

G4325

Istanbul, 3 December 2015

28th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Elite World Istanbul Hotel
Istanbul, Turkey
Thursday, 3 December 2015, at 11:00 hrs

DECISIONS

At its 28th Meeting, held in Istanbul on 3rd December 2015, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:








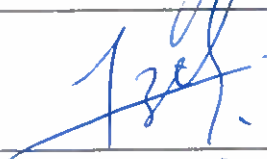

1. Thanked the Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christidis, the Deputy Secretary General of IRU, Mr. Marek Retelksi, the Deputy Secretary General of PABSEC, Mr. Mr. Daniel Dulca and AULT Secretary General Dr. Mahmoud Abdallatt for their high-level participation and invaluable contributions in the General Assembly.
2. Adopted the Agenda (G4316/Corr2) and approved the Minutes of its 27th Meeting (G4317).
3. Took note of the verbal report of the BSEC-URTA Management Council.
4. Noted the updated BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report (G4318). Observed with concern that the total number of trips in 2015-I has decreased by 20.5% compared with 2014-I. The journeys dropped by 34.6% within the BSEC, 12.7% to the EU25 countries and 21.5% to the rest of the world. As for regional trade performance, it is observed that the intra-BSEC trade shrank by 20.4% while the total BSEC foreign trade dropped by 27% over the same period.
5. Evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2015 as follows (G4319):
 - a) Membership Expansion:
Welcomed the new requests for Observer status by SMP, Bulgaria, and AMERIT, FYROM.
Took note that ICCIMA, Iran, and THADA, Turkmenistan, consider their affiliation with BSEC-URTA, currently.
 - b) BSEC Permit Expansion and Development:
Expressed disappointment that participating Member States maintained the BSEC Permit issuance 350 in 2016 due to conservative position of Turkey.
Underlined that support of Turkey is indispensable to increase future issuance and convert the BSEC Permit to a multiple use document also good for 3rd country journeys in the future.
Decided to continue efforts to promote the BSEC Permit to new potential countries in 2016.
 - c) Continuation of UNECE International Vehicle Weight Certificate:
Expressed concern that implementation of IVWC in new Contracting Parties was not possible in 2015 due to lacking interest or priority by governments on this matter.
 - d) Implementation of TIR-EPD Green Lanes at BSEC Borders:
Regretted that planned BSEC/BSEC-URTA joint meetings with authorities in Serbia, Ukraine and Romania are still pending due to reasons related to the concerned national authorities.

Supported promotion of TIR-EPD Green Lanes in connection with implementation of transport related BSEC Memoranda of Understanding, notably on Black Sea Ring Highway.

6. Welcomed AULT's interest in developing bilateral cooperation with BSEC-URTA and agreed to work together for elaboration of a bilateral MoU as basis for future.
7. Took note of the UND Presentation on Turkey-EU road transport relations and WTO Bali Agreement.
8. Adopted the BSEC-URTA Resolution on implementation of the WTO Bali Agreement in the BSEC region, as proposed by UND and endorsed by the Management Council.
9. Welcomed the first transport operation of a container under cover of a TIR carnet between Georgia and Ukraine on 17-20 October 2015 according to a Pilot Intermodal TIR Project that was realised by IRU in partnership with BSEC-URTA, and thanked GIRCA, AsMAP-UA and AITA for their joint efforts. Agreed to promote this development in connection with the work of BSEC Task Force for Multimodal Transport and support future IRU activities in the same direction.
10. Also welcomed that BSEC Working Group on Transport agreed to revive efforts for professional training and decided to convene a meeting of the BSEC Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas/Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator in the first half of 2016.
11. Took note of the TOBB and AsMAP-UA presentations on recent developments about TIR Carnet types and prices. Also took note that BSEC-URTA Members and Observers represent 55% of all TIR carnets issued by IRU annually. Agreed to contribute more actively to work of the IRU Commission on Customs Matters, which aim at making TIR more competitive before the T-System, completely computerised and offering more flexibility to Associations and transport operators.
12. Considered opinions and proposals by BSEC-URTA Members and Observers, on possible structural reformation of BSEC-URTA and agreed as follows:-
 - a) It is necessary to review and update organisational structure and scope of activities for a stronger Union;
 - b) Management Council should recommend to its next meeting adequate modifications to the BSEC-URTA Statutes in order to improve the organisational structure;
 - c) As the available Statutes does not contain any restrictions, operationalise road passenger transport section within the BSEC-URTA from 2016;
 - d) Set up a Working Party on Insurance in order to serve as a platform for insurance companies and Members and Observers to exchange information on existing or possible transport insurance products which benefit to the BSEC road transport industry;
 - e) Management Council, in the meantime, should develop and maintain contacts with potential new Members and Observers across the BSEC and ECO regions and the countries enjoying special status with BSEC and ECO organisations;
 - f) Elaborate specific ways and mechanisms to promote IRU's TIR products and services, regionally.
13. Reviewed the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA and adopted the BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2016 (G4323/corr).
14. Upon recommendation of the Management Council and in compliance with Article 5 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes; decided to grant Observer status to SMP and AMERIT for 5 years (1 January 2016 – 31 December 2020) with an annual contribution fee of € 1,000 per Association.
15. Approved the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2016 (G4324).
16. Elected Mr. Herbert Hambarzumyan (AIRCA) and Mr. Grigore Bernavski (AITA) as BSEC-URTA Vice-Presidents for 2016 in accordance with Article 9 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes.

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17. Upon kind invitation of UNTRR, decided to hold its 29th Meeting in Bucharest on 28 May 2016 back to back with the next edition of UNTRR T Festival in 2016.
18. Took note with appreciation the UNTRR presentation on the UNTRR-IRU Project on "Europe-Asia on the Silk Road", which took place between July and September 2015.
19. Thanked TOBB and UND for their generous hospitality and kind support extended to all the participants.
20. Adopted and undersigned these Decisions of the 28th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Istanbul on 3 December 2015.

Vladimir FLOREA, BSEC-URTA President 	
(ANALTIR) Ilirjan MATAJ 	(ABADA) Tofiq NURULLAYEV 
(GIRCA) Alexander CHKHEIDZE 	(OFAE) Apostolos KENANIDIS 
(AITA) Grigore BERNAVSKI 	(UNTRR) Radu DINESCU 
(UND) Alper OZEL 	(TOBB) Halim METE 
(ASMAP UA) Leonid KHMELNITSKIY 