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Istanbul, 23 May 2018

33rd MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Grand Hotel Sofia
Sofia, Bulgaria
Friday, 8 June 2018, at 10:30 hrs

DRAFT BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION * **ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FACILITATION MEASURES DESIGNED TO OPTIMISE BORDER CROSSING AT MAIN LAND BORDERS BETWEEN TURKEY, BULGARIA AND GREECE**

As an international organization of road transport associations in twelve Countries around the Black Sea and in its immediate neighborhood, the **BSEC-URTA**:

- is extremely concerned about the major border crossing difficulties at the external borders with the European Union (EU) mainly at the border crossing points between Turkey and Bulgaria and Turkey and Greece the land entrance gates into the EU of the Silk Road Middle Corridor uniting Asia to Europe;
- stress that in 2017 a number of 321,679 transport operations by road entered into Turkey from Bulgaria (273,549) and Greece (48,130) and a number of 444,444 transport operations left Turkey to/through Bulgaria (372,842) and Greece (71,602);
- highlights that 48% of the Turkish imports by road from EU in 2017 (153,291 trips) and 47% Turkish exports by roads to EU in 2017 (208,269 trips) are realized by foreign transport operators;
- deplores the consequence of these difficulties, which result in high waiting times at Turkish-Bulgarian border crossing points with great losses to international trade and transport between the BSEC countries and between BSEC Countries and Europe;

To overcome these difficulties, the **BSEC URTA**:

- appeals to the European Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the BSEC Organization and the national concerned Governments to work together in a true renewed partnership with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and all its concerned National Associations to radically improve without delay this unsustainable situation by:
 - properly implementing the UNECE transport related conventions, the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods and WCO agreements which highly proved to be facilitation tools for the international trade and transport
 - simplifying border crossing procedures by the application of modern risk assessment methods for selective controls, the introduction of common control services in border crossing points between Turkey and Bulgaria and Turkey and Greece, the application of the Single Window techniques, the

Single Administrative Document (SAD), and the –one stop border crossing-, etc.;

- enlarging the physical border crossing capacities by additional traffic lanes and other service facilities, in particular appropriate parking areas, etc.;
- targeting by Turkish and Bulgarian Customs Authorities of 1.600 truck daily crossings in Kapikule-Capitan Andrevo Border Crossing Point;
- opening additional borders into truck traffic such as Dereköy (TR) – Malco Tarnovo (BG) Border Crossing Point.

BSEC - URTA calls on the Turkish, Greek and Bulgarian Governments to take all necessary measures together with IRU and international organizations directly involved in border crossing facilitation such as the UNECE and the EU, WCO and BSEC to implement the abovementioned measures in the borders which not only serve for Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece but also play important role as gates between Asia and Europe.

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