

G4984

Istanbul, 23 May 2018

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

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GRAND HOTEL SOFIA  
Sofia-Bulgaria  
Friday, 8 June at 10:30 hrs

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

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#### FIRST SESSION

##### I. CHAIRMEN'S OPENING REMARKS

**Mr. Ilirjan Mataj**, as President of ANALTIR, welcomed all participants and thanked high-level representatives of participating international organizations, notably the BSEC Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides, IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Deputy Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee of PABSEC, Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Director General of transport polices at Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania, Mr. Redi Berberi as well as President of BSEC-URTA, Ms. Asli Gozutok for their high-level participation.

**Ms. Asli Gozutok, President of BSEC-URTA**, welcomed all participants and thanked high-level representatives of participating international organizations, notably the BSEC Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides, IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Deputy Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee of PABSEC, Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili, Director General of transport polices at Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania, Mr. Redi Berberi as well as President of ANALTIR Mr. Ilirjan Mataj for their top-level participation. She told about efforts to engage to some projects, such as visa for professional drivers, IVWC, combined transport, simplification of customs procedures, harmonisation of charges, BSRH truck caravan, Silk Road truck caravan, BSEC Permit, eCMR etc. Ms. Asli Gozutok emphasised on tremendous changes in world transport industry: biggest countries in EU imposed protection measures to industry by bringing regulations like minimum wage to be paid to the drivers, prohibition to rest in truck cabinet, posting of workers, cabotage etc.; developments of technology make companies continuously adopt themselves to new requirements. All of it causes increase of cost of freight. Due to it and due to unpredictability of Brexit process business activities in road transportation sectors face big challenges. 65 % of goods transportation between Europe and Asia go through BSEC region. BSEC-URTA and IRU as international organizations, play important role to create synergy to overcome difficulties like exemption of any kind of burden in transport and transit of the goods and free movement of the driving.

**Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili**, Deputy Secretary of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee of PABSEC, expressed her pleasure to attend the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, mentioned that transport is one of the components that should be strong in the region, that's the reason why there is good cooperation with BSEC-URTA International Secretariat. Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili told about extending relations and cooperation on Silk Road project and work with Chinese partners, she also informed about planning a meeting with BSEC-URTA on Silk Road project and a business forum & transport conference in Belarus. Mrs. Natia Gaprindashvili told about readiness of PABSEC to support transport issues in its activities and to welcome information from industry insiders in order to improve the legislative process of BSEC parliaments.

**Mr. Umberto de Pretto**, Secretary General of IRU, welcomed the high level guests and representatives of member associations participating in the General Assembly and congratulated ANALTIR for hosting it.

He also told about challenges the industry faces, necessity to stay focus to the development of technology, prepare today for tomorrow when everything will be digital (eTIR, eCMR etc.). Mr. Umberto de Pretto called on those who didn't sign eCMR protocol to do so otherwise they will be left behind by the high speed of change. He stressed on the necessity to hurry up with elaborating instruments for organising transport in the future.

**H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides**, Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, welcomed the hosting organisation ANALTIR and other participants, thanked for being invited to this event. He highlighted the good and fruitful cooperation with BSEC-URTA which has sectoral dialogue partnership status to BSEC from 2001 and with the IRU which has since 2006 a MoU with BSEC. Mr. Michael B. Christides noted about need of change. The task of today is to be efficient and project oriented and in this regard it is needed to improve coordination between BSEC, BSEC-URTA and IRU to promote the best innovative solutions and tools for facilitation of transport and trade. Ambassador Michael B. Christides wished fruitful work and full success to the meeting.

**Mr. Ilirjan Mataj**, as President of ANALTIR, thanked high-level representatives for their opening remarks and wished successful work for all participants of the meeting.

## II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*The Agenda (G4835) was adopted, unanimously.*

## III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4836) were adopted, unanimously.*

## IV. ANALTIR PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORT IN ALBANIA AND ON ANALTIR ACTIVITIES

### (Oral Presentation)

**Mr. Eduart Kasa**, Head of TIR Department at ANALTIR, welcomed all participants and made a comprehensive presentation on international road transport organized in Albania and activities of ANALTIR. Albania is considered to be a bridge on transport corridors between Adriatic Sea and Black Sea. There is Corridor 8 which connects Durres (Albania) with Varna and Burgas (Bulgaria) with a length around 1 500 km. Another corridor which goes through Albania (Adriatic Ionian Corridor) starts in South Greece goes through Croatia, connecting with Slovenia, Austria, and Germany and further to Europe. International transport in Albania is regulated by Law of Road Transport (1998), bilateral and multilateral agreements and conventions. Albania is part of 29 international conventions related to international transport. ANALTIR is social non — profit organisation, independent legal entity. Its main aim is to help organisations, companies and individuals engaged to transportation of goods and passengers, contribute to development of all transport sectors in Albania. ANALTIR is the only guarantor of all Albanian transport operations under TIR carnet before customs authorities. ANALTIR is Member of BSEC-URTA since 24 October 2001. During 20 years Albanian authorities delegated to association the right of distribution of permits for international road transport of goods and passengers, for several years ANALTIR was delegated the right to issue, distribute and administer ECMT licenses (3 500 trucks and buses are engaged in international transport of goods and passengers). As of 1 August 2013 Minister of Transport of Albania recommended ANALTIR Training Institute to fulfil accreditation process at IRU Academy giving the right to deliver trainings, in cooperation with ministry of transport issuance of certificates on professional competency for managers and drivers in Albania. In November 2014 IRU accredited ANALTIR Training Institute.

## V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### (Oral Presentation)

**Ms Asli Guzutok, President of BSEC-URTA and Chairperson of the meeting** 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:

- Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2017 (G4838).
- Conclusions of the IRU-AsMAP-UA International Road Transport Conference and the Round Table on IRU-BSEC-URTA-BSEC work priorities under the Ukrainian Chairmanship of BSEC organized in Odessa on 6-7 September 2017 (G4837).
- Report of the 5th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI5/4833) held in Istanbul on 28 August 2017 as presented by its Chairperson Ms. Natalia Polunina.
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding between ISTAC and BSEC-URTA (G4839).
- BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2018 (G4840).
- BSEC-URTA Draft Budget for 2018 (G4842).

The Management Council decided to identify the short term priorities for 2018 at its next meeting according to feedback of the Members and Observers to be received.

Also, the Management Council took note of and kindly respected the decision of Mr. Haydar Ozkan, the founding Secretary General of BSEC-URTA in office for stepping down in the end of his current term of office and nominating his Deputy as his successor.

At the same time Management Council thanked Mr. Haydar Ozkan for his devotion, visionary leadership, guidance and outstanding commitment to the BSEC-URTA in facilitating road transport in the BSEC region since foundation of the BSEC-URTA in 2001 up to date and for his exceptional work to build a strong, well-established regional organisation serving the road transport in the BSEC region and beyond.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS OF THE IRU-BSEC-URTA-BSEC ROUND TABLE ON WORK PRIORITIES UNDER THE UKRAINIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BSEC ORGANISATION — ODESSA ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2017

**The Chairman** thanked Mr. Yuriy Kuchinskiy for leadership in IRU-BSEC-URTA-BSEC Round Table and success of the event and the XVIII International Conference on “International Road Transport — Problems, Solutions, Prospects”.

**Mr. Adrian Albu** reported that The Round Table was organized by ASMAP-Ukraine jointly with IRU and BSEC-URTA as a side event of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “International Road Transport — Problems, Solutions, Prospects”. It was held to bring up some priorities in the work of BSEC-URTA to be presented to BSEC during 6-months chairmanship-in-office of Ukraine in BSEC organisation, needs of industry in upcoming 6 months. Conclusions were put to the declaration of the conference.

Representatives of Customs Administrations from the Black Sea region and beyond, representatives of IRU Member Associations from the region and beyond, representatives of international organisation such as UNECE, IRU, BSEC, BSEC-URTA participated the Round Table and agreed to address national governments from the region, UNECE and BSEC Organisation the following recommendations:

- Update national legislation in order to implement provisions of key UN transport related conventions and agreements as well as WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement providing seamless cross-border transport and transit;
- Apply the existing TIR tools — iCarnet (a guarantee for customs transit between customs authorities of the same country), TIR+ (increased guarantee under TIR), launch intermodal Pilot Projects engaging subcontractors under the TIR procedure, use TIR-EPD (TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration);
- Start new eTIR Pilot Projects such as between Turkey — Ukraine (intermodal), Moldova — Ukraine, Ukraine — Georgia — Azerbaijan — Kazakhstan;

- Accede to the electronic consignment note (e-CMR) Protocol of the UN's Convention on transporting cargo by road, the CMR, and start a Pilot Project along a Balkan route in this regard;
- Amend bilateral intergovernmental agreements on international road transport by removing transit and bilateral permits for the transport of goods as foreseen by the Timetable for implementation of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods;
- Enlarge the geographical coverage of the BSEC Permit, extend its usage to 3rd Country road transport operations on voluntary and reciprocity basis and shift its usage from single to multiple journeys.
- Create conditions for fair competition and transparent access to the market of transport services, by updating national legislation to comply with the provisions provided by the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System;
- Apply IRU Academy standards recognized by the ECMT Quality Charter as a key benchmark that fully meets the requirements for professional qualifications of drivers and managers of transport companies.

**Mr. Yuriy Kuchinskiy** told that the situation on the international transport market needs yearly improvement, development of new technologies because boost of trade depends on the speed of transportation of goods from one country to another. Thanks to TIR system each country using it could increase its level of road transport industry. BSEC-URTA has active position on development and improvement of the road transport of goods. Taking into consideration the results of Turkey-Iran eTIR Pilot Project it was decided by participants to the Round Table to expend this good example in other countries in BSEC region. Everybody agreed that the Pilot Project in the framework of national legislation is possible and it should be done. Business cannot wait. For that reason the competitor of TIR system is EU Common Transit in which everything is computerized. It means that TIR system accompanied by IRU should develop in more active way. EU Common Transit system unites less than 30 European countries. TIR system unites nearly 80 countries of the world. Ukrainian customs officers confessed that TIR is the best system of goods delivery and customs duties payment. TIR system is trusted by countries. They understand that there may not be any debts because control is carried out not only from the side of countries, but also from the side of IRU, Associations of each country. Thanks to safeTIR system it's visible during 24 hours whether delivery is done, whether risks come. If there is absence of note in data base, the delivery search begins. No machinations possible. Customs authorities confessed that paper carnet is an underrun, there is need to go only digital.

Because of geographical benefits, BSEC-URTA countries can begin eTIR project as soon as possible. First steps are approved, call on to the governments is done. There is no need to wait the answer, meetings with experts can be held nowadays, truck caravans should be organized as it was done by BSEC-URTA when delivery from Georgia to Ukraine was made with single carnet. The possibility was shown. On the basis of this project a new regulation on inter-modal transportation was issued and signed by customs authorities in Ukraine. Ukraine can make subcontracting agreements with Turkish, Georgian and other partners. By means of different hauliers delivery of goods with one carnet (it would be better if the carnet is digital) may be done, exchange of semi-trailers with goods is possible, haulers of different countries will change each other, thus speed up the process. There is a need to get involved to this job: to run working meetings with representatives of business world, associations and customs authorities.

**Mr. Vladimir Florea**, BSEC-URTA Honorary President, told that one of the recommendations of the Round Table is implemented in Moldova. There is the decision of the government to implement eCMR. It will be 11<sup>th</sup> country in Europe to put into practice usage of eCMR. Conclusions of Round Table meeting: 1. Meeting of the customs authorities in Batumi confirmed the interest in transport corridor, in cooperation of customs authorities on implementation of eTIR; 2. The time of implementation of eTIR not between separate countries but in corridors of movement has come. For example, Turkey-Ukraine-Georgia-Azerbaijan corridor. Mr. Vladimir Florea expressed a proposal of signing of MoU between IRU, BSEC and BSEC-URTA on establishment of regional BSEC pilot project on eTIR implementation.

**BSEC Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides and IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto**, remarked their positive approach to such kind of proposal and expressed their willingness to support it.

*The General Assembly endorsed the Conclusions of the IRU-BSEC-URTA-BSEC Round Table on work priorities under the Ukrainian chairmanship of the BSEC organisation in Odessa on 6 September 2017 instructed the International Secretariat to disseminate them to concerned organisations and authorities. Welcomed the BSEC Secretary General informing about the BSEC Project Management Facility and the IRU Secretary General confirming the IRU interest to support regional e-TIR projects, which is among the adopted priorities in Odessa.*

## VII. REPORT OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON INSURANCE IN ISTANBUL ON 28 AUGUST 2017

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Ms. Natalia Polunina**, Chairperson of the Working Group, to present the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (WPI5/4833) as well as the verbal report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 28 August 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Ms. Natalia Polunina** told about the decision to carry out a survey in five countries (Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia). The feedback was received from insurance companies from all 5 countries. In the conclusion the insurance companies examined comprehensively the proposed product (CMR+ legal, technique support, support in the case of accident) which was elaborated by insurers-participants of Working Party, carriers. This insurance product (policy) is supposed to be sold digitally (in some countries the legislation doesn't foresee selling policies digitally without agreement signed and sealed by two parties). The product is supported by reinsurer (SWISS RE). Clear answer on the question of how the system of service network should work couldn't be received. The negotiations with Russian law company URVEST providing legal support to international carriers were made. The URVEST company is ready to work for the regional insurance project, constructing the Service Centers Network in the countries of interest and controlling its work.

*General Assembly took note of the report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI5/4833) held in Istanbul on 28 August 2017 as presented by the Chairperson Ms. Natalia Polunina. Requested the Working Party to finalise the required set of legal documents allowing implementation of the insurance product including an appropriate policy pricing scheme (tariff), and to continue establishing the necessary Service Network by also involving the URVEST company as a potential main partner, which could provide required services. Approved that the next meeting of the Working Party should take place in Istanbul in the first half of December 2017, which should target developing a concrete pilot project on CMR insurance in the BSEC region with the participation of the interested parties. Instructed the Working Party to submit the result of its work to the next meeting of the Management Council in January 2018.*

## SECOND SESSION

### VIII. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2017 (G4838)

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, to make a progress report regarding the BSEC-URTA priorities in 2017 (G4838).

In this connection, the General Assembly evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2017 as follows (G4838):

- a) Increase and Diversification of the BSEC-URTA Revenues
  - *Development of new Members/Observers/Donors/Sponsors (THADA, ABBAT, ICCIMA);*
  - *Elaboration of AULT – BSEC-URTA joint project application to IsDB;*

- *Regional CMR product development;*
  - *Business model with TOBB-UND.*
- 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.
- *Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the BSEC region, 18-19 October 2017;*
  - *4 of 8 participating countries (Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova) recognized on reciprocity basis BSEC Permits good for 3rd country transport operations in their countries;*
  - *ICCIMA interest in participating Iran in the system.*
- c) Support of Working Party on Insurance in developing BSEC CMR Insurance.
- *SWISS RE participation;*
  - *Inter-regional Transport Insurance Forum with AULT;*
  - *Seminar on computerization of TIR system and transport related documents (eCMR), Istanbul, Turkey, 15 June 2017;*
  - *Taking part with delegations of AEBTRI, UNTRR, TOBB in launching by OFAE the eCMR Pilot Project with the view to implement eCMR along the Balkan route, Thessaloniki, Greece, 22 June 2017.*
  - *Conclusion of the draft MoU with Istanbul Arbitration Center (ISTAC).*
- d) BSEC-URTA – AULT Joint ADR Project to IsDB
- *Coordination meeting with the AULT Secretary General, 22 March 2017.*
- e) Following eTIR Pilot Project
- *eTIR Pilot Project Turkey/Iran continues in Phase 2, the Customs authorities of Iran and Turkey continue to accept the coverage of e-guaranties issued for the transport operations of two countries.*
  - *eTIR Pilot Project Moldova/Ukraine in the pipeline. AITA-Moldovan Customs Authority-AIRCU-Ukrainian Customs Authorities-IRU Technical Meeting was held.*
  - *eTIR Pilot Project Ukraine/Turkey During the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Road Transport Conference in Odessa on 6-7 September 2017, TOBB and ASMAP-UA agreed to prepare a coordinating meeting of the Turkish and Ukrainian Customs Authorities for development of an e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine in November 2017;*
  - *e-TIR connecting Ukraine with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan - new project proposal by the Odessa Conference on 6-7 September 2017.*

**Ms. Asli Gozutok** told that International Secretariat is open to proposals of Members and Observers on priorities in 2018 and is waiting for feedback. There is need of diversification of revenues, thus need of developing regional products for implementation of which submit for sponsorship.

*General Assembly took note and approved the Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2017 (G4838) and requested the Management Council to identify BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2018 at the outset*

of the new year by also taking into account possible feedback of the Members and Observers in order to ensure such priorities will be very specific and project oriented as possible.

## IX. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ISTANBUL ARBITRATION CENTER (ISTAC) AND THE UNION OF ROAD TRANSPORT ASSOCIATIONS IN THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION REGION (BSEC-URTA)

**The Chairman** gave the floor to Mr. Sancar Suer, BSEC-URTA Legal Adviser, to make presentation in this regard.

**Mr. Sancar Suer** told on essence of arbitration, Istanbul Arbitration Center the aim of which is to be a regional arbitration hub that corresponds with BSEC-URTA's geography. Within BSEC-URTA Contact Point is supposed to be established for arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) solutions and trainings, conferences and other events for BSEC-URTA Members and Observers are planned to be held.

*General Assembly welcomed the developing cooperation between BSEC-URTA and the Istanbul Arbitration Center (ISTAC), and approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding between ISTAC and BSEC-URTA (G4839) and mandated the BSEC-URTA Secretary General to sign the MoU at a date to be jointly agreed upon by the parties.*

## X. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2018 (G4840)

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Mr. Haydar Ozkan**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to present the BSEC-URTA Working Programme 2018 (G4840).

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

The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2018 (G4840) was adopted, unanimously.

## XI. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### - BSEC-URTA BUDGET 2018

**The Chairman** gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, to present the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2018 (G4841).

The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2018 (G4841) was adopted, unanimously.

### - APPOINTMENT OF THE BSEC-URTA SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021

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

*General Assembly took note of and kindly respected the decision of Mr. Haydar Ozkan, the founding Secretary General of BSEC-URTA in office for stepping down in the end of his current term of office and nominating his Deputy as his successor.*

*Thanked Mr. Haydar Ozkan for his devotion, visionary leadership, guidance and outstanding commitment to the BSEC-URTA in facilitating road transport in the BSEC region since foundation of the BSEC-URTA in 2001 up to date and for his exceptional work to build a strong, well-established regional organisation serving the road transport in the BSEC region and beyond.*

*Appointed Mr. Adrian Albu as BSEC-URTA Secretary General for the term of office 2018-2021.*

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

**The Chairman** stated about receiving invitations: by LVS (Lithuania), AEBTRI (Bulgaria), AIRCA (Armenia) to hold its next meeting.

*General Assembly welcomed the invitations by LVS (Lithuania), AEBTRI (Bulgaria) and AIRCA (Armenia). In the absence of the LVS, who were unable to participate in Tirana meetings due to “inauspicious circumstances” as defined in their kind invitation letter, agreed to hold its meetings in 2018 according to the order of invitations of those inviting Members present in the meeting, namely in Bulgaria in spring 2018, and in Armenia in autumn 2018.*

### **XIII. DECISIONS (G4842) OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **XIV. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

**The Chairman** in her closing remarks thanked the International Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the meeting and ANALTIR 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 32<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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