

G3472

Istanbul, 8 September 2012

22nd MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Conference Hall, Vatra-Elita Hotel
Chisinau- Moldova
Wednesday, 3 October 2012, at 09:00 hrs

ACTIVITY REPORT

Since the 21st Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly held in Tirana, Albania on 4 May 2012, 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 BETWEEN MAY 2012 AND OCTOBER 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"> - Undertook a communications campaign with Member Associations and Ministries of Transport in the Participating Countries to the BSEC Pilot Project to obtain their written support to continue the BSEC Permit on a permanent basis. Such letters are required by the BSEC PERMIS to start the “Silent Procedure”, which will result with a formal Decision of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. - Maintained contacts with AEBTRI and AsMAP-UA to assess the possibilities for the Governments of Bulgaria and Ukraine to join the BSEC Permit Project. - On 18-19 September 2012, took part in a delegation with the IRU to Greece and participated in the meetings with high level Greek officials, where possible participation of Greece in the BSEC Permit project was also discussed. - Held meetings and contacts with TOBB, UND as well as the Turkish Government in order to evaluate whether Turkey is ready to allow empty entry of trucks holding the BSEC Permit for bilateral road transport of goods. - Maintained contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey to ensure smooth transit of Armenian trucks holding the BSEC Permit, through the Turkish territory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The International Secretariat printed a special brochure about the BSEC Permit in English and Russian languages. - All of the seven participating BSEC Member States sent their support letters to the BSEC PERMIS for transformation of the BSEC Permit to a permanent activity of the BSEC Organization. - The “Silent Procedure” was launched and will end on 18 October 2012. - AEBTRI believes that Bulgaria need more time to join the BSEC Permit. - AsMAP-UA will assist the BSEC-URTA Secretariat to meet with the Ukrainian authorities on this subject as soon as possible. - Participation of Greece in the BSEC Permit project depends on the OFAE's support. - Turkey agreed to allow empty entry of trucks, which hold a BSEC Permit for the purpose of bilateral road transport of goods only. - Turkey sent an official letter to the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat confirming that Armenian trucks only holding a BSEC Permit are allowed anymore to transit through the Turkish territory.
<p>Future actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue bilateral contacts with the National Associations and their competent authorities in Bulgaria, Greece and Ukraine to encourage their participation in the BSEC Permit Project; - Follow up the “Silent Procedure” to be completed successfully by endorsing the BSEC Permit as a permanent BSEC facilitation tool. 			

	<p>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.</p>	<p>- Planned country visits to Bulgaria, Greece and Ukraine in September-October 2012.</p> <p>- On 21 September 2012, met with the General Consul of Serbia in Istanbul with the request of their consideration to facilitate further the issuance of visas for Georgian hauliers as well as signing of the BSEC Visa Agreement by Serbia.</p>	<p>- Visited Greece on 18-19 September 2012. Greece is not ready to sign the Visa Agreement, yet.</p> <p>- GIRCA will provide with the Serbian Consulate General an information file on existing procedures, which apply to the Georgian hauliers.</p> <p>- Serbian Consulate General in Istanbul agreed to propose to the Serbian competent authorities to consider joining of Serbia in the BSEC Visa Agreement in a favorable manner.</p>
<p>Future actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the state of matters at the next meeting of the SC-F in Izmir on 26 November 2012; - Request more efficient support of the BSEC-URTA Member Associations at national level; - Review the related decision of the next meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Ankara on 14 December 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>	<p>- Established contacts and undertook bilateral meetings with the UNDP Center in Istanbul as well as the IRU and the BSEC Secretariats in order to develop a new BSEC Pilot Project for early introduction of the UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region.</p> <p>- Established parallel contacts with the National Associations in Armenia, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Turkey, in particular, to encourage their actions for obtaining the support of their competent authorities to participate in the new BSEC Pilot Project.</p>	<p>- UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA agreed upon a joint road map to develop and implement the new BSEC Pilot Project in partnership with the BSEC PERMIS and interested Member States during 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>- UNDP and IRU agreed to sign a bilateral MoU including their cooperation on this subject.</p> <p>- UNDP and BSEC-URTA agreed to sign a similar MoU as above, which will be signed upon approval of the BSEC-URTA Management Council in Chisinau on 3 October 2012.</p> <p>- UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA will announce their cooperation for such a new BSEC Pilot Project during next meeting of the SC-F in Izmir on 26 November 2012.</p> <p>- Project documents have been drafted.</p>

Future actions:

- Sign the bilateral MoU between the UNDP and the BSEC-URTA in Chisinau on 3 October 2012;
- Continue and start new contacts with all BSEC-URTA Member Associations, in particular in Bulgaria, Russia and Ukraine, to obtain the support of their authorities to participate in the new BSEC Pilot Project on implementation of the IVWC across their territories;
- Support and take part in next meeting of the SC-F as well as the BSEC Transport Ministerial Meeting in Izmir on 26 and 28 November 2012, respectively.

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.

- Took note the results of the 'IRU Study on External Ionising Radiation Exposure during Cargo/Vehicle Radiographic Inspections' and evaluated together with the officials of the BSEC PERMIS the implementation of its main recommendations in the BSEC region.

- BSEC PERMIS agreed to request at the next meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs (WG-C) that the Member States should consider application of the following IRU recommendations at their border crossing points:-

- Install appropriate information panels at the border areas indicating that the x-ray scanning is performed;
- Implement internationally recognized x-ray scanning procedures;
- Improve education of drivers, Customs officers and x-ray scanning operators on the functioning and risks of x-ray scanning.

Future actions:

- Participate in the next meetings of the BSEC WG-C to ensure an appropriate consideration of these matters by the Member States;
- Identify possible national or international partners to support implementation of the IRU recommendations at national level in the territory of interested Member States.

5) Support professional training of truck drivers and fleet operators in the BSEC region.

- Evaluated fields of cooperation with the IRU Academy to undertake joint actions or implement joint projects in the BSEC region.

- IRU Academy proposed to present at the next meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly about the Quality Charter as elaborated by the ITF Group on Road Transport, which considers professional training of managers and professional drivers as an important criterion for access to profession. ITF calls for severe sanctions of the competent authorities for violation of this criterion by the fleet operators.

Future actions:

- Elaborate a joint BSEC-URTA/IRU Academy Plan of Action for 2013-2014 about achieving regional compliance with the ITF Quality Charter, which is even expected to influence the distribution criteria of the ECMT licences in the near future.

BSEC PERMIT STATISTICS AS OF 24 SEPTEMBER 2012

COUNTRY	BEGINNING DATE OF NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION	FEE (IF APPLICABLE)	AMOUNT OF BSEC PERMITS USED AS OF 24 SEPTEMBER 2012	REMAINDER	NUMBER OF ISSUED PERMITS PER COUNTRY
<i>ALBANIA</i>		6 €	54	146	200
<i>ARMENIA</i>			0	200	200
<i>GEORGIA</i>		70 GEL	105	95	200
<i>MOLDOVA</i>	01.01.12	FREE	200	0	200
<i>ROMANIA</i>	01.01.12	1.5 €	54	146	200
<i>SERBIA</i>	08.02.12	FREE	63	137	200
<i>TURKEY</i>	28.02.12		200	0	200
TOTAL			676	724	1400

Participation of BSEC Member States to UNECE Road Transport Agreements/Conventions
Status as of 01 April 2011

	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	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	Liab. 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

BSEC-URTA Calendar of Events***I – BSEC-URTA Events – 2013 First Half***

EVENT	PLACE	DATE
1. 30 th Meeting of BSEC-URTA Management Council	Kiev	15-16 May 2013
2. 23 rd Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly	Kiev	15-16 May 2013

II – Events Organized By Other Parties- 2013 First Half

EVENT	PLACE	DATE*
1. IRU Transport Council CTM	Geneva	11 April 2013
2. IRU General Assembly	Geneva	12 April 2013
3. 7 th Euro-Asian Transport Conference and Ministerial Meeting	Amman	12-13 June 2013
4. BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport	TBC	
5. BSEC Steering Committee on Coordinated Development of Black Sea Ring Highway	TBC	
6. BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport	TBC	
7. BSEC Working Group on Transport	Kiev	
8. Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport	Kiev	
9. BSEC Working Group on Customs	Kiev	
10. Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials	Kiev	
11. Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States	Kiev	

* The Calendar of the BSEC Meetings will be set and announced by the BSEC Chairmanship in office (Ukraine) in January 2013.

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