

G4012

Istanbul, 10 March 2014

24th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Radisson Blue Iveria Hotel

Tbilisi-Georgia

Friday, 25 October 2013, at 09:00 hrs

MINUTES

FIRST SESSION

I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Alexander Chkheidze, President of GIRCA, welcomed the participants and guests of the 24th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Tbilisi and thanked distinguished guests from IRU, and representatives of national authorities of Georgia, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ms. Natia Mikeladze, the Deputy Head of the Department of International Relations, Georgia Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance, Ms. Maka Khvedelidze and the IRU Head of TIR Department, Mr. Marek Retelski for their high-level participation in the meeting.

Mr. Vladimir Florea, as Chairman, welcomed the participants and guests of the 24th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Tbilisi. Informed that, the missing associations to the meeting were ANALTIR-Albania, OFAE-Greece (suspended) and as observers, MEDJUNARODNI TRANSPORT from Serbia (suspended) and INGOSSTRAKH insurance company from Russia.

COFFEE BREAK

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Vladimir Florea, as Chairman, invited participants to consider the adoption of the Agenda of the 24th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G3867).

The Agenda of the Meeting (G3867) was adopted, unanimously

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

The Chairman invited to consider the Minutes of the 23th General Assembly.

Minutes of the 23th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G3868) 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 informed that, Management Council welcomed the fact that Ukraine actively considers to join the BSEC Permit system thanks to full support of AsMAP-UA and fruitful consultations with the Ukrainian Ministry of Infrastructure. Noted, however, that the usage of BSEC Permit should be further improved by the participating states. In this connection, as proposed by Romania, voluntary recognition of the BSEC Permit for third country transport in addition to bilateral and transit road transportation should be supported. It was also noted that the TOBB proposed to consider establishing some rules for re-distribution of unused BSEC Permits among the Participating States. Took note of the information provided by the TOBB that the established TIR-EPD Green Lane at Kapikule Border Gate with Bulgaria are operational for imports, exports and transit operations. On behalf of the AITA, the

BSEC-URTA President reported that the joint project between Romania and Moldova for putting in place the TIR-EPD Green Lane between these two countries is pending due to the Romania Customs Administration, which did not yet nominate its representative to the Joint Working Group proposed to be established in this regard.

V. ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN GEORGIA

Mr. Gia Tsipuria, Secretary General of GIRCA, welcomed all participants of the Meeting and made a brief presentation on Road Transport System in Georgia, and after Mr. Tsipuria opened the floor for **Ms. Maka Kvedelidze**.

Ms. Maka Khvedelidze, Head of the Department of International Relations, Georgia Revenues Service warmly welcomed all participants of the 24th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. She made comprehensive presentation on exemplary reformation of the Georgian Customs Services, which was realised by concentration of all border controls and transfer of authority by all other national agencies to merely the Customs officials.

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 2013-I (G3869).

1. According to the report, presented by **Ms. Firangiz Tosayeva**, the total number of trips has increased by 7.7% comparing to 2012-I, from which it is observed an increase of 2.0 % within the BSEC and the trips to EU24, and 7,0% increase in the trips to the rest of the world.

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 (G3870)

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 (G3870).

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. In Kiev on 12 September 2013 a joint BSEC-URTA / ASMAP-UA delegation met the First Deputy Minister of Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, presented the Project of the BSEC Permit with its benefits for the Ukrainian hauliers and proposed consideration by the Ukrainian authorities to join the Project in 2014. There is a positive approach of the Minister in this regard. The International Secretariat will maintain its contacts to obtain support of Participating Countries to allow third country transport operations within the current system.
- Bilateral contacts should be continued with AEBTRI and the competent authorities in Bulgaria to encourage participation in the BSEC Permit Project;
- 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) Continuation of the Preparatory stage:
 - Assignment of a National Focal Point in each participating state;
 - Appointment of national issuing authority in each country;
 - Technical adjustments and capacity building activities;
 - b) Implementation stage (3 months)
 - c) First evaluation report (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 in Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Ukraine and Turkey to encourage implementation of Green Lanes concept at their main border crossing points;
- Bilateral contacts should be continued for implementation of the TIR EPD in Albania, Armenia, Georgia and Greece.
- Participation is needed in the next meetings of the Working Group on the Model Highway Initiative established between Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. At the same time the International Secretariat should further promote the Model Highway along other parts of the Black Sea Ring Highway.

The General Assembly noted the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2013 (G3870) 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 (G3871)

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 welcomed that 7 BSEC Member States already confirmed to the BSEC PERMIS their willingness to participate in the Pilot Project. Also welcomed the statement of AEBTRI that Bulgaria considers participating in this project in a favorable manner as well as other ongoing projects and initiatives, in particular the BSEC Permit and the Green Lanes at the Bulgarian borders for trucks with electronic pre-declarations.

IX. STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TIR CONVENTION IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (G3872)

Mr. Marek Retelski, the IRU Head of TIR Department warmly welcomed all participants of the 24th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He made comprehensive presentation regarding the state of affairs regarding implementation of the TIR Convention on the territory of the Russian Federation. General Assembly expressed its disappointment for continuation by the Russian Federal Customs of the unilateral decision to impose additional guarantees to the goods under the coverage of the TIR Carnet entering the territory of Russian Federation; and noted the views and proposals of AsMAP-UA and TOBB, also seconded by all Members present, that the industry should begin considering more active actions at national level including, if required, blockage of their main road connections to Russia in order to ensure that the crisis reaches the highest level of consideration within the Russian Federation Government and that the IRU could be required to take additional contacts with the FCS aiming to find a mutually agreeable solution as soon as possible.

X. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAM FOR 2014 (G3873)

Mr. Haydar Ozkan, the BSEC-URTA Secretary General, presented the vision, the strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA and its priorities for 2014 (G3873).

The Meeting reviewed the strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA and had a discussion on “BSEC-URTA Facilitation Program”, which means to support regional projects and activities for facilitation of road transport in the BSEC region involving three or more BSEC-URTA Member Associations or BSEC Member Countries.

The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2014 (G3873) was adopted.

XI. APPLICATION FOR BSEC-URTA OBSERVER STATUS

Mr. Adrian Albu, informed the General Assembly, that the Management Council took note of the application of Hellenic Syndicate of Land Goods Transport and decided to recommend the General Assembly granting Hellenic Syndicate of Land Goods Transport BSEC-URTA Observer status for 5 years (1 January 2014 - 31 December 2018) with an annual contribution fee of € 2.000.

The General Assembly unanimously agreed upon the proposal of the Management Council.

XII. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General presented the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2014 to consideration and approval of the General Assembly.

The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2014 (G3874) was adopted, unanimously.

XIII. ELECTION OF THE BSEC-URTA VICE PRESIDENTS FOR 2014 AND APPOINTMENT OF BSEC-URTA SECRETARY GENERAL FOR 2014-2017

The Chairman informed that the General Assembly decided to elect **Mr. Tofiq Nurullayev** (ABADA) and **Mr. Andrey Kurushin** (ASMAP) as the BSEC-URTA Vice-Presidents for 2014.

The Chairman presented the proposal of UND for the position of Secretary General **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, and General Assembly decided to renew the term of office of Mr. Haydar Ozkan as the BSEC-URTA Secretary General for another period of four years from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2017.

XIV. 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 AsMAP-UA to host the 25th Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Kiev on 16 May 2013.

The General Assembly welcomed with pleasure and accepted the generous invitation of AsMAP-UA.

XV. DECISIONS OF THE 24th 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.

XVI. 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. Thanked GIRCA and its president and secretary general for the excellent organization of our event and the warm hospitality extended to all participants.

All participants of the General Assembly congratulated President of GIRCA **Mr. Alexander Chkheidze** on the occasion of his 75th Anniversary.

The 24th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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