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Bucharest, 26 May 2016

29TH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pullman Hotel
Bucharest-Romania
Thursday, 26 May 2016, at 11:00 hrs

BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION ¹

ON EU TRANSPORT AND COMPETITION MATTERS CONCERNING BSEC ROAD HAULIERS

The General Assembly of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA), which represents national road transport associations from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine:

Noting an alarming increase of neo-protectionist approaches in certain EU Member States like in Germany - the law on minimum wage (MiLoG), in France - the law on minimum wage (Macron) and the so called laws against social dumping by which France and Belgium introduced severe penalties for hauliers in case their drivers spend the regular weekly rest in the cabin of the truck,

Considering that these national laws of certain EU Member States are abusively applied to the road hauliers from BSEC countries when performing international road transport operations in the respective EU Member States,

Signalizing that these EU matters distort the competition in EU and BSEC region affecting not only the BSEC road hauliers, but also Europe's general competitiveness on the global market,

Stressing that ensuring free and fair competition among the BSEC hauliers is one of the main objectives of the BSEC-URTA;

Calling upon the BSEC Governments to attach priority to developing common multilateral solutions to common industry problems at the BSEC level and take constructive and supportive measures to increase competitiveness of the national road transport industry for more efficient regional economic cooperation;

Have agreed at its 29th Meeting held in Bucharest, Romania on 26 May 2016 to:-

- 1. Express** its strong position against these artificial means of discrimination applied by certain EU Member States to BSEC hauliers, raising barriers to foreign competitors under the umbrella of fighting against the social dumping - a term inappropriately used, since the wage differences between different countries from EU and BSEC region are not an unfair practice of the last ones, but a consequence of different economic and social standards amongst these countries,
- 2. Highlight** that the cost of such non-tariff barriers poses an inevitable increase in the cost of transport, and hence the price of goods at stake, which is ultimately paid by the citizens of the EU Member States, which apply such neo-protectionist measures,
- 3. Stress** that the increased transport costs equal with increased production costs and higher unemployment in the EU, which endangers the quality of life of the European citizens, directly, in particular aftermath the global economic turmoil that has been taking place since 2009,
- 4. Ask for** a harmonized framework to ensure a level playing field for EU and BSEC hauliers not only on social matters, but in all other relevant economical and financial matters – thus achieving a healthy economic environment in which clients may choose the best transport services and hauliers, stimulating the quality and competitiveness of the transport industry for the benefit of European economy as a whole,

¹ Adopted in Bucharest on 26th May 2016, by the 29th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, unanimously.

5. **Call on European Commission and European Parliament** to undertake all the necessary measures in order to ensure this harmonized framework for stimulating fair competition in Europe while stopping and eliminating the current neo-protectionist approaches of certain EU Member States.
6. **Request** the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat to circulate this Resolution among the European Commission, BSEC PERMIS, IRU, and the Member States of the EU and the BSEC with the request of their full support to its actual implementation.

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