

G4791

Istanbul, 12 May 2016

31st MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BSEC Headquarters
Istanbul-Turkey
Tuesday, 22 November 2016 at 14:00 hrs

MINUTES OF THE 30th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Vladimir Florea, as Chairman, welcomed all participants and thanked high-level representatives of participating international organisations, notably the BSEC Deputy Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Chairman of the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT) Mr. Malek Haddad and AULT Secretary General Dr. Mahmoud Abdallatt as well as Deputy Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC Organization (PABSEC), Mr. Daniel Dulca, for their high-level participation.

H.E. Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, welcomed the participants and highlighted the good cooperation and coordination with BSEC-URTA under several BSEC Projects. Ambassador Chebeleu underlined that transport cooperation in the BSEC is very dynamic thanks to the sectoral dialogue partners, in particular BSEC-URTA, and thanked for being invited to this event and wished everybody a successful meeting.

Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of IRU, welcomed the participants, expressed his high appreciation for the activities done by the BSEC-URTA for promotion and facilitation of the road transport of goods in the BSEC region and emphasized the IRU support to all activities of BSEC-URTA.

Mr. Daniel Dulca, Deputy Secretary General of PABSEC, expressed his pleasure to attend the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, mentioned the good cooperation with BSEC-URTA and extended his greetings to guests and participants of the meeting. At the same time he wished a fruitful meeting with satisfactory results and decisions.

Mr. Malek Haddat, Chairman of AULT, thanked the BSEC-URTA President for the invitation to attend the 30th Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly as guest, extended his greetings to all the participants and expressed his pleasure to attend the meeting as well as the AULT's interest in developing bilateral cooperation with BSEC-URTA.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda (G4640/Corr) was adopted, unanimously.

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

Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4641) were adopted, unanimously.

IV. UND PRESENTATION ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE INTER-REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

Mr. Alper Ozel, Vice Chairman of the UND Executive Committee, welcomed all participants and made a comprehensive presentation on challenges and opportunities before inter-regional road transport, which focused on development of combined transport across the Caspian Sea as well as a presentation of the road transport system in Turkey and Turkey's transport relations with the European Union. He briefly described the activities of UND and highlighted that UND is a leading professional association in Turkey, established in 1974 by representatives from Turkish road freight transport sector with an aim to solve problems experienced by the sector on national and international levels with a qualified staff of 39 employees with ranging expertise. Today, UND members are active in all modes of international transportation and logistics, which make up 1.194 transport and logistics companies registered in Turkey. He mentioned about the shortage of transit permits due to protectionist measures imposed by several EU Member States and informed about specific actions taken by UND and Turkish MoT in order to improve trade and transport with western EU Member States.

V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that the BSEC-URTA Management Council held its meeting prior to the General Assembly meeting, which reviewed the progress made on the BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2016:

- Structural reformation of the BSEC-URTA
- Further enlargement of the geographical coverage of the BSEC Permit, extension of its usage on a voluntary basis to include the 3rd country transport operations and shifting it from single trip usage of a truck to multiple trips usage by a company.
- Continuation of implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UN Harmonization Convention, 1982.
- Implementation of the TIR-EPD Green Lanes, including new TIR tools and products, on the main road transport corridors in the BSEC region.

The Management Council considered the report of the 2nd Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI/4632) and verbal report of its 3rd Meeting held one day before, and the verbal report of the 2nd Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Passenger Transport, as presented by BSEC-URTA President.

The Management Council also decided to present the General Assembly the proposal to renew the MoU between BSEC-URTA and transport related BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners, namely BASPA, BINSAs and BRASS.

At the same time the Management Council considered the application of the Lithuanian Carriers Union (LVS) for Observer Status to the BSEC-URTA and decided to propose the General Assembly to grant Observer status to LVS for 5 years (1 January 2017-31 December 2021) with an annual contribution fee of €1,000.

VI. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2016 (G4643)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to make a progress report regarding the BSEC-URTA priorities in 2016 (G4643).

In this connection, **the General Assembly** evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2016 as follows (G4643):

- a) Structural reformation of the BSEC-URTA
 - *Review of the BSEC-URTA Statutes was accomplished during the 29th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.*
- b) Further enlargement of the geographical coverage of the BSEC Permit, extension of its usage on a voluntary basis to the 3rd country transport and shift from one trip usage by a truck to multiple trips usage by a company.
 - *System remained unchanged in 2016.*
 - *Progress targeted during upcoming meeting of the Steering Committee of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region.*
- c) Continuation of implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate under Annex 8 to the UN Harmonization Convention, 1982.

- *Contacts with Serbia, Ukraine and Romania still pending.*
- d) Implementation of the TIR-EPD Green Lanes, including new TIR tools and products, on the main road transport corridors in the BSEC region.
- *eTIR Pilot Project Turkey/Iran continues in Phase 2 with participation of more fleet operators.*
 - *eTIR Pilot Project Moldova/Ukraine in the pipeline. IRU-Customs Administrations Technical Meeting was held.*
 - *eTIR Pilot Project Ukraine/Turkey was agreed upon by Turkish and Ukrainian Customs Administrations on 12-14 October 2016.*

VII. REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON INSURANCE

The Chairman gave the floor to **Ms. Natalia Polunina**, Chairperson of the Working Group to present the Report of the 2nd meeting (WPI/4632) as well as the verbal report of the 3rd Meeting held one day before.

The General Assembly endorsed the reports and encouraged the Ad-Hoc Working Party on Insurance to continue its work for finding appropriate tools in insurance for the road transport sector in the region.

VIII. REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON PASSENGER TRANSPORT

The Chairman presented the General Assembly the verbal Report of the 2nd meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Passenger Transport held one day before.

The General Assembly endorsed the report and encouraged the Ad-Hoc Working Party on Passenger Transport to continue its work for finding appropriate tools for facilitation and improvement of the road passenger transport sector in the region.

IX. IRU-BSEC STUDY ON INTERMODAL TIR (G4642)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, Deputy Secretary General to present the study (G4642) which revealed that TIR system is suitable for intermodal transport operation. **Mr. Albu** presented an example of moving under the coverage of a TIR Carnet of a container loaded with mineral water which has travelled from Borjomi-Georgia to the Batumi Port by road, then was shipped onto a Ferryboat vessel with destination Port Illichevsk-Ukraine, wherefrom it was filled by a truck to its final destination in Odessa.

The General Assembly considered the study and welcomed the successful finalization of the Pilot Project of BSEC-URTA and IRU on moving a container under the coverage of a TIR carnet between Georgia and Ukraine.

X. BSEC TRANSPORT NGOS (BASPA-BINSA-BRASS-BSEC-URTA) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Chairman recalled that this issue came up during a meeting with representatives of the above mentioned associations in Varna on the occasion of the BSEC Working Group on Motorway of the Sea held in spring 2016 when it was decided that cooperation and coordination between BSEC Transport NGOs should be reinforced. Upon BSEC-URTA President proposal, all concerned NGOs agreed in principle renewing their cooperation MoU on the occasion of the 30th General Assembly of BSEC-URTA marking its 15th Anniversary.

The General Assembly, upon recommendation of the Management Council, approved renewal of the MoU between BSEC-URTA and transport related BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners, namely BASPA, BINSA and BRASS, on the occasion of the International Black Sea Transport Forum 2016 in Istanbul on 23 November 2016 (G4644), and mandated Secretary General and President for its signature.

XI. STATE OF AFFAIRES OF THE COOPERATION WITH AULT

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to make a presentation in this regard.

The General Assembly adopted the report of the International Secretariat on State of Affaires of the Cooperation with the AULT including the BSEC-URTA/AULT Joint Action Plan 2016-2017 (G4645) and welcomed the AULT proposal to organise regular bilateral working meetings to monitor implementation of the Joint Action Plan.

XII. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2017 (G4645)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to present the BSEC-URTA Working Programme 2017 (G4645).

The Meeting, on this occasion, reviewed and reconfirmed the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA.

The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2017 (G4645) was adopted, unanimously.

XIII. ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- AMMEMNDMENTS TO THE BSEC-URTA STATUTES AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to present the amendment proposals of the Management Council to the BSEC-URTA Statutes and BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations as considered during the Management Council Meeting held on 22 November 2016.

The General Assembly upon the request of the competent Turkish authorities dated on 8 November 2016, TOBB proposal dated on 21 November 2016 as well as recommendation of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance dated on 21 November 2016 and the recommendation of the Management Council, amended the BSEC-URTA Statutes and BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations as given under Annex 1 to the Decisions of the 30th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4647), which was adopted in Istanbul on 22 November 2016.

- REQUEST FOR BSEC-URTA OBSERVER STATUS

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to inform the General Assembly on the subject matter.

Mr. Ozkan, reported that the Lithuanian Carriers Union (LVS) sent to the International Secretariat an application letter for Observer Status to the BSEC-URTA, which was supported by the President of BSEC-URTA and by TOBB. The Management Council considered the application of LVS and decided to recommend to the General Assembly granting Observer status to LVS for 5 years (1 January 2017-31 December 2021) with an annual contribution fee of €1,000. **The General Assembly** adopted the recommendation of the Management Council, unanimously.

- FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General presented the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2017 (G4646).

The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2017 (G4646) was adopted, unanimously.

XIV. ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA PRESIDENT FOR 2017-2020, APPOINTMENT OF THE BSEC-URTA DEPUTY PRESIDENT FOR 2017-2018 AND BSEC-URTA VICE PRESIDENTS FOR 2017-2018

The General Assembly :

- Elected Ms. Asli Gozutok (TOBB) as BSEC-URTA President for 2017-2020;
- Upon proposal of the President-elect, elected Mr. Georgy Petarneychev (AEBTRI) as Deputy President for 2017-2018;
- Elected Mr. Ilirjan Mataj (ANALTIR) and Mr. Radu Dinescu (UNTRR) as BSEC-URTA Vice-Presidents for 2017-2018 in accordance with Article 10 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes;
- Upon recommendation of TOBB, elected Mr. Vladimir Florea as Honorary President as of 1st January 2017, i.e. upon completion of his 10 years of service as BSEC-URTA President.

XV. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Upon kind invitation of TOBB, the *General Assembly* decided to hold its 31st Meeting in Turkey during the Turkish Chairmanship-in-office of the BSEC Organization from 1 January to 30 June 2017.

XVI. DECISIONS OF THE 30th MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman informed the General Assembly that the Secretariat will prepare summary of decisions of the meeting, which will be opened to the signature of the participating Members and Observers following the meeting.

XVII. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman in his closing remarks, thanked the International Secretariat for the excellent organization of the meeting and the TOBB and UND for the hospitality extended to all participants. Also thanked all participants and Guests of Honor for their participation and active contributions to the work of the General Assembly.

The 30th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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