IRU Deputy Secretary General welcomed the participants, expressed his high appreciation for the activities done by the BSEC-URTA for promotion and facilitation of the road transport of goods in the BSEC region and emphasized the IRU support to all activities of BSEC-URTA.

Mr. Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) extended his greetings to the participants of the 20th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He briefed about the recent developments within the BSEC Organization and underlined the importance of the Pilot Project of the BSEC Transit Permit. At the same time he recalled the successful realization of the BSEC-URTA Antalya Search Conference which marked the roadmap for the road transport industry in the region for the next 10 years hoping that the next day BSEC Transport Forum organized in partnership with the IRU, BSEC-URTA and BSEC Related Bodies will be a successful event. Mr. Chrysanthopoulos expressed his appreciation to the BSEC-URTA for the efforts made for promotion, development and facilitation of the road transport and congratulated the Union on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Vladimir Florea, as Chairman, invited participants to consider the adoption of the Agenda of the 20th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G3117).

The Agenda of the Meeting (G3117) was adopted, unanimously

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman invited to consider the Minutes of the 19th General Assembly.

Minutes of the 19th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G3118) were adopted, unanimously.

IV. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that the BSEC-URTA Management Council (MC) held its meeting prior to the General Assembly meeting. *The Chairman* briefed on the progress achieved regarding main BSEC-URTA objectives in 2011:

- continuation of the BSEC Permit in 2012

- identification of long term priorities and the roadmap for their implementation by 2021
- organization on 25 November of a BSEC Transport Forum on Facilitation of Trade and Road Transport in partnership with BSEC Related Bodies, IRU and BSEC-URTA.
- promotion of combined transport in the BSEC region
- introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UNECE 1982 Harmonization Convention
- free and fair competition in the BSEC Road Transport Market
- enhancement of Customs cooperation in the BSEC region

Also **Mr. Florea** brought to attention of the meeting the successful realization of the Public-Private Search Conference in Antalya, Turkey, on 7-10 September 2011, which targeted a joint future design for the BSEC road transport industry and a common strategic map for implementation by the public and private stakeholders.

The meeting was also informed about the invitation of President Ilirian Mataj of ANALTIR to organize the next spring General Assembly session in Tirana and the invitation of President Vladimir Florea of AITA to organize the autumn General Assembly session in Chisinau in October 2012.

Concerning the positions of BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents for 2012, **Mr. Florea** informed about the nomination by ANALTIR of Mr. Ilirian Mataj and nomination by ASMAP-UA of Mr. Leonid Kustiucenko.

V. BSEC-URTA REGIONAL OUTLOOK REPORT

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General presented the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report for 2011 (G3119).

The total number of trips by the BSEC transport operators in the first half of 2011 showed a slight increase of 0.79% in comparison with the same period of 2010. This said, it is observed that the number of trips only within the BSEC region increased by nearly 10% over the same period, which indicates that the trade growth within the region gains more significantly. The data also shows that the trips to the trade partners outside both the BSEC and the EU regions have also increased by 3.31% in the first half of 2011 over the same period in 2010. It is positive that the border waiting times, despite more trips, decreased both at internal and external BSEC borders by 131 minutes and 508 minutes, respectively.

The Chairman thanked **Mr. Albu** for his detailed presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions.

During discussions representatives of Member Associations expressed their views that border waiting times should be monitored more closely and the International Secretariat should be informed in due time about any major impediments or bottlenecks that could be avoided at the borders.

The Chairman requested all Member Associations once again to bring this very important issue of the waiting times to the attention of their competent authorities.

The Chairman thanked the participants for their active participation and contributions and passed to the next item of the Agenda.

VI. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2011 (G3120)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan, BSEC-URTA Secretary General**, to make a presentation on the progress achieved regarding the main BSEC-URTA priorities in 2011 (G3120).

The Report highlighted that progress has been achieved under main BSEC-URTA objectives in 2011:

- the BSEC Permit Project will continue in 2012 for transit and bilateral transport operations
- BSEC-URTA Members, BSEC and BSEC Related Bodies, representatives from the authorities of the member states, diplomatic corps as well as high level representatives of the international organizations such as UNECE, IRU, ECO, IDB and TRACECA conducted the BSEC-URTA SEARCH Conference on Road Transport 2021 in Antalya Turkey on 7-10 September 2011 and elaborated a Public-Private Road Map towards 2021;
- on 25 November is organized of a BSEC Transport Forum on Facilitation of Trade and Road Transport in partnership with BSEC Related Bodies, IRU and BSEC-URTA.
- no specific progress was achieved since the last meeting in promotion of combined transport in the BSEC region
- upon the request of BSEC-URTA addressed to the Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport in Rostov on Don on 27 September 2011, it was decided that a meeting of experts for

introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UNECE 1982 Harmonization Convention will be organized in Belgrade in March 2012

- the next meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs will be held in December 2011 in Krasnodar-Russia and will continue to consider the subject of X-Ray controls of trucks/drivers/goods.

The General Assembly noted the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2011 (G3120) with appreciation. The Chairman thanked Mr. Ozkan for the presentation of the report and passed to the next agenda item.

VII. FOLLOW UP TO THE BSEC-URTA SEARCH CONFERENCE, ANTALYA 7-10 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Oguz Baburoglu, Moderator of the Search Conference**, who presented details about the realization of the Search Conference its purpose and outcome, one of its direct benefits would be a reinforced dialogue among all internal and external BSEC-URTA stakeholders as well as a refreshed commitment to work together and increased solidarity between the key decision makers from the BSEC-URTA Members, Observers, BSEC Organization, its Related Bodies as well as national competent authorities.

The General Assembly noted with satisfaction the successful realization of the BSEC-URTA Search Conference and decided to use the conclusions of the conference as a long term public-private framework document for elaboration and implementation of future BSEC-URTA work and activities towards 2021

VIII. INFORMATION ON THE BSEC FORUM ON TRADE AND ROAD TRANSPORT FACILITATION, ISTANBUL – MARMARA HOTEL, 25 NOVEMBER 2011

The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Adrian Albu, who made a general presentation of the preparatory works for organization of the Forum, its program structured on 5 sessions each under patronage of an organizer partner, honorary participants, speakers, participants from international organizations, ministries of transport and diplomatic representation from General consulates in Istanbul. The General Assembly was also informed about the activities dedicated to celebration of BSEC-URTA 10th Anniversary which will follow the Forum: Gala Dinner, launching of the BSEC-URTA jubilee book, Anniversary medal and Anniversary DVD movie.

The General Assembly noted the information on the next day events and congratulated the International Secretariat for the work accomplished for preparation of activities dedicated to celebration of BSEC-URTA 10th Anniversary.

IX. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2012 (G3122)

Mr. Haydar Ozkan presented the vision, the strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA and its priorities for 2012 *The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2012 (G3122) was adopted, unanimously.*

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Approval to use the BSEC-URTA Reserve Funds for Implementation of decisions of BSEC-URTA General Assembly

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed the General Assembly about technical and financial aspects related to the organization of the Search Conference in Antalya on 7-10 September 2011 which was approved by the 19th General Assembly in Bucharest on 16 May 2011.

The General Assembly formally approved the spending of € 25,705.33 from the BSEC-URTA Reserve Funds as total net cost of the BSEC-URTA Search Conference after deduction of any external resources raised by the International Secretariat.

2. BSEC-URTA Budget for 2012 (G3123)

Mr. Adrian Albu presented the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2012 to consideration and approval of the General Assembly.

The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2012 (G3123) was adopted, unanimously.

XI. ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR 2012

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed about the nomination of Messrs Ilirjan Mataj (ANALTIR) and Leonid Kostiuenco (ASMAP-UA) as Vice-Presidents for 2012. The General Assembly elected the BSEC-URTA Vice-Presidents for 2012 by applause, unanimously

XII. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, who presented the General Assembly an invitation letter of ANALTIR for holding the 21st Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Tirana in May 2012 and an invitation letter of General Assembly in Chisinau in October 2012. The General Assembly welcomed with pleasure and accepted both generous invitation of ANALTIR and AITA.

In addition, **Mr. Umberto de Pretto** added his satisfaction regarding BSEC-URTA activities and emphasized which commercial activities we can do together to strengthen BSEC, associations and the industry. In a conclusion, he asked for permission to send questionnaire to Association Members regarding the commercial services they use or could use. **Mr. Umberto de Pretto** and the President of the BSEC-URTA, Vladimir Florea agreed to work on this questionnaire together and observe the results.

XIII. DECISIONS OF THE 20th MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman informed that the Secretariat will prepare summary of decisions of the meeting, which will be submitted to signature of the participants after the meeting.

XIV. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman, in his closing remarks, thanked all the participants and Guests of Honor for their participation and active contributions to the work of the General Assembly and thanked TOBB for providing the meeting room and necessary facilities for successful organization of the 20th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly as well as for the very warm hospitality extended to all participants.

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