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## 32<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Tirana International Hotel  
Tirana, Albania  
Friday, 13 October 2017, at 10:00 hrs

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### MINUTES OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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The 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly was held at TOBB Plaza in Istanbul on 16 June 2017 at 10:30 hrs.

#### FIRST SESSION

##### 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

**Ms Asli Gozutok**, as Chairperson, welcomed all participants and thanked the IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, the Delegation of the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT) led by its Vice-Chairman Mr. Carlos Al Hasem and Secretary General, Dr Mahmoud Abdallatt, Secretary of the PABSEC Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee, Mr. Artur Martirosyan, BSEC Project Coordinator, Mr. Evgeny Koziy, as well as BRASS Executive Director, Mr. Ivan Lazarov, for their high-level participation and invaluable contributions to the General Assembly.

**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. At the same time Mr. De Pretto informed that India has just announced its accession to the TIR Convention and expressed his hope that this development will support further facilitation of trade and road transport across and beyond BSEC region. The General Assembly warmly welcomed this very important development in expansion of the TIR system in South Asia region which could facilitate and boost trade and transport between East and West.

**Mr. Mahmud Abdallatt**, Secretary General of AULT, thanked the BSEC-URTA President for the invitation to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly, 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.

**Mr. Evgeny Koziy, BSEC Project Manager** welcomed the participants and highlighted the good cooperation and coordination with BSEC-URTA under several BSEC Projects. Mr. Koziy 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.

##### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (G4790)

*The Agenda (G4790) was adopted, unanimously.*

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (G4791)**

*Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4791) were adopted, unanimously.*

### **4. INFORMATION ON TOBB-UND COMPANY SERVICES TO ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY AND PROSPECTS FOR THE BSEC REGION (Oral Presentation)**

**Mr. Sancar Suer**, Chairman of the TOBB-UND Company Executive Committee, welcomed all participants and made a comprehensive presentation on challenges and opportunities before inter-regional road transport, provided important information on “Services to Road Transport Industry and Prospects for the BSEC region” and supported cooperation for developing a work framework mutually beneficial to the parties in the future.

*The General Assembly noted the information provided by Mr. Sancar Suer.*

### **5. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Oral Presentation)**

**The Chairperson** reported that the BSEC-URTA Management Council held its meeting prior to the General Assembly meeting and considered the documents of the General Assembly mainly:

- Conclusions of the joint “BSEC-URTA/IRU/BSEC/TOBB Seminar on Computerization of the TIR Procedures and other Road Transport related Documents” in Istanbul on 15 June 2017
- Report of the 4th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI/4771) held in Istanbul on 14 March 2017
- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Passenger Transport held in Istanbul on 22 November 2016 (WPP/4754)
- Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2017 (G4793):
- Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2016 (G4800).

*At the same time the Management Council took note of the application of TOBB-UND Company for Observer status to the BSEC-URTA and decided to propose the General Assembly to consider it in favourable way.*

### **6. CONCLUSIONS OF THE IRU-BSEC-URTA-BSEC-TOBB SEMINAR ON COMPUTERIZATION OF TIR PROCEDURES AND OTHER ROAD TRANSPORT RELATED DOCUMENTS – ISTANBUL ON 15 JUNE 2016 (G4792)**

**Ms. Asli Gozutok**, President of BSEC-URTA presented the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Seminar jointly organized by IRU, BSEC-URTA, BSEC and TOBB in Istanbul on the eve of the General Assembly as follows:

#### Conclusions

Participants to the Seminar:

- Noted the progress made by Turkey in line with the success of the ongoing eTIR pilot projects with Iran and Georgia and expressed their hope that similar Pilot projects will be soon extended to Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and any country willing to join.
- Called on BSEC PERMIS to conduct a joint session of the Working Group on Customs Matters and BSEC-URTA Member Associations with a view to considering implementation of the e-TIR in the BSEC region.
- Stressed the importance of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region as a priority, which also

contains special provisions for facilitation of customs procedures at the borders of the BSEC Member States.

- Welcomed the elaboration of the Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region, in collaboration with the BSEC Working Groups on Custom Matters and on Trade and Economic Development,

### **Recommendations**

Participants to the Seminar made the following recommendations:

- BSEC should consider setting-up a Task Force under the joint coordination of the Working Groups on Customs Matters, on Trade and Economic Development and on Transport with participation of BSEC-URTA having as main task a coordinated implementation of the BSEC Strategy Paper on Trade Facilitation under a specific and timeframe Action Plan.
- The BSEC Member States are encouraged to allow the industry to go digital by ratifying the Additional e-CMR Protocol.
- The BSEC Member States are encouraged to join the ongoing projects aiming at Computerization of TIR procedures, based on the successful conclusions of the Iran-Turkey Pilot project, and on the new MoU signed between UNECE and IRU.
- Necessary synergies should be considered by the BSEC Member States to conduct the pilot projects related to the computerization of TIR procedures.
- UNECE and Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention should intensify their efforts for further facilitation under this Convention.
- Encouraged all the stakeholders to take tangible measures to implement the e-data exchange mechanism with the neighbouring states and potential regional partners for a more comprehensive risk analysis method and expeditious transport, to enhance the trade facilitation.
- BSEC working groups related to customs matters, to trade facilitation and road transport to jointly work for implementation of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region.

*The General Assembly endorsed the Conclusions of the joint “BSEC-URTA/IRU/BSEC/TOBB Seminar on Computerization of the TIR Procedures and other Road Transport related Documents” in Istanbul on 15 June 2017 and instructed the International Secretariat to disseminate them to the BSEC PERMIS, competent authorities of the BSEC Member States as well as other concerned regional and international organizations and entities.*

## **7. REPORT OF THE 4 MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING PARTY ON INSURANCE IN ISTANBUL ON 14 MARCH 2017 (WPI/4771)**

**Ms. Natalia Polunina**, Chairperson of the Ad hoc Working Party on Insurance presented the report of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the party held in Istanbul on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 which mainly is focusing on development of a regional CMR product by interested member associations, insurance and reinsurance companies. The Chairperson informed the General Assembly on contacts with Swiss Re an important reinsurance international company famous on the market which is interested in joining the regional CMR project. At the same time Ms. Polunina showed that the Ad hoc Working Party will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September in Istanbul with the participation of Swiss RE in order to

elaborate all parameters of a new regional CMR product for final consideration of the General Assembly at its next meeting.

*The General Assembly took note of the information provided and welcomed developments.*

## **8. REPORT OF THE 3 MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING PARTY ON PASSENGER TRANSPORT IN ISTANBUL ON 22 NOVEMBER 2016 (WPP/4754)**

**Mr. Vladimir Florea**, Chairman of the Ad hoc Working Party on Passenger Transport presented the report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Party held in Istanbul on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 which is summarizing results of the Survey on development of the road passenger transport in the BSEC countries which was distributed to the Ministers in charge and Transport Administrations of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Turkey. Results show the current state of affairs in the field of bus services in these countries, the presence of existing physical and non-physical barriers in international passenger transport in the BSEC region, industry trends, as well as safety issues and will serve as a basis for actions and appropriate recommendations to the transport administrations and associations of BSEC countries. As regards further actions the International Secretariat will disseminate recommendations of the Working Party to member associations and BSEC secretariat in order to be used as working documents by the related BSEC organs and will organize in cooperation with AULT during September 2017 a regional round table on road passenger transport issues.

*The General Assembly took note of the information provided and welcomed developments.*

## **9. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2017 (G4793)**

**The Chairperson** gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to make a progress report regarding the BSEC-URTA priorities in 2017 (G4793).

In this connection, **the General Assembly** evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2017 as follows:

- a. Increase and diversify BSEC-URTA revenues:
  - *Contacts were maintained with potential new members and observers.*
  - *AULT and BSEC-URTA agreed to make a joint project application to the IsDB in 2017.*
  - *The Working Party on Insurance continued its work together with interested insurance companies from the BSEC region for possible development of a regional CMR product.*
  - *Preliminary consultations are held with TOBB-UND Company in order to develop a business model for promoting its services on regional level.*
- b. Develop further and expand BSEC Permit to Eurasia:
  - *The system remained unchanged in 2017. 4 of the 8 participating countries, namely Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova recognised on reciprocity basis the BSEC Permits good for 3<sup>rd</sup> country transport operations in their territories.*
  - *ICCIMA (Iran) maintains interest for supporting participation of Iran in the system.*
- c. Support Working Party on Insurance developing BSEC CMR Insurance:
  - *4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party took place in Istanbul on 14 March 2017. With support of the President, JLT Turkey was engaged to elaborate a base report on structure of an ideal insurance pool and draw a road map for a competitive single CMR policy based upon market data and statistics from CIS, EU and Turkey.*
  - *An inter-regional transport insurance forum is planned together with AULT in Istanbul back-to-back with autumn session of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.*
  - *IRU initiatives for eCMR along a Balkan route are followed, closely.*

- *Exploratory contacts were started with the International Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC) for a possible free-of-charge arbitration component embedded in a future BSEC CMR insurance product.*
- d. Submit AULT/ BSEC-URTA joint ADR Project to IsDB:
  - *A coordination meeting was held with the AULT Secretary General on setting up a project action plan in Istanbul on 22 March 2017.*
  - *On the occasion of 104<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the Arab Economic Unity Council in Cairo, Egypt on 24 May 2017, BSEC-URTA Secretary General continued consultations with AULT Chairman and Secretary General towards an implementation road map.*
- e. Follow eTIR Pilot Projects:
  - *2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran is implemented with successful results*
  - *AITA, Moldovan Customs Authority, AIRCU, Ukrainian Customs Authority and IRU held meetings on technical and organizational matters related to implementation of a new Pilot Project between Moldova and Ukraine.*
  - *TOBB and ASMAP-UA cooperated to obtain agreement of the Turkish and Ukrainian Customs Authorities for an e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine.*

*The General Assembly expressed its disappointment for lack of progress in further development of the BSEC Permit despite the news that Russia considers joining the system and requested President and Secretary General to meet with BSEC Secretary General in order to obtain his assistance in reviving the interest of the Member States.*

**The Chairperson** gave the floor to **Mr. Sancar Suer**, BSEC-URTA Legal Advisor who informed the General Assembly on a meeting with Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC), which agreed developing cooperation with BSEC-URTA for specialized, speedy and low cost alternative dispute resolution services to BSEC road transport industry.

**Mr. Umberto De Pretto**, IRU Secretary General encouraged BSEC-URTA to consider transforming this cooperation from regional to global level also involving the ICC in the future.

*The General Assembly welcomed the work done so far in coordination with ISTAC and mandated the Secretary General and Legal Advisor to elaborate a draft MoU with ISTAC, which will contain a time bound road map, for consideration of Management Council and approval of the General Assembly at their next meetings.*

**Mr. Carlos Al Hashem**, Vice Chairman of AULT informed the meeting on recent developments in the Gulf region, which are much penalizing the road transport in the region and between neighboring regions and proposed joint actions with BSEC-URTA in order to raise concerns at governmental levels in LAS and BSEC regions.

*The General Assembly expressed readiness to consider and support a future AULT declaration or position paper on this matter if it will be made available to it by the AULT side in the future.*

## 10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### - **AUDIT REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC-URTA BUDGET FOR 2016 (G4800)**

**Mr. Gia Tsipuria**, Elected Auditor presented the General Assembly the Report of Auditors on BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2016 following the audit performed by the elected Auditors, Ms. Asli Gozutok (TOBB), Mr. Alper Ozel (UND) and Mr. Gia Tsipuria (GIRCA) at the premises of the International Secretariat on 24 March 2017.

*The General Assembly approved the Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2016 (G4800).*

### - **ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA AUDITORS FOR THE PERIOD 2017-2018**



**Mr. Adrian Albu**, Deputy Secretary General informed the meeting that due to election of Ms. Asli Gozutok as President of BSEC-URTA and due to departure of Mr. Alper Ozel from UND two positions of elected auditors should be filled in and in this regard representatives of Member Associations should make proposals for nomination and election of two auditors for the period 2017-2018.

*The General Assembly unanimously elected Mrs. Viliانا Ivanova (AEBTRI) and Mr. Eduart Kasa (ANALTIR) as BSEC-URTA Auditors for 2017 and 2018 in order to replace and undertake remaining term of office of Ms. Asli Gozutok, who was elected as BSEC-URTA President from 1 January 2017, and Mr. Alper Ozel, who left UND in May 2017.*

#### - APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS: TOBB-UND COMPANY

**Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, Secretary General informed the meeting on the application presented by TOBB-UND Company to the BSEC-URTA Management Council with the request for granting Observer Status to the BSEC-URTA and on the decision of the Management Council to recommend the General Assembly to consider in a favourable manner this request.

*Upon recommendation of the Management Council, the General Assembly granted Observer status to TOBB-UND Company for 5 years (1 January 2017-31 December 2021) with an annual contribution fee of €1,000.*

#### - REINFORCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

**Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, Secretary General presented the General Assembly the structure of the International Secretariat as contained in the BSEC-URTA Staff Regulations, the evolution during 15 years of the number of personnel of the organization as well as the actual needs of the organization to increase the number of staff and its efficiency in accordance with the development targets of BSEC-URTA.

*The General Assembly took note of the information provided by the BSEC-URTA Secretary General and expressed its support for reinforcement of the International Secretariat within the available financial resources.*

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

**Mr. Eduart Kasa** on behalf of **Mr. Ilirian Mataj**, President of ANALTIR invited BSEC-URTA to hold its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in Tirana during 12-13 October 2017.

*Upon kind invitation of ANALTIR, the General Assembly agreed to hold its next meeting in Tirana during 12-13 October 2017.*

### 12. DECISIONS OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**The Chairperson** 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.

### 13. CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

**The Chairperson** in his closing remarks, thanked the International Secretariat for the excellent organization of the meeting and the TOBB and TOBB-UND Company 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 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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