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Istanbul, 27 November 2015

28th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2016

The BSEC-URTA Member Associations are kindly requested to review below the vision, mission, strategic objectives and 2016 working program of the BSEC-URTA, which will be approved by the 28th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:-

VISION

Common solutions for common problems

MISSION

To work together with governments and the BSEC Organization, to enable road transport to deliver goods in a cost efficient manner, secure, smoothly and safely in an integrated BSEC road transport market and beyond, by interconnecting businesses, markets and all stakeholders to the best interest of society.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Facilitation.** Work together with the BSEC, its Related Bodies, the IRU and the Governments to develop and further facilitate road transport by implementing main UN international conventions and existing or new multilateral agreements aimed at eliminating barriers to road transport, removing any discriminatory measures, harmonizing and simplifying border crossing procedures.
2. **IRU-BSEC Interaction.** Obtain support of the IRU on solving regional problems and setting priorities regarding the road goods transport, channel its expertise, know how and guidance to the work of the BSEC organs and the Related Bodies.
3. **Re-opening of the Silk Road.** Support international activities and projects aimed at promoting re-opening of the Silk Road to modern truck, and develop contacts and cooperation in this connection, with the IRU Member Associations and other interested stakeholders from the countries along the historic Silk Road Routes, which are not represented in the BSEC Organisation.
4. **Professional Training.** Support the Member Associations to give professional training to national industry on international standards of the IRU Academy and encourage cooperation between the Member Associations in this field.
5. **Combined Transportation.** Support improvement of existing and development of new combined transportation services in the BSEC region.
6. **Lobbying and Promotion.** Organize with the Member Associations, IRU, BSEC and National Governments or contribute to the meetings, seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other types of events with a view to improving public image of road goods transport, protecting its common interests and creating new opportunities, particularly on the regional level.

7. **Good Examples.** Promote good examples and success stories among the Member Associations as well as their members and support roll out of best practices across the BSEC region.
8. **Information Sharing.** Make or contribute to regional researches and surveys about road transport industry in the BSEC region, and share available professional information with the BSEC fleet operators and Member Associations through the BSEC-URTA web portal.
9. **Improving Organisational Strength.** Review and update organisational structure and scope of activities in order to eliminate weaknesses and threats, built upon strengths and opportunities.

WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2016

Facilitation:

1. GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF BILATERAL AND TRANSIT ROAD TRANSPORT
 - a. Work with Member Associations and BSEC Ministries of Transport for meeting deadlines foreseen in the Timetable for Implementation of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods concerning liberalization of transit transport as of 1 January 2017 and bilateral transport as of 1 January 2018 as agreed by the Steering Committee to the MoU in its meeting in Istanbul on 6 April 2015.
 - b. Cooperate with Member Associations, interested BSEC Member States, IRU, BSEC PERMIS and the Moldovan Chairmanship of the Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods (SC.F) for enlargement of the geographical coverage of the BSEC Permit, extension of its usage to 3rd Country road transport operations on voluntary and reciprocity basis and shifting its usage from single to multiple journeys.
 - c. Maintain contacts and cooperation with the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) to persuade Iranian authorities for Iran's possible participation in the BSEC Permit Project.
2. SIMPLIFICATION OF VISA PROCEDURES FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS
 - a. Continue promoting to the BSEC Member States the profession of international truck driver, who should be granted facilitated conditions of mobility to be able to perform their profession freely similar in nature with the sailors or aircraft crews.
3. INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE (IVWC)
 - a. Continue partnership with IRU, BSEC PERMIS and concerned national authorities for introduction of the IVWC in other participating countries of the BSEC Pilot Project, namely Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.
4. SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES
 - a. Cooperate with Member Associations and IRU for finding an appropriate (legal) framework for movement of containers under the coverage of the TIR system.
 - b. Follow up implementation of the e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran and encourage development of a similar project between Turkey and Georgia and between Moldova and Ukraine.

- c. Encourage and support implementation of Green Lanes along main BSEC border crossing points, in particular and not limited with Capitan Andreevo (Bulgaria), Albita (Romania), Leuseni (Moldova) and between Ukraine and EU.
- d. Participate in the work of the BSEC Working Group on Customs (WG-C) and promote BSEC-URTA and IRU main border crossing facilitation projects.

IRU-BSEC Interaction:

1. IRU-BSEC COOPERATION

- a. Contribute to implementation of the MoU between the BSEC Organization and the IRU if and when possible.
- b. Coordinate participation of the BSEC Secretary General or his delegates to take part in the events organised by the IRU and BSEC-URTA and vice versa.

2. IRU COOPERATION WITH THE BSEC RELATED BODIES

- a. Encourage and contribute to systematic interaction and cooperation with the BSEC Related Bodies on transport and trade facilitation in the BSEC region.

Re-opening of the Silk Road:

- a. Encourage national associations from neighbouring regions, notably across the ECO region to join BSEC-URTA and contribute to its activities aimed at promoting or supporting the re-opening of the historic Silk Road across the BSEC region.
- b. Promote and contribute to the activities undertaken by the BSEC and its organs as well as the UN and the IRU for implementing main principles of the IRU's Model Highway Initiative at regional level.

Professional Training:

- a. Support the IRU Academy to organise regional meetings and seminars in partnership with the BSEC.
- b. Encourage BSEC Member States to continue and finalize the work done by the BSEC Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Agreement on Mutual Recognition by BSEC Member States of Diplomas/Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator.
- c. Coordinate with the IRU Academy to apply appropriate regional measures to fulfil requirements of the ECMT Quality Charter to become effective on 1 January 2016 which recognises IRU Academy training standards as key benchmarks that meet ECMT requirements on professional qualification, notably its certificates and diplomas for drivers and managers.

Combined Transport:

- a. Encourage AIRCA, GIRCA, AITA and ASMAP-UA to continue intermodal transportation of containers under the coverage of the TIR Transit system.
- b. Participate in the Meetings of the BSEC SC-Motorways of the Black Sea and support implementation of the related BSEC MoU.

Lobbying and Promotion:

1. COOPERATION BETWEEN TRANSPORT RELATED BSEC NGOs
 - a. Participate in the meetings and events organized by the transport related BSEC NGOs.
2. COOPERATION WITH THE BSEC PERMIS AND THE BSEC RELATED BODIES
 - a. Organize mutual working visits whenever necessary and make annual debriefings on activities and policy priorities of the BSEC-URTA.
3. COOPERATION WITH THE ECO SECRETARIAT
 - a. In coordination with the IRU and ECO Secretariats as well as the IRU Member Associations in the ECO Member States; work for promotion of the BSEC Permit Project in the ECO region with a view to expanding the existing system or developing a similar one in the ECO region, which then could serve as basis for a wider Asian permit system in the future.

Information Sharing:

1. BSEC-URTA WEB PORTAL
 - a. Keep the BSEC-URTA portal updated with professional news and regional developments.
 - b. Encourage the Member Associations to contribute to the content of the BSEC-URTA web portal by sharing information on their past or future main activities as well as recent developments and news at national level.
2. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STATISTICS
 - a. Update the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report according to information provided by the Member Associations about industry performance and market developments as well as any other information obtained from various other sources particularly with respect to regional and international foreign trade.

Improving Organisational Strength:

1. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
 - a. Review the statutory requirements and conditions for BSEC-URTA Members and Observers and identify areas of improvement for reinforcement of membership base.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Reinforce the International Secretariat within the available financial resources and according to existing membership or observer fees.
2. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES
 - a. Elaborate and implement a new strategy and action plan for inclusion of road passenger transport within the scope of BSEC-URTA activities from 2016.
 - b. Set up a Working Party on Insurance in order to create a platform where insurance companies and interested BSEC-URTA Members and Observers could exchange information on existing or possible transport insurance products which benefit to the BSEC road transport industry.
 - c. Elaborate ways and mechanism to promote IRU's TIR products and services, regionally.

BSEC-URTA Calendar of Events-2016 First Half***I – BSEC-URTA Events***

EVENT	PLACE	DATE
1. 39 th Meeting of BSEC-URTA Management Council	Geneva	6 April 2016
2. 29 th Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly	Geneva	6 April 2016

II – Events Organized By Other Parties

EVENT	PLACE	DATE *
1. IRU Transport Council CTM	Geneva	7 April 2016
2. IRU General Assembly	Geneva	8 April 2016
3. BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport	Istanbul	
4. BSEC Task Force for introduction of IVWC	Istanbul	
5. BSEC Task Force for intermodal transport	Istanbul	
6. BSEC Steering Committee on Coordinated Development of Black Sea Ring Highway	TBC	
7. Ad Hoc Expert Group on Mutual Recognition of CPCs	TBC	
8. BSEC Steering Committee on Development of the Motorways of the Black Sea	TBC	
8. Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport	Sochi	
9. BSEC Working Group on Customs	Sochi	
10. Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials	Moscow	
11. Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States	Moscow	

** The Calendar of the BSEC Meetings will be set and announced by the BSEC Chairmanship in office (Russian Federation) in January 2016.*

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