

G3868

Istanbul, 23 September 2013

23rd MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

MINUTES

FIRST SESSION

I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Vladimir Florea, as Chairman, welcomed the participants and guests of the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Baku and thanked the BSEC Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Victor Tvircun, the IRU President, Mr. Janusz Lacny, the IRU Secretary General, Mr. Martin Marmy, the Head of Transport Coordination, Ministry of Transport of Azerbaijan Republic, Mr. Eldar Alizade and TRACECA Secretary General, Mr. Eduard Biriucov for their high-level participation in the meeting.

Mr. Tofiq Nurullayev, President of ABADA welcomed distinguished guests for honouring with their participation and expressed his pleasure that ABADA is hosting the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

Mr. Martin Marmy, Secretary General of IRU welcomed distinguished guests and expressed his pleasure to participate at the BSEC-URTA Meeting before resigning from his post. The IRU Secretary General informed about the possible Membership of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce to the BSEC-URTA Membership in the future, confirmed that it is eligible under Article 4 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes, which stipulate that the BSEC-URTA will consist of IRU active members from the BSEC Member States, which include Serbia.

H.E. Ambassador Victor Tvircun, BSEC Secretary General expressed his pleasure to attend the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General and gave his full support to BSEC-URTA in implementation its projects. H.E. Ambassador Victor Tvircun noted that issues related to the facilitation of road transport shall not only be mentioned only in the Working Group on Transport, but in other Working Groups as well, such as Working Group on Customs, Working Group on Economy, Working Group on Agriculture, etc. Ambassador called on BSEC-URTA to participate in the above-mentioned BSEC Working Groups Meetings with different proposals, projects that could be further considered on the BSEC Economic Agenda.

Mr. Eduard Biriucov, Secretary General of TRACECA extended his greetings to the participants of the meeting and expressed his pleasure to attend the meeting, as well. He underlined the key issues of transport policies of the BSEC and TRACECA countries. He mentioned the cooperation between the structures of BSEC and the TRACECA institutions, which have common objectives and priorities leading to creation of efficient and reliable transport communications between Europe and Asia.

COFFEE BREAK

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Vladimir Florea, as Chairman, invited participants to consider the adoption of the Agenda of the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G3692).

The Agenda of the Meeting (G3692) was adopted, unanimously

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

The Chairman invited to consider the Minutes of the 22ND General Assembly. *Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G3693) were adopted, unanimously.*

IV. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that the BSEC-URTA Management Council held its meeting prior to the General Assembly meeting. *The Chairman* briefed on the evaluation of the progress made on the BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2013 and noted the information provided by the TOBB that Turkey established a TIR-EPD Green Lane at its Kapikule Border Gate with Bulgaria, where the trucks can benefit from express transit procedures for imports and transit operations. *The Chairman* also informed that the International Secretariat got a request from the Association of Macedonian Enterprises for Road International Transport (AMERIT) for granting BSEC-URTA Observer Status and would like the General Assembly to consider it.

V. ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Eldar Alizade, Head of Transport Coordination, Ministry of Transport of Azerbaijan Republic warmly welcomed all participants of the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He made comprehensive presentation on the road transport system in Azerbaijan and presented a new project on Baku Port investment, which would facilitate and further improve the movement of trucks across the Caspian Sea by RO-RO vessels.

VI. BSEC-URTA REGIONAL OUTLOOK REPORT

The Chairman gave the floor to **Ms. Firangiz Tosayeva**, Assistant to the Deputy Secretary General of BSEC-URTA, to present the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report for 2012 (G3694).

According to the report, presented by Ms. Firangiz Tosayeva, the total number of trips has increased by 6.13% in comparison with 2011, in which total trips within BSEC have increased by 19.17% and 5.67% increase in the trips to the EU. Average waiting time at external BSEC borders in 2011 was 502,5 minutes, which decreased by 55,7% in 2012 to 222,4 minutes. There is a slight decrease in the foreign trade within BSEC countries and this decrease is observed in the total BSEC foreign trade, as well, which explains the reason of decrease of the trips to the rest of the world by 4.14%.

The Chairman thanked **Ms. Firangiz Tosayeva** for her detailed presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions.

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

VII. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2013 (G3695)

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 2013 (G3695).

The Report highlighted that:

- Coordination should be maintained with the AsMAP-UA and the competent authorities in Ukraine to obtain Ukraine's participation in the BSEC Permit Project in 2014. AsMAP-UA confirmed the interest of its Government to join the BSEC Permit in the near future. The International Secretariat will maintain its contacts to obtain support of Participating Countries to allow third country transport operations within the current system.
- The work for implementation of the IVWC Pilot Project in partnership with Governments of Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine should be continued under the following steps:

a) Preparatory stage (8 months):

b) Implementation stage (3 months)

c) First evaluation report and countries decision on the future of the Pilot Project (1 month).

Was highlighted that experts of implementing partners should pay site visits in participating countries to the Pilot Project for evaluation of necessary technical conditions for implementation of the IVWC.

- Bilateral contacts should be continued with the National Associations and their competent authorities notably in Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine to encourage implementation of Green Lanes concept at their main border crossing points. AITA and TOBB informed about their activities and ongoing projects for establishment of TIR-EPD Green Lanes between Moldova and Romania as well as Turkey and Bulgaria.
- Participation is needed in the next meetings of the Working Group on implementation of the Model Highway Initiative on the Baku-Tbilisi-Trabzon Motorway. At the same time the International Secretariat should further promote the Model Highway to the BSEC Organs in order to be applied along the entire Black Sea Ring Highway.

The General Assembly noted the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2013 (G3695) with appreciation.

The Chairman thanked **Mr. Ozkan** for the presentation of the report and passed to the next agenda item.

VIII. STATE OF AFFAIRS OF BSEC PILOT PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IVWC IN THE BSEC REGION (G3696)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA, who made a comprehensive presentation on the State of Affairs of Implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region. Following the presentation, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly participants appealed to the BSEC Secretary General to call the Armenian Chairmanship of the BSEC Organization to launch the fast track cooperation procedure for giving the IVWC Pilot Project the 'BSEC Project' status.

AsMAP, AsMAP-UA and TOBB expressed their support to the new BSEC Pilot Project on implementation of the UNECE Vehicle Weight Certificate. AsMAP-UA informed about creation of a new customs inspectorate in charge with weighing of vehicles in Ukraine as well as about the deployment of electronic weighing stations on various road routes.

Mr. Leonid Kostiuhenko, President of AsMAP-UA mentioned the difficulties and discrepancies faced by the hauliers during weight controls of the Russian Customs Authorities at the border between Ukraine and Russian Federation.

IX. ECMT MULTILATERAL QUOTA SYSTEM FORECAST 2014 (G3697)

Mr. Adrian Albu, mentioned the latest developments about the ECMT Multilateral Quota System (G3697) and the results of the ITF Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig during 22-24 May 2013 and expressed disappointment for the continuity of the quota restrictions in 2014 followed by 2013.

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Chairman proposed to evaluate the Audit Report on implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2012 (G3668) in-camera. The Report was prepared by elected auditors, Mr. Eduart Kasa (ANALTIR) and Mr. Genadie Tauliean (AITA). *The Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2012 and BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2012 were adopted, unanimously.*

XI. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, who informed the General Assembly on the kind invitation of GIRCA to host the 24th Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Tbilisi in autumn 2013. *The General Assembly welcomed with pleasure and accepted the generous invitation of GIRCA.*

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

Under this Agenda the Meeting considered that OFAE and MT are at arrears to transfer their annual contribution to the BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2013 despite official reminder letters, which were not responded. Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council and under Articles 5, 11 and 13 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes and Section II of the BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations, decided to suspend the membership of OFAE and observer status of MT with immediate effect, which may be restored by a separate decision of the General Assembly upon fulfilment of the financial obligations of the subject Associations in the future.

IRU Secretary General called the General Assembly to consider the possible Membership of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce to the BSEC-URTA in the future, being confirmed that it is eligible under Article 4 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes, which stipulate that the BSEC-URTA members are IRU active members from the BSEC Member States.

Upon decision of the General Assembly, decided to grant BSEC-URTA Observer Status to the Association of Macedonian Enterprises for Road International Transport (AMERIT) from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) for a five-year period from 1st January 2014 to 31 December 2018 with an annual contribution fee of 2000 EURO.

The BSEC-URTA International Secretariat, warmly commended Mr. Martin Marmy for his tireless efforts, continuous commitment, invaluable leadership and never-ending energy which deeply contributed to the BSEC-URTA achievements since its foundation in 2001 and unanimously approved granting him the BSEC-URTA Order of Merit, which was delivered to his person by the BSEC-URTA President on the occasion of a special ceremony in session.

Warmly welcomed the incoming IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto by a round of applaud and expressed its trust in the continuity of existing excellent relations and cooperation between the IRU and the BSEC-URTA also under leadership of Mr. de Pretto in the future.

Mr. Anatoliy Pinson, Head of Department of ASMAP stressed difficulties and discrepancies faced by the hauliers from non-EU countries during their transport operations in or along the EU countries related with the forced implementation of the EU Regulation 561 on the work and rest time periods of the crews of vehicles instead of the UNECE AETR Agreement. The General Assembly instructed the Secretary General to draft within 10 days a special BSEC-URTA Resolution on this matter in consultation with ASMAP, which will be adopted by General Assembly by vote in compliance with Article 8 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes.

XIII. DECISIONS OF THE 23rd 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.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan, Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA thanked ABADA for kindly providing the meeting room and necessary facilities and for successful organization of the 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly as well as for the very warm hospitality extended to all participants. **Mr. Haydar Ozkan** also congratulated ABADA and through ABADA the Azerbaijan road transport operators on the occasion of the ABADA's 20th Anniversary.

The 23rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.