

G3335

Istanbul, 3 April 2012



21st MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Roger Hotel Europark
Tirana- Albania
Friday, 4 May 2012, at 10:30 hrs

ACTIVITY REPORT

Since the 20th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly held in Istanbul, Turkey on 24 November 2011, the International Secretariat participated in events of importance for the industry, contributed to international gatherings and worked for promotion of the BSEC-URTA and its objectives.

A summary of these activities according to the BSEC-URTA strategic objectives, Working Program for 2012 and short term priorities set by the BSEC-URTA Management Council is given in the attached table.

The BSEC-URTA priorities for 2012 are as follows:-

1. Continuation on a permanent basis and further expansion of the BSEC Permit from 2013.
2. Entry into force of the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States from 2013.
3. Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UN Harmonisation Convention, 1982.
4. Improvement of border crossing procedures for commercial trucks and safety of professional drivers subject to frequent X-Ray controls at BSEC borders
5. Support for professional training of truck drivers and fleet operators in the BSEC region.

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BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT ON SHORT TERM PRIORITIES 2012 (as of 31 May 2012)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PRIORITY	ACTIONS	RESULTS
Facilitation	1. Support continuity on a permanent basis and further expansion of the BSEC Permit from 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided technical assistance to the BSEC PERMIS in printing and distribution of the BSEC Permits. - Attended the meeting of the Participating Member States to the BSEC Permit Pilot Project, in Belgrade on 29 March 2012. - Attended the meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee (SC-F) in Belgrade on 29 March 2012. - Encouraged the Participating BSEC Member States to further develop the BSEC Permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upon decision of the 7 participating countries to allow usage of the BSEC Permit for both transit and bilateral road transport operations, the template of the BSEC Permit and contents of its Usage Book were updated. For 2012, 1400 new permits were printed and delivered to the BSEC PERMIS for official distribution. - Only four of the seven Participating Member States participated: Armenia, Romania, Serbia and Turkey. All present participating Member States agreed to transform the BSEC Permit Pilot Project into a permanent BSEC facilitation tool prior to the meeting of the SC-F in Belgrade on 29 March 2012. - The BSEC Secretary General sent a letter to those Participating States, which did not attend the Belgrade meeting, namely Albania, Moldova, Georgia, and requested to express their positions for granting permanent status to the BSEC Permit. - Subject to the support of all 7 States, the Secretary General will request the Serbian Chairmanship of the BSEC Organization to initiate the "Silence Procedure" of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for endorsement of the BSEC Permit as a permanent activity of the BSEC Organization. - The representatives of Armenia, Romania, Serbia and Turkey called the BSEC PERMIS to make the necessary arrangements in order to transform the status of the BSEC Permit to a permanent one. - Maintained contacts with the Turkish Ministry of Transport and the Member Associations in Turkey in order to allow holders of the BSEC Permit to enter empty the territories of other Participating States with the purpose of bilateral or transit road transport of goods. However, the UND rejected to support this matter on the basis of existing competition conditions in market. - BSEC-URTA President sent official letters to AEBTRI and ASMAP-UA to obtain their support in convincing their national authorities to join the BSEC Permit. -The International Secretariat designed a bilingual brochure to promote benefits of the BSEC Permit to non-participating BSEC Member States.

Future actions:

- *print the BSEC Permit brochure and send to all concerned national authorities with the request of their consideration to join the BSEC Permit;*
- *make bilateral contacts with the concerned authorities in Bulgaria and Ukraine in order to promote the BSEC Permit;*
- *follow up the "Silence Procedure" of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States for endorsement of the BSEC Permit as a permanent facilitation tool.*

2) Work for entry into force of the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States from 2013.

- Worked together with the BSEC PERMIS and the concerned Member Associations to ensure that additional BSEC Member States will become signatory to the BSEC Visa Agreement.

- BSEC Secretary General wrote official letters to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ukraine and Serbia requesting their consideration to sign the BSEC Visa Agreement.

- BSEC-URTA President wrote to GIRCA, ASMAP-UA and MT with the request of their actions to ensure that their national authorities will consider signing the BSEC Visa Agreement in a favourable way.

- The GIRCA, ASMAP-UA and MT reported to the International Secretariat about their actions including visits and direct contacts with their national authorities.

- The last meeting of the BSEC SC-F noted statements of the International Secretariat and the IRU stressing the importance of entry into force of the BSEC Visa Agreement by having at least one more signatory State thereto, and reconfirmed that the document remains a valuable legal instrument for facilitating visa procedures for professional truck drivers.

- No additional country confirmed its readiness to sign the BSEC Visa Agreement, yet.

Future actions:

- *lobby for and follow up related decision of the next meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Belgrade on 8 June 2012;*
- *continue raising this matter on the occasion of the meetings of the competent BSEC organs stressing that the BSEC must be able to facilitate granting visas to professional drivers, who have to perform their profession freely similar in nature with the sailors or the aircraft crews.*

	<p>3) Support introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention, 1982.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluated the possibility for developing a new BSEC Pilot Project for early introduction of the IVWC among the interested Member States. - Established bilateral contacts with Serbia and Turkey. - Met with the IRU and the UNECE together with the Chairman of the SC-F, in Geneva on 8 March 2012. - Attended the Meeting of Experts on Implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in Belgrade on 28 March 2012. - Promoted the BSEC Pilot Project at the last meeting of the SC-F held in Belgrade on 29 March 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS cooperated to prepare the Expert Meeting in Belgrade on 28 March 2012. - Turkey expressed interest in joining a Pilot Project in the future. - Serbia is not ready to issue the IVWC. However, it considers recognizing the IVWC issued by other Contracting Parties in a favourable way. - All Parties agreed that by signing the Annex 8, which entered into force on 20 May 2008, the Contracting Parties agreed, inter alia, to introduce the IVWC. In this regard, the application of the IVWC in the CIS region represents the only positive experience. The BSEC-URTA proposal for a BSEC Pilot Project was supported by Parties. . - The meeting supported the idea of developing a Pilot Project on introduction of IVWC in the BSEC region. - The meeting noted the report of the abovementioned Expert Meeting and invited the interested Member States to inform the BSEC PERMIS about their positions by 30 May 2012. - The BSEC PERMIS will also collect information about actions taken at the national level for introduction of the IVWC, which will be considered at the next meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport and the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States for further actions and speeding up this process.
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Future actions:

- work with the Members, in particular in Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Serbia and Turkey, to convince their authorities consider implementing a BSEC Pilot Project on implementation of the IVWCH along an international corridor across their territories;
- research the possibility to ensure mutual recognition of the CIS-IVWC and UNECE-IVWC on the occasion of abovementioned Pilot Project.

	<p>4) Work for monitoring of border crossing procedures for commercial trucks including the safety of professional drivers subject to frequent x-ray controls at BSEC borders.</p>	<p>- Promoted main UN trade and road transport facilitation conventions as well as the WCO international agreements at the meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs (WG-C) on 15-16 March 2012.</p> <p>- Encouraged the WG-C to consider further the issue of avoiding repeated X-Ray Controls performed on trucks/goods/crews during international road transport of goods, if possible by developing a new international certificate on x-ray controls at multilateral level.</p> <p>- Encouraged the BSEC PERMIS to publish on its webpage the IRU information about customs procedures and charges related with international road transport of goods in the BSEC Member States.</p>	<p>- The BSEC WG-C noted the sensitivity of extensive use of non-invasive inspection (X-ray) technology at the borders and ports on commercial vehicles and its possible long-term negative consequences on the health of professional drivers.</p> <p>- The WG-C instructed the BSEC PERMIS to invite to its next meeting experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the scanning control systems manufacturers and specialists from customs administrations and public health authorities for a more in-depth consideration of this issue.</p> <p>- The IRU agreed to allow the BSEC Organization use its information system on road transport through internet links on the official BSEC website during a bilateral meeting in Geneva on 8 March 2012.</p>
<p>Future actions:</p> <p><i>- identify next action in coordination with the IRU following details of the 'International Scientific Study on External Ionising Radiation Exposure during Cargo/Vehicle Radiographic Inspections', which will be announced during upcoming meetings of the IRU statutory bodies in Geneva in April 2012.</i></p>			
	<p>5) Support professional training of truck drivers and fleet operators in the BSEC region.</p>	<p>- Analysed the possible framework of BSEC-URTA actions in consultation with the Members of the BSEC-URTA Management Council.</p>	<p>- The Members of the BSEC-URTA Management Council stressed the difficulty in recruitment of trained professional truck drivers at national labour markets, and invited the International Secretariat to propose potential actions in easing this problem.</p>
<p>Future actions:</p> <p><i>- elaborate and present to the Management Council a plan of proposed actions, if possible in consultation with the IRU Academy, to support and promote professional training of truck drivers in the region.</i></p>			

BSEC PERMIT STATISTICS AS OF 20 APRIL 2012

Country	Beginning Date of National Distribution	Fee (if applicable)	Amount of BSEC Permits used	Remainder	Number of issued permits per country
<i>Albania</i>		6 euro	31	169	200
<i>Armenia</i>			0	200	200
<i>Georgia</i>		70 GEL	11	189	200
<i>Moldova</i>		free	6	194	200
<i>Romania</i>			49	151	200
<i>Serbia</i>	08.02.12	free	9	191	200
<i>Turkey</i>	28.02.12		0	200	200
Total			106	1294	1400

Participation of BSEC Member States to UNECE Road Transport Agreements/Conventions

Status as of 01 April 2012

	Nr.	UNECE Convent. / Road Transport	BSEC Member States												
			AL	AR	AZ	BG	GE	GR	MD	RO	RU	SRB	TR	UA	
Infrast	1	Construction Traffic Arteries 1950				X		X		X		X	X		
	2	E Road Network 1975	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	3	E Comb. Tr. Network, 1991	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Road traffic and road safety	4	Road Traffic, 1949	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
	5	Road Traffic, 1968	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	6	Prot. Road Signs & Signals, 1949				X		X		X	X	X			
	7	Road Signs & Signals, 1968	X			X	X	X		X	X			X	
	8	Suppl. 1968 Conv. Road Traffic, 1971	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
	9	Suppl. 1968 Road Signs & Signals, 1971	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
	10	Weights and Dimens, 1950						X				X			
	11	Suppl. 1949 Conv & Protocol, 1950						X				X			
	12	Road Markings, 1957	X			X				X		X	X		
	13	Protocol Road Markings 1973	X		X	X	X	X			X	X		X	
	14	Issue & Validity of Driving Permits				X						X			
	Vehic.	15	Vehicle Regulations, 1958	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
		16	Tech. Inspect. Vehicles, 1997	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X
		17	Global Vehicles Reg., 1998			X				X	X	X		X	
Other legal instruments	18	Work of Crews Intl. Road Transport(AETR) 1970	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	19	Tax Priv Road Vehic, 1956	X						X	X		X			
	20	Taxation Road Passengers Vehicles, 1956	X							X		X			
	21	Tax Road Goods Vehic 1956								X		X			
	22	Contract Road Goods Transport(CMR) 1956	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	23	Protocol to CMR, 1978	X	X			X	X	X	X			X		
	24	Contract Passengers and Lugg. Road Trans(CVR)1973										X		X	
	25	Protocol to CVR, 1978										X			
	26	Econ. Reg. Road Trans 1954						X							
	Border crossing facilitation	27	Touring Facilities, 1954				X		X		X	X	X	X	
28		Protocol Touring Facilities, 54				X		X		X	X	X	X		
29		Temp. Imp. Priv. Road Vehicles, 1954	X			X				X	X	X	X		
30		TIR Convention, 1959	X			X		X		X	X		X		
31		TIR Convention, 1975	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
32		Temp. Imp. Commercial. Vehicles, 1956			X	X		X		X		X	X		
33		Customs Cont Conv, 1956				X		X		X		X			
34		Customs Cont Conv, 1972		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
35		Customs Treatment Pallets, 1960	X			X				X		X	X		
36		Harmonization Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
37		Customs Pool Cont, 1994													
Danger. Goods	38	Dang. Goods by Roads(ADR) 1957	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	39	Protocol to ADR, 1993	X			X		X	X	X	X				
	40	LLiab.Dang.Goods-CRTD 1989													
	41	Perishab.Foodstuff-ATP, 1970	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
BSEC Member State participation to UNECE Road Transport related Conventions			24	8	14	29	15	29	15	32	24	32	20	17	

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BSEC-URTA Calendar of Events - second half 2012***I – BSEC-URTA Events***

EVENT	PLACE	DATE
1. 29 th Meeting of BSEC-URTA Management Council	Chisinau	October 2012
2. 22 nd Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly	Chisinau	October 2012

II – Events Organized by Other Parties

EVENT	PLACE	DATE
1. BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport	Istanbul	(TBC)
2. BSEC Steering Committee on Coordinated Development of Black Sea Ring Highway	Istanbul	(TBC)
3. BSEC Steering Committee on Motorways of Black Sea	Istanbul	(TBC)
4. BSEC Working Group on Transport	Istanbul	(TBC)
5. Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport	Istanbul	(TBC)
8. BSEC Working Group on Customs	Istanbul	(TBC)
9. IRU Transport Council CTM	Geneva	November 2012
10. IRU General Assembly	Geneva	November 2012
11. Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials	Ankara	(TBC)
12. 25 th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States	Ankara	(TBC)

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