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Istanbul, 22 April 2013

23rd MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jumeirah Bilgah Beach Hotel
Baku-Azerbaijan
Thursday, 30 May 2013, at 09:00 hrs

STATE OF AFFAIRS OF BSEC PILOT PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IVWC IN THE BSEC REGION

Background

The UNECE 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 the 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 covers: facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers standardized weighing operations and vehicle weight certificate, minimum infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points and provisions to monitor the border crossing performance.

The International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) is a facilitation tool for the road transport of goods industry designed to avoid repetitive weight measurements at border crossings, reducing waiting times and transport cost. Contracting Parties to the Harmonization Convention accepting and mutually recognizing such certificates shall not carry out weighing procedures on route apart from random checks and controls in case of supposed irregularities. Vehicle weight measurements recorded in such certificates shall take place only in the country of origin of international transport operations.

The United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP"), 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 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BSEC-URTA in Chisinau on 4th October 2012 and will soon sign a separate one with the IRU.

Within this framework, on the occasion of the Meeting Working Group on Transport of BSEC Member States held in Izmir, Turkey on 27 November 2012, BSEC-URTA called the interested BSEC Member States to launch a new Pilot Project for introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC region. The meeting also agreed to propose the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States to set up a Task

Force for the implementation of the IVWC in the BSEC region. The Council took the relevant decision in this regard on 16 December 2012.

The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Istanbul on 11 March 2013. Five BSEC Member States namely Armenia, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Serbia expressed their willingness to start the Pilot Project. Task Force agreed upon the road map for the BSEC Pilot Project presented by the implementing partners UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA.

Following the meeting of the Task Force, the International Secretariat drafted in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS a questionnaire on issues to be address under the preparatory stage of the Pilot Project which was distributed to the BSEC countries.

During April 2013, Albania and Georgia informed BSEC PERMIS on their readiness to participate to the IVWC Pilot Project.

On 22 April 2013 the International Secretariat met the General Consul of Ukraine in Istanbul, informed on the IVWC Pilot Project, handed over support documents for it and emphasized that actually Ukraine is a missing link in a chain of countries which are willing to implement the IVWC from a North-South corridor from Russia to Albanian Adriatic Sea shore and its connection to Italy. It was kindly requested information of Ukrainian authorities on the BSEC-URTA and IRU support to the IVWC Pilot Project and the hope that Ukraine will consider in positive manner participation to the project.

On 24 April 2013 the representative of the General Consulate of Russian Federation in Istanbul visited the International Secretariat and informed on the readiness of the Ministry of Transport to participate the IVWC Pilot Project. In this regard an official letter will be sent soon to the BSEC PERMIS.

During the Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport in Odessa on 30 May 2013 representatives of both IRU and BSEC-URTA will request participation of other BSEC Member States to the IVWC Pilot Project.

The way forward

Following steps - roadmap could be followed for implementation of the Pilot Project:

A. Preparatory Stage: (8 months)

- Communication to the Task Force of the institution – National Focal Point to be responsible with the Pilot Project in each participating country to the Pilot Project.
- Nomination by the National Focal Point of its representative as contact person to the BSEC PERMIS.
- Meetings of Expert(s) with National Focal Point representative(s) in each participating country to the Project and site visits of national weighing stations and border crossing points proposed to be part of the Project for evaluation of the technical conditions of the equipment and of the weighing procedures.
- Drafting and dissemination by the Secretariat of a Report on the results of the meetings of Experts and the site visits (Report)
- Fulfillment of legal procedures for implementation of IVWC in participating countries to the Project (ratification in parliament, decree of cabinet of ministers for implementation, others).
- Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the authority / institution to supervise the issuance, usage and control of the IVWC.
- 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.

- 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.
- Allocation in each national network of weighing stations of a particular seal for each weighing station belonging to the network.
- Communication to BSEC PERMIS 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.
- Setting up by BSEC PERMIS of a consolidated list of national networks of weighing stations and their related seals and distribution of it to each participating country to the Project and the BSEC PERMIS.
- Communication by the BSEC PERMIS of the consolidated list of national networks of weighing stations and their related seals to the UNECE Secretary Executive.
- Drafting by BSEC PERMIS of rules for administration and issuance of IVWC to be endorsed by each participating country to the Project.
- 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.
- 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.
- Site visits of Experts to assess developments.
- Training of the technical staff of the each national network of weighing stations.
- 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.
- Organization of a 2nd meeting of the Task Force for establishment of the necessary technical and administrative measures for implementation of the Project.
- Production of Promotional and Informational materials in national languages of participants to the Pilot Project.

B. Implementation Stage: (3 months)

- Organization of Launching Ceremonies in each participating country for the first usage of the IVWC.
- Start of the issuance, usage, acceptance and monitor of the IVWC.
- Identification of problems and readjustment of the system.

C. First Evaluation Report: (1 month)

Organization of the 3rd meeting of the Task Force for final evaluation of the Pilot Project and decision for a permanent practice.

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