

G4014

Istanbul, 11 March 2014

25th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)
Level -1, Room 18
Geneva, Switzerland
Wednesday, 2 April 2014, at 16:00 hrs

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC MOU ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

(Information Paper prepared by the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat)

Entry into force

The BSEC Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Goods Transport in the BSEC Region (MoU-F) is in force for all 12 BSEC Member States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The MoU-F is administered by a Steering Committee, composed of representatives of all signatory states (SC.F).

Operative Articles of the MoU-F

Article 3) Progressive Liberalization of International Road Transport of Goods;

Article 4) Accession to International Agreements-Harmonization of Maximum Permitted Weights and;
Dimensions, Transportation of Dangerous Goods and Social Regulations;

Article 5) Charging policies-Information system on charges related to road transport;

Article 6) Facilitation of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers.

NEA Study

In 2008, BSEC PERMIS and IRU mandated NEA in the Netherlands to carry out an expert study on best practices and alternatives that could be considered for implementing the MoU-F. NEA completed its study and delivered to the PERMIS in December 2008. Where possible each alternative was presented with advantages and disadvantages in terms of implementation or expected outcome and effect.

Progressive Liberalization of International Road Transport of Goods

There are proposed three alternatives which can be applied by the BSEC Member States simultaneously:

- Gradually liberalize road transport by admitting free bilateral and transit transport through bilateral agreements or protocols;
- Create a regional multilateral permit system among interested Parties;

- Develop BSEC permit allowing to perform a single trip in transit of direct transport through concerned BSEC Member States which agreed to have such a permit.

Accession to international agreements - harmonization of maximum permissible weights and dimensions, transportation of dangerous goods and social regulations

- Accession to the UNECE tools prioritizing the UN conventions which have a high influence on the establishment of a better transportation in the Region.
- Monitoring of the border waiting times provides useful actual data to measure the situation and impact of facilitation measures at the borders. The IRU Border Waiting Times Observatory System (BWTO) is a very useful tool in this regard and the Parties to the BSEC MoU could benefit much from using BWTO.
- Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region. In this regard, experience of the CIS countries, which already applied the similar certificate, should be taken into account.

Harmonization of charging policies

- Harmonization of levy charges and user charges for domestic and international hauliers as well as creation of a common framework for charging the heavy goods vehicles in the BSEC Region.

Facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers

- Signing by other BSEC Member States of the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Professional Drivers, which has only 4 signatories: Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Turkey.

According to the NEA Study on best practices and alternatives that could be considered for implementing of the MoU-F, the Timetable for implementation of the MoU which proposed by the BSEC-URTA in 2007 was updated by the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport in its meeting in Istanbul on 11 February 2009.

According to the pace of implementation of the MoU and deadlines foreseen in the Timetable, as of 1 March 2014 the situation is as follows:

Objective Number	Objective Title	Deadline in Timetable	Stage as of 1 March 2014
1	Gradually liberalize transit transport	01.01.2015	In progress
	Gradually liberalize direct transport	01.01.2016	In progress
2	Develop a regional quota system of permits	01.01.2016	In progress through BSEC Permit
3	Support development of efficient RO-RO and RO-LA transport	No deadline	In progress
4	Monitor border waiting times	No deadline	Low interest in implementation
5	Expand key UN Transport Conventions in the region	01.01.2013	Achieved
6	Introduce International Vehicle Weight Certificate	01.01.2009	Not achieved In progress

7	Rationalize and gradually harmonize charging policies	01.01.2012	Not achieved Low interest in implementation
8	Establish an information system on tolls and charges	01.01.2008	Not achieved
9	Facilitate visa procedures for professional drivers	01.01.2008	Not achieved In progress

TIME-TABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION¹

ARTICLE 3.) PROGRESSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS	
Objective 1	Gradually liberalize transit and bilateral international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers along the BSEC Member States.
	a. Liberalize transit international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers along the BSEC Member States, <u>gradually</u>.
Deadline:	01.01.2015
Action:	a) Recommendation by the WG-T, b) Approval by the BSEC Transport Ministers, c) Implementation and coordination by the Steering Committee of the MoU (SC).
Task:	i) SC prepares a BSEC Matrix Table to identify existing transit quotas between BSEC Member States. ii) SC confirms the satisfactory progress in Objective 5
	b. Liberalize bilateral international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers between the BSEC Member States, <u>gradually</u>.
Deadline:	01.01.2016
Action:	a) Draft timetable by the BSEC-URTA, b) Approval by the WG-T, c) Approval by the BSEC Transport Ministers, d) Implementation and coordination by the SC.

¹ With amendments of the Steering Committee at its meeting in Istanbul on 12 April 2011

Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) SC prepares a BSEC Matrix Table to identify existing bilateral quotas between BSEC Member States. ii) SC confirms the satisfactory progress in Objective 5
Objective 2	Develop a regional multilateral quota system in partnership with the international organizations, <u>aiming at full liberalization of the international road transport of goods</u> by the BSEC hauliers, within the BSEC region, <u>gradually</u>.
Deadline:	01.01.2016
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Elaboration of a Draft Model and Time-Table by the industry's experts b) Consideration of the Draft Model and Time-Table by the SC. c) Draft Model is submitted to the BSEC PERMIS for consideration by BSEC Member States
Task:	i) SC elaborates a mechanism and defines set of criteria for distribution of regional quota system.
Objective 3	Support development of efficient and adequate RO-RO and RO-LA transport services in the BSEC region.
Deadline:	Continuous
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Needs Assessment and Draft Support Action Plan will be conducted by the WG-T in cooperation with transport BSEC NGOs and other interested organizations, b) Implementation and coordination will be carried out by the Steering Committee
Task:	i) Conduct of a Needs Assessment Analysis and elaboration of a Draft Support Action Plan according to those needs.
Objective 4	Monitor border waiting times, in cooperation with the IRU, throughout major border gates in the territory of BSEC Member States, as a substantial gauge to monitor success of policies and actions exerted under the BSEC MoU.
Deadline:	Continuous
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Technical infrastructure by the IRU, with support of the BSEC Member States, b) Border waiting times real data by the BSEC-URTA Member Associations, c) Periodical Monitoring Reports by SC in cooperation with the BSEC-URTA, d) Analysis and policy making by the WG-T.
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) IRU extends its existing technical infrastructure to cover the BSEC border gates, ii) BSEC-URTA Member Associations identify personnel as data providers,

	iii) BSTDB sponsors printing of periodical sector reports including the road transport, trade and border waiting times statistics, produced by the SC with the support of the BSEC-URTA.
ARTICLE 4.) ACCESSION TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS – HARMONIZATION OF MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS, TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND SOCIAL REGULATIONS	
Objective 5	Expand key UN transport conventions and agreements to the BSEC region.
Deadline:	01.01.2013 for priority conventions
Action:	a) Priority conventions identified by the SC, b) Accession to Priority conventions by each BSEC Member State, c) Progress report by the SC.
Task:	i) SC prepares and presents periodical BSEC Matrix Table on key UN transport conventions and agreements acceded by the BSEC Member States.
Objective 6	Introduce International Vehicle Weight Certificate according to Annex 8 to the 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.
Deadline:	01.01.2009
Action:	a) Identification of technical and administrative bottlenecks in each BSEC Member State by WG-T, b) Action Plan within a time frame by the SC, c) Approval of the Action Plan by the WG-T.
Task:	i) SC conducts a survey to make a technical and administrative bottlenecks analysis in the BSEC region, ii) SC will find ways to support BSEC Member States in order to remove the technical and administrative bottlenecks for introduction of International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Member States as soon as possible.
ARTICLE 5.) CHARGING POLICIES – INFORMATION SYSTEM ON CHARGES RELATED TO ROAD TRANSPORT	
Objective 7	Rationalize and <u>gradually harmonize</u> the charging policies for the international road transport of goods in the BSEC region.
Deadline:	01.01.2012
Action:	a) BSEC Matrix Table reflecting the current situation is prepared by the SC,

	b) To convene Expert Group on Transport Charging Policies in order to elaborate recommendations with regard to harmonization of transport charges,
Task:	i) SC prepares a BSEC Matrix Table of existing charges in the BSEC Member States, ii) Expert Group will elaborate the Time-Table on Harmonization of Charges.
Objective 8	Establish an information system to provide information to foreign transport operators on tolls and charges related to the use of national roads network in the BSEC region.
Deadline:	01.01.2008
Action:	a) Decision to establish such an information system by the WG-T, b) Design of the system by the SC, c) Creation of the system by BSEC or BSEC-URTA, d) Data provided by the BSEC Member States, e) Implementation and coordination by the SC.
Task:	i) SC defines content and design parameters of the system, ii) PERMIS or BSEC-URTA carries out or manages creation of the system, iii) PERMIS collects periodical data from the BSEC Transport Ministries.
ARTICLE 6.) FACILITATION OF VISA PROCEDURES FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS	
Objective 9	Facilitate visa procedures for professional drivers.
Deadline:	01.01.2008
Action:	a) Signing and entry into force of the BSEC Agreement on Facilitation of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States, b) Implementation of the Agreement by Member States in cooperation with the PERMIS, c) Follow-up and coordination by the SC.
Task:	i) BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs opens the Agreement to signatures, ii) Interested BSEC Member States sign and ratify the Agreement, iii) PERMIS cooperates with the concerned BSEC Member States for implementation of the Agreement, iv) SC monitors progress, facilitates necessary coordination for implementation of the Agreement.