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Istanbul, 10 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

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNDP-IRU-BSEC FOR A NEW BSEC PILOT PROJECT ON THE UNECE INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE

The International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 establishes commonly agreed requirements for coordinated border management and reduction of border formalities as well as the number and duration of all types of border controls of goods.

53 countries (including all 12 BSEC Member States) and the European Community are Contracting Parties to this Convention.

On 20 May 2008, the new Annex 8 (on road transport) to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982, entered into force creating a legal framework for the Contracting Parties to introduce simplified control procedures and replace actual inspections and physical controls at border crossing points by a simple verification of internationally standardized documentation and certificates.

New Annex 8 contains important elements on facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers, standard weight control procedures and international certification of the vehicle weight as well as minimum infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points and certain provisions for the monitoring of the border crossing performance.

The proper implementation of Annex 8 would not only reduce border delays and transport/trade costs, but also minimize expenditures on the infrastructure and operation of border crossing points.

As far as the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC), as part of Annex 8, is concerned, it is observed that the National Authorities of the Contracting Parties do not attach much priority to launching the IVWC. On the other hand, it is also observed that the interested Contracting Parties need efficient guidance and practical assistance from the concerned international organizations, including and notably the UN as well as the IRU and the BSEC-URTA.

Actually, the IVWC is a significant facilitation tool for the road transport of goods industry designed to avoid repetitive weight measurements at border crossings, reducing waiting times and transport cost.

Hence, the Contracting Parties to the Harmonization Convention agreed to recognise this Certificate at the multilateral level, which certifies the weight of a heavy goods vehicle at the outset of its journey, ideally, thus the latter is not subjected to repeated weight controls during transit across the territories of the other Contracting Parties with the exception of random checks or suspected irregularities.

The United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP"), a subsidiary organ of the United Nations with its headquarters in New York, NY (USA), the IRU and BSEC-URTA agreed to cooperate for promotion and facilitation of road transport in the BSEC region in particular through a Pilot Project for the adoption and integration of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UNECE International Convention for Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982), in the BSEC Member States. In this regard, UNDP will sign separate Memoranda of Understanding with the IRU and the BSEC-URTA, separately. The Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the BSEC-URTA is planned to

be concluded and signed by the Parties on the occasion of the 22nd General Assembly in Chisinau on 3 October 2012.

Within the framework of this specific cooperation between the UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA; the BSEC Organization will launch a new BSEC Pilot Project for interested BSEC Member States for introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC region on the occasion of the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of BSEC Member States to be held in Izmir, Turkey on 28 November 2012.

The duration of this BSEC Pilot project is planned to be **16 months** (September 2012 – December 2013), which may be extended by the Parties, if necessary.

As the Project Partners; the UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA agreed on the following *Pilot Project Roadmap for introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC region*:

<u>Pilot Project Roadmap for introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC region</u>				
Nr. crt.	Measures and activities at international level	Measures and activities at national level	Date	In charge
0.	Assessment of current state of affairs in BSEC countries in terms of 1982 Convention & Annexes implementation and impact and Report on CIS countries' experience	I. Evaluation missions to assess (1) effectiveness of transport originated in or transiting pilot countries as well as (2) administrative readiness for the IVWC's introduction II. Report on the CIS experience and adjustment costs	Sep Oct Nov	UNDP IRU BSEC
1.	Identification of BSEC Member States ready to participate in a BSEC Pilot Project for introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC region (Project) (minimally, secure participation of Serbia, Romania, Turkey, Moldova, Armenia and Georgia)		20.11.2012	BSEC Steering Committee Facilitation Road Transport
2.	Establishment of an Ad hoc Group of Experts for implementation of the Project (Group) composed by representatives of participating countries to the Project, UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA and of a Technical Secretariat of the Group (Secretariat) composed by representatives of BSEC PERMIS, UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA.		20.11.2012	BSEC Steering Committee Facilitation Road Transport
3.		Meetings of the Secretariat with the Expert(s) in each participating country to the Project and site visits of national weighing stations proposed to be part of the Project for evaluation of the technical conditions of the equipment and of the weighing procedures.	3.12.2012 till 14.12.2012	Secretariat and National Expert(s) (national focal point)
4.	Drafting by the Secretariat of a Report on the results of the meetings with the Experts and the site visits (Report).		13.12.2012	Secretariat
5.	Dissemination of the Report to the participating countries to the Project.		14.12.2012	Secretariat
6.	Organization of a meeting of the Group and the Secretariat for establishment of the necessary technical and administrative measures for implementation of the Project.		24.01.2013	Secretariat BSEC PERMIS

7.		Fulfilment of legal procedures for implementation of IVWC in participating countries to the Project (ratification in parliament, decree of cabinet of ministers for implementation, others).	till 01.02.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
8.		Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the Governmental authority to supervise the issuance, usage and control of the IVWC.	till 01.02.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
9.		Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the public or private entity in charge with weighing stations, weighing procedures and filling in of IVWC	till 01.02.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
10.		Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the national network of weighing stations which complies with the technical requirements contained in the Appendix 2, paragraph 4 point (c) to the Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention.	till 01.03.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
11.		Allocation in each national network of weighing stations of a particular seal for each weighing station belonging to the network.	till 01.03.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
12.		Communication to the Secretariat of the list of weighing stations and samples of their seals belonging to each national network of weighing stations of countries participating to the Project.	till 15.03.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
13.	Setting up by Secretariat of a consolidated national networks of weighing stations and related seals and distribution of it participating country to the Project and to the BSEC PERMIS		till 22.03.2013	Secretariat
14.	Communication by the BSEC PERMIS of the consolidated list of national networks of weighing stations and their related seals to the UNECE Secretary Executive		till 31.03.2013	BSEC PERMIS
15.	Drafting by Secretariat of rules for administration and issuance of IVWC to be sent for endorsement to each participating country to the Project		till 01.03.2013	Secretariat
16.		Communication by participating countries to the Project to the Secretariat of their acceptance of administration and issuance of IVWC.	till 08.03.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
17.		Translation of the rules for administration and issuance of IVWC and of the IVWC in the national language of the participating countries to the Project.	till 22.03.2013	Secretariat and Participating Countries to the Project
18.		Print out of the IVWC in English language (language used under the Project) and distribution in an amount to be agreed upon by the participants to the Project.	till 10.04.2013	Secretariat

19.		Training of the technical staff of the each national network of weighing stations.	till 10.05.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
20.		Training of the staff of each national authority in charge with weighing procedures at borders and inland check points of each participating country to the Project.	till 10.05.2013	Participating Countries to the Project
21.	Start of the Project	Start of the Project	20 05.2013	Participating Countries to the Project and Secretariat
22.	Monitoring of the implementation of the Project.	Monitoring of the implementation of the Project.	20.05.2013 till 01.11.2013	Participating Countries to the Project and Secretariat
23.	Organization of a meeting of the Group and the Secretariat for evaluation of results of the Project.		till 08.11.2013	Secretariat BSEC PERMIS
24.	Information of the BSEC organs and the UNECE Executive Secretary of the results of the Project.		till 06.12.2013	Secretariat BSEC PERMIS

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