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Istanbul, 15 September 2017

32nd MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2018

The BSEC-URTA Member Associations are kindly requested to review below the vision, mission, strategic objectives and 2018 draft working programme of the BSEC-URTA, which will be approved by the 32nd 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, knowhow 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 2018

Facilitation:

1. GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF BILATERAL AND TRANSIT ROAD TRANSPORT
 - a. Work with Member Associations and BSEC PERMIS to bring to the attention of BSEC Ministries of Transport the deadlines concerning liberalization of transit transport and bilateral transport established by the Steering Committee to the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport in its meeting in Istanbul on 19 October 2018.
 - b. Continue lobbying with Member Associations, IRU, BSEC PERMIS and the incoming 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. Encourage cooperation between BSEC PERMIS and ECO Secretariat in order to pursue ECO Member States to consider participation in an extended 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. Work with BSEC PERMIS, IRU 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. Follow up continuation of the e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran, work for the e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine for Combined Transport and Multimodal Transport of Containers and encourage development of a similar project between Turkey Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan as well as between Moldova and Ukraine.
 - b. Encourage implementation of Green Lanes at BSEC border crossing points with EU Member States.

- c. Work with Member Associations and IRU to expand the experience of AsMAP Ukraine in finding solutions to subcontracting issues related to the usage of TIR Carnets for intermodal transport of containers.
- d. Participate in the work of the BSEC Working Group on Customs (WG-C) and promote digitalization of the TIR System as well as of other road transport documents such as eCMR.

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 and LAS regions to join BSEC-URTA and contribute to its activities aimed at promoting or supporting the modern inter-regional Silk Road routes across the BSEC region.
- b. Promote and contribute to the activities undertaken by the BSEC and its organs as well as the ECO and LAS Organizations 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 mutually recognize Diplomas/Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator.

Combined Transport:

- a. Work with TOBB and ASMAP-UA to determine their Customs Authorities to start an eTIR Pilot Project for the movement of semitrailers between Turkey and Ukraine using RO-RO vessels as well as for the intermodal transportation of containers between the two mentioned countries.
- b. Participate in the meetings of the Steering Committee of the Motorways of the Black Sea and support implementation of the related BSEC MoU.

Lobbying and Promotion:

1. COOPERATION BETWEEN TRANSPORT RELATED BSEC NGOS
 - a. Coordinate with the BSEC transport related NGOs organization of a meeting aiming to setup an action plan for the implementation of their concerned MoU.
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 AULT SECRETARIAT
 - a. Work together with AULT for development of joint projects such as Inter-regional Transport Insurance Products and Gulf Region Ro-Ro Development Project .

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.

Improving Organisational Strength:

1. MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVERS
 - a. Develop and maintain contacts with potential new Members and Observers across the BSEC, LAS and ECO regions and the countries enjoying special status with BSEC, LAS and ECO organisations.
2. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES
 - a. Support implementation of the Action Plan of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Transport Insurance, notably about development of a competitive regional CMR product as a first step.
 - b. Elaborate ways and mechanism to promote IRU's TIR products and services, regionally.
 - c. Support implementation of the Action Plan of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Passenger Transport.
 - d. Implement the MoU between BSEC-URTA and Istanbul Arbitration Center (ISTAC) on mitigation of commercial conflicts.

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BSEC-URTA Calendar of Events-2018 First Half

I – BSEC-URTA Events

EVENT	PLACE	DATE
1. 44 Meeting of BSEC-URTA Management Council	Istanbul	30 January 2018
2. 45 Meeting of BSEC-URTA Management Council	Istanbul	30 May 2018
3. 33 Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly	Istanbul	31 May 2018

II – Events Organized By Other Parties

EVENT	PLACE	DATE *
1. IRU Transport Council CTM	Geneva	3 May 2018
2. IRU General Assembly	Geneva	4 May 2018
3. BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport	Istanbul	
8. Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport	Tirana	
9. BSEC Working Group on Customs	Istanbul	
10. Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials	Tirana	
11. Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States	Tirana	

** The Calendar of the BSEC Meetings will be set and announced by the BSEC Chairmanship in office (Republic of Albania) in January 2018.*

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