

G4111

Istanbul, 18 July 2014

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## 25<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

### MINUTES

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#### FIRST SESSION

##### I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

**Mr. Vladimir Florea**, as Chairman, welcomed the participants and guests of the 25th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Geneva and thanked high-level representatives of the associations, the Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, HE Ambassador Victor Tvircun, the President of IRU, Mr. Janusz Lacny, the Secretary General of IRU, Mr. Umberto De Pretto, the UNECE Transport Division Chief of Transport Facilitation and Economics Section, Mr. Miodrag Pesut for their high-level participation and invaluable contributions in the General Assembly.

Before inviting guests to the floor **Mr. Vladimir Florea** informed that the International Secretariat would like to present a short movie about the BSEC organization and its cooperation with the IRU and BSEC-URTA.

*(Movie was presented to participants)*

**H.E. Ambassador Victor Tvircun**, BSEC Secretary General expressed his pleasure to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and gave his full support to BSEC-URTA in implementation of its projects. H.E. Ambassador Victor Tvircun mentioned that BSEC PERMIS and BSEC-URTA had an extensive exchange of views on this cooperation during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Management Council in Istanbul on 28 January 2014. He noted that special attention was paid to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of the Transport of Goods in the BSEC region. Activities of the BSEC-URTA were mentioned in this regards in the Report of the BSEC Secretary General for the forthcoming meeting of Ministers of Transport within the Bulgarian Chairmanship in office in BSEC organization. It also was noted that on 4-7 February 2014 in Geneva the session of the UNECE Working Party on Custom Questions affecting Transport expressed its interest in the recent activities of the BSEC Organization in the field of Road Transport of Goods and its projects. At the meeting the BSEC PERMIS made a presentation regarding the Pilot Project on implementation of the IVWC in the BSEC region, and also was shown a movie of BSEC-URTA presenting the BSEC Organization and its transport project.

**Mr. Umberto de Pretto**, Secretary General of IRU welcomed distinguished guests and expressed his honour and privilege to be next to H.E. Secretary General of the BSEC Organization on this occasion. He noted that they are not only Secretaries General but also brothers in a sense that they share a common mission: to facilitate and secure transport of goods and tourism. He noted that there are a number of projects which they can launch together and also do other things and get results by working together with support of BSEC-URTA. He also underlined that by working together will be achieved good results so he thanked in advance H.E. Secretary General Victor Tvircun for his support and commitment.

## II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Mr. Vladimir Florea**, as Chairman, invited participants to consider the adoption of the Agenda of the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4011).

*The Agenda of the Meeting (G4011) was adopted, unanimously*

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

**The Chairman** invited to consider the Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

*Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4012) were adopted, unanimously.*

## IV. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**The Chairman** reported that the BSEC-URTA Management Council held its meeting on 28 January 2014 in Istanbul. During the meeting the Management Council considered the activities of the International Secretariat after the meeting in Tbilisi and approved the International Secretariat priority activities for 2014.

Management Council considered developments in accomplishing strategic objectives in 2013 and what should be done in 2014, in regard the BSEC Permit Pilot project, the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention, the implementation of TIR-EPD and its related green lanes concept, as well as developments in implementation of the Model Highway Initiative along the Black Sea Ring Highway.

**The Chairman** mentioned that the Management Council evaluated the stage of implementation of the BSEC MOU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, decided that several measures should be taken in order to achieve its objectives and instructed the International Secretariat to address the BSEC PERMIS and the Steering Committee to the memorandum to update the related implementation timetable in order to meet the targeted objectives.

**The Chairman** also mentioned that the Management Council also noted the information provided by the International Secretariat and ASMAP on the state of affairs regarding the implementation of the TIR Convention in the Russian Federation.

## V. BSEC-URTA REGIONAL OUTLOOK REPORT

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA, to present the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report for 2013 (G4013).

According to the report, presented by **Mr. Adrian Albu**, in the period 2012-2013 there is 2.02% decrease in the foreign trade within BSEC countries, although comparing table 4 and table 5 in the report there is an increase in the total foreign trade of BSEC countries. However, from the observation of these two tables, there is a decrease in two countries: Russia and Ukraine, which could be explained by the political crisis that has arisen towards the end of 2013. The situation in the total BSEC foreign trade shows better result, as 2.00% increase comparing to 2012, where was slight decrease comparing to 2011.

**The Chairman** thanked **Mr. Adrian Albu** for his 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.

## VI. STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC MOU ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION (G4014)

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA, who made a comprehensive presentation on The Stage of Implementation of the BSEC MOU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region. Then Mr. Adrian Albu mentioned that from the movie which was shown to participants, we can understand the importance of the MOU, and he noted that MOU was signed by the Ministers of Transport in 2002, entered in force in 2006 and it is in force for all 12 BSEC Member States.

Following the presentation, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly decided that several measures should be taken in order to achieve its Objectives and noted that the International Secretariat should cooperate closely with the BSEC PERMIS under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Tvircun during next meetings of the Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport to ensure appropriate update and efficient implementation of the related Timetable.

**General Assembly** upon interventions by various Member Associations, mandated the Deputy President **Mr. Radu Dinescu**, assisted by the International Secretariat, to make a specific proposal to the next meeting of the BSEC-URTA Management Council to make the BSEC-URTA as a valuable platform for all Member Associations to develop a common language among each other regarding successful implementation of main international agreements and efficient usage of key facilitation documents in the BSEC region so that any protectionism driven situation can be addressed and solutions could be found for the collective interest of all BSEC transport operators.

### COFFEE BREAK

## VII. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2014 (G4016)

**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 2014 (G4016).

The Report highlighted that:

- Cooperation should be maintained with all concerned National Associations, notably the AEBTRI and their competent authorities in Bulgaria to obtain Bulgaria's participation in the BSEC Permit Project in 2015; bilateral contacts should be maintained with Member Associations in countries participating to the BSEC Permit system to encourage enlargement of the permit usage to 3rd country transport operations.
- Coordination with ARTRI, UNTRR and AITA and the Governments of Moldova and Romania should be considered for launching the IVWC by the next Meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Harmonization Convention, which will be held in Geneva on 12 June 2014; At the same time the International Secretariat will work with Member Associations and the Governments in Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Russian Federation for implementation of the BSEC Pilot Project on early introduction of the IVWC.
- Bilateral contacts should be continued with the National Associations and their competent authorities in Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania to implement the Green Lanes concept at Captan Anreevo (BG), Albbita (RO) and Leuseni (MD) borders; also 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 2014 (G4016) with appreciation.

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

## VIII. STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TIR CONVENTION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (G4015)

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Mr. Marek Retelski**, the IRU Head of TIR Department. He presented shortly the latest developments regarding the TIR system crises in the Russian Federation. He mentioned about letters which were addressed by the IRU President to President V. Putin and to all the Russian Ministries during February 2014, and the fact that further to this letters, Russian Government and various Ministries started to be aware about the situation and trying to find a solution to the crises after many months of silence. Also he noted that IRU had numerous meetings in Moscow with competent Ministries and generally there has been support demonstrated to the TIR system and for finding solution. Mr. Marek Retelski informed participants that IRU received recent written confirmation by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation that it supports the TIR System and remains ready to cooperate with the IRU for its unrestricted implementation across the Russian territory.

**General Assembly** in its turn evaluated the state of affairs regarding implementation of the TIR Convention on the territory of the Russian Federation and 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. The meeting noted the actions which have been taken by the IRU for finding a solution to the TIR system crises and welcomed the recent written confirmation by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, that it supports the TIR System and remains ready to cooperate with the IRU for its unrestricted implementation across the Russian territory.

## IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS

**The Chairman** proposed to evaluate the Audit Report on implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2013 (G4008). 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 2013 were adopted, unanimously.*

*The Chairman*, according to the Turkish Law, proposed to elect new 3 auditors for a next period for 2014-2015.

*Ms Viliana Ivanova (AEBTRI), Mr Cornel Iordache (UNTRR) and Mr Alper Ozel (UND) were elected as the BSEC-URTA Auditors for 2014-2015, unanimously.*

## X. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**General Assembly** agreed that the International Secretariat will notify the Member Associations in due time about the time and venue of the 26th Meeting of the General Assembly.

## XI. DECISIONS OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## XII. 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.

*The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.*

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