

G5076

Istanbul, 14 September 2018

34th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

METROPOL HOTEL YEREVAN
Yerevan-Armenia
Friday, 5 October at 10:30 hrs

MINUTES OF THE 33rd MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

I. CHAIRMEN'S OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Asli Gozutok, President of BSEC-URTA, welcomed all participants and thanked high-level representatives of participating international organizations, notably Mr. Georgi Petarneychev - President of the hosting AEBTRI Association, H. E. Velik Zanchev - Deputy Minister of Transportation, IT and Communications, H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides - BSEC Secretary General, Mr. Peter Kanev - Vice President of Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Mr. Umberto De Pretto - IRU Secretary General, the Delegation of the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT) led by Mr. Malek Haddad - Chairman, Mr. Carlos Salim Al Hashim - Vice-Chairman and Dr. Mahmoud Abdalatt - Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Ziya Akinci – President of the Executive Board of Istanbul Arbitration Centre, Dr. Candan Yasan Tepetas – Secretary General of Istanbul Arbitration Centre, Mr. Dimitar Savov, Director Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, Ms. Tsvetelina Ilieva-Yordanova, Deputy Executive Director of Road Transport Agency, Ministry of Transport, Information and Technology of Bulgaria, Mrs. Elisaveta Takova – Chief Expert Customs Activity and Methodology Directorate of National Customs Administration of Bulgaria and Mr. Dobril Nenov – Chief Expert Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate of National Customs Administration of Bulgaria for their top-level participation.

Ms. President called on General Assembly to pay a moment of silence to Mr. Alexander Chkheidze, former President of GIRCA and Founder Member of BSEC-URTA who passed away on 3rd May 2018.

General Assembly paid a moment of silence in the memory of Mr. Alexander Chkheidze.

Mr. Georgi Petraneychev, as President of AEBTRI, welcomed all participants and thanked high-level representatives of participating international organizations, as well as President of BSEC-URTA, Ms. Asli Gozutok for their high-level participation. He told that the activity of road hauliers is subject to a number of restrictions on the territory of the EU - individual countries are imposing local requirements on minimum drivers 'pay and a ban on rest in drivers' cabs. The crisis for professional drivers is becoming a major problem for business development. The future is unclear as a result of the forthcoming legislative changes within the Mobility Package and Brexit.

The situation in the Black Sea region is also dynamic, although in particular the problems faced by road hauliers are well-known - insufficiently harmonized procedures and conditions for the carriage of goods, prolonged stays at border crossing points, the need to further facilitate customs procedures and others. Some of these challenges are solved, others need more active cooperation with the state administrations of BSEC Member Countries.

Mr. Petarneychev wished all attendees fruitful work.

Ms. Asli Gozutok, President of BSEC-URTA, expressed her proud that BSEC, distinguished representatives from Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information and Technology, as well as National Customs Administration of Bulgaria present among participants and volunteer to listen problems and exchange ideas for possible solutions in order to eliminate the physical and non-physical barriers in front of road transport industry. Ms. President told that with active involvement of the Management Council members, Chairpersons of the related Working Parties and efficient work of International Secretariat

BSEC-URTA has been represented in many events of importance for the industry and worked for promotion of BSEC-URTA and its strategic objectives in line with the Working programme for 2017 and 2018 defined under short and long term priorities. According to Ms. President's perspective the solutions of the problems the industry faces nowadays are not hidden somewhere but in 3 key components: political willingness, efficient resource and financial allocations to right investments, committed for solution of problems which faces the industry. There is need of real and efficient private-public partnership involvement.

H.E. Mr. Velik Zanchev, Deputy Minister of Transportation, IT and Communications, told that participation of the Ministry in the meeting expects the discussion on facilitation of the border crossing procedure between Bulgaria and Turkey. The facilitation of the border procedures by the use of contemporary risk assessment methods, the introduction of common control services on the cross-points between Bulgaria and Turkey, Greece and Turkey and by applying the principle of one stop optimize the transport process and decrease the losses of the transport companies.

The vision of the future of the transport has to be based on integrated joint management on the borders instead of having competition among the stakeholders. We should have synchrony in border controls and the procedures should be simplified by sending in advance information using electronic communication which should replace currently existing documents on paper.

H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides, Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, welcomed the hosting organisation AEBTRI and other participants, thanked for being invited to this event. He highlighted that BSEC PERMIS is always on the side of BSEC-URTA and shares the view that governments can do more and faster. BSEC will continue to make efforts for achieving objectives which contain three words: faster, cheaper, safer.

Mr. Christides informed about participation in World transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany. There were more than 1 400 participants and more than 40 ministers from all over the globe. There were hundreds of visitors of the BSEC stand, numerous ministers who were informed on BSEC activities. Materials provided by BSEC-URTA had great interest.

Mr. Peter Kanev, Vice President of Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), highlighted that BSEC region is on the crossroads from East to West, from North to the South, region rich with natural resources. That's why transport plays important role in economy and is the key factor for the development. PABSEC recognises that efforts of the BSEC countries should include measures for modernising and harmonising on the legal, financial, technical and organizational basis. PABSEC is also committed to continue its cooperation with partners, in particular with BSEC-URTA in helping to implement multilateral transport projects.

Mr. Dimitar Savov, Director Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, delivered the appreciation of the activities of the Union by Secretary General of PS IGC TRACECA Mr. Mircea Ciopraga. Both BSEC-URTA and TRACECA develop economic activities within Europe and Asia, improve transport connections in the region.

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 BSEC-URTA President with high participation to the General Assembly. He told about need of digital platform bringing all documents together. Main powers continue trade wars, apply to protectionism. We should explain governments that it's not transport but economic problem.

Prof. Dr. Ziya Akinci, President of the Executive Board of Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC), welcomed all the participants and briefly told about activities of ISTAC and preferences of arbitration in comparison with national courts which it can give the participants of transportation sector.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda (G4983/corr1) was adopted, unanimously.

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

Minutes of the 32nd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G4984) were adopted, unanimously.

IV. AEBTRI PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORT IN BULGARIA AND ON AEBTRI ACTIVITIES

(Oral Presentation)

Ms. Viliana Ivanova, Head of TIR Claims of AEBTRI, welcomed all participants and made a comprehensive presentation on international road transport organized in Bulgaria and activities of AEBTRI.

National network of roads ensures transportation of international importance. Total length of roads is around 20 thousand km with 734 km of motorways. The trend is the increase of length of motorways. As for Pan-European corridors, 5 of them go through the Bulgarian land with total length more than 2 000 km. The development of international transport in Bulgaria has the history of 60 years. In 1989 there were two mega-companies: SO MAT for international transport and DESPRED for international forwarding with branches in Europe and Middle East. As for the situation of today for international carriage of goods there are 12 509 licenses and around 66 000 vehicles registered. Number of licenses issued for internal carriages 3 072.

AEBTRI is an independent legal entity, non-profit organization, founded in 1962. Observer since 1962 and active member of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) since 1967. TIR Issuing and Guaranteeing association in Bulgaria since 1978 – approved by the National Customs Agency and IRU. Founding Member of BSEC-URTA. During the process of accession of Republic of Bulgaria to the EU, AEBTRI has worked in close co-operation with the Bulgarian competent authorities to transpose and implement the EU legislation. AEBTRI has an excellent partnership with the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications, with the Executive Agency “Road Transport Administration” and the National Customs Agency. AEBTRI trains drivers and managers (ex. IRU Academy training for CPC of transport managers, CPC for drivers of trucks, buses and coaches etc.) provides such services like VAT reimbursement to the Bulgarian transport companies from many European countries, ADR consulting, Representation in France according to the Macron law etc. General Assembly noted the information provided by Ms. Viliana IVANOVA, Head of TIR Claims of AEBTRI on “Road Transport System in Bulgaria and Services provided by AEBTRI to Road Transport Industry”.

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.

The Management Council decided to propose the General Assembly to set up a BSEC-URTA Ad Hoc Working Party to analyze the existing problems at the internal and external borders along the main road corridors crossing the BSEC region with a view to find, propose concrete solutions to governments of BSEC Member States, European Union, Middle East and Central Asia and follow up their implementation.

Management Council took note of the report of the 6th Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Party on Insurance as presented by the Chairperson Ms. Natalia Polunina and decided to propose the General Assembly to endorse it as well as evaluated the development of cooperation between Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC) and BSEC-URTA and decided to propose the General Assembly to continue cooperation with ISTAC with a view to implement the common agreed Action Plan.

Also, Management Council evaluated the information provided by the Legal Adviser that there is no need to develop a commercial company next to BSEC-URTA, the existing provisions according to the Turkish

legislation giving a possibility to develop as part of BSEC-URTA of an economic structure which could deal with commercial operations of the organization and decided to propose the General Assembly to approve the creation of such an economic structure.

Management Council noted the information provided by BSEC-URTA President on participation of the Secretary General to the founding meeting of Belt Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA) on 19 June 2018.

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

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Secretary General**.

Mr. Adrian Albu showed that there are high waiting times on the borders of Turkey with EU. Hauliers crossing borders from EU to Turkey and from Turkey to EU are 50 % EU hauliers. In the result EU is very much effected by the situation. As Mr. De Pretto told Brussels should much more care what's going on in the BSEC region.

Mr. Alpdogan Kahraman, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, presented some statistics on the matter of border-crossing waiting times. On export direction on Turkish-Bulgarian and Turkish-Greek border crossing the goods destination or flag of carriers cover 44 countries. On import direction again 50 % of carriers are non-Turkish-Bulgarian-Greek hauliers. In order to raise awareness of the competent authorities and eliminate obstacles faced by hauliers going to markets such as Middle East and Far East (China) BSEC-URTA elaborated the above mentioned Resolution.

H.E. Ambassador Michael B. Christides told that he was impressed by the statistics and requested BSEC-URTA to send the Presentation on Border Crossing Problems to PERMIS before the forthcoming ministerial meeting under the Azerbaijan chairmanship-in-office in BSEC.

Mr. Adrian Albu thanked Mr. Christides and proposed to organise as a side event of the ministerial meeting the meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods and the Meeting of Working Group on Transport in order to bring together specialists from the ministries of transport, analyse problems and make concrete proposals for improvement to the ministerial meeting.

Ms. Iro Dumani, OFAE Executive Assistant, supported the idea of H.E. Ambassador to bring these subjects to ministerial meetings. At the same time Ms. Dumani showed that unfortunately there is huge lack of infrastructure on the Greek side in Greece-Turkey border-crossing point Ipsala compared with Turkish border gate which was rehabilitated and modernized.

Mr. Umberto de Pretto highlighted that the time figures are necessary in order to figure out the economic cost. If you show the figures alone peoples would only confess that's horrible because they'll not understand economic impact. We have to turn these figures of time losses into X billion Euros losses every year. We should bring the reality of trucks blocked on borders to governments while ministers give commitments for sustainable economic development, trade facilitation, social equity, environmental protection.

Mr. Adrian Albu recalled the proposal of the Management Council to be set up a working party to study what are the real reasons of these bottlenecks and what could be proposed to governments for improvement. Conclusions of the work to be comprised in a resolution to be presented to the governments in customs related meetings and transport related meetings, finally in the meeting of Ministers of Transport under Azerbaijan chairmanship-in-office in BSEC.

Ms. Olivera Miovska, AMERIT Head of TIR Department and Goods, expressed AMERIT support of such BSEC-URTA initiative to force decision-makers to do steps regarding the situation on the borders.

Border waiting times causes great economic loss to each of us. We are expecting positive results on this resolution.

Ms. Elena Medvedeva, ASMAP UA Executive Director, showed that Ukrainian hauliers also face problems on crossing Ukraine-EU borders. ASMAP-UA determined that drivers move only 30% of time, the rest of the time they either rest or wait at the border. It's big economic loss for operators so the initiative was welcomed.

Ms. Selcan Balantekin, TOBB Expert, explained that TOBB carries out the renovation work on the boarder gates of Greece and Bulgaria. The aim is to expand and improve infrastructure of Kapikule. It's no matter how well the physical conditions are, the results cannot be achieved while the bureaucratic obstacles are not removed. This topic should be brought as hot discussion to the European Commission together with colleagues from Bulgaria and Greece.

Ms. Iro Doumani mentioned that Mr. Kennanidis proposes national associations from Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece with BSEC-URTA and IRU representatives to visit border-crossing points and to discuss with all involved authorities on the spot emphasizing the problems.

Mr. Sancar Suer, BSEC-URTA Legal Adviser, TOBB-UND Cheif Executive Officer, stated that the follow-up is important. We've got proposals to the governments, somebody should follow them up with international organizations. It's up to BSEC-URTA, IRU, associations.

Mr. Dumitru Albulesa, AITA Administrator, presented the online monitoring system at Moldavian borders which shows in real time how many vehicles are in the queue in the border. Drivers reaching this information can decide whether to use this or that point.

Mr. Georgi Petrarneychev mentioned that usually waiting time at Captan Andreevo is between 24-72 hours. The driver profession is not very popular, sometimes drivers are forced to wait up to 6 days on the border. The time when they are waiting in the queue they are not provided any living conditions (running water etc.) He supported the initiative to create the data collecting information center. But already now there is need of timely solution. He expressed that working together with the Turkish colleagues could be elaborated solutions for reduction at least 50 % of waiting time of carriers, at the border points.

The General Assembly evaluated the information provided by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General on the repeated queues and long waiting times at the borders of Turkey with Bulgaria and Greece and in order to adopt a BSEC-URTA Resolution on Implementation of Facilitation Measures designed to Optimize Crossing at Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece Main Land Borders, decided to set up a BSEC-URTA Ad Hoc Working Party to analyze the existing problems at the internal and external borders along the main road corridors crossing the BSEC region with a view to find and propose concrete solutions to governments of BSEC Member States, European Union, Middle East and Central Asia and follow up their implementation.

VII. REPORT OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON INSURANCE IN ISTANBUL ON 7 FEBRUARY 2018

The Chairman gave the floor to **Ms. Natalia Polunina**, Chairperson of the Working Group.

Ms. Natalia Polunina presented the Report of the 6th meeting (WPI6/4986) as well as the verbal report of the 6th Meeting held on 7 February 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey.

General Assembly took note of the report of the 6th Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI6/4986) held in Istanbul on 7 February 2018 as presented by the Chairperson Ms. Natalia Polunina and decided to endorse it.

VIII. INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF BSEC-URTA - ISTANBUL ARBITRATION CENTER (ISTAC) COOPERATION AND PRESENTATION BY ISTAC

The Chairman gave the floor to **Prof. Ziya Akinci, President of the Executive Board of Istanbul Arbitration Centre.**

Prof. Ziya Akinci made comprehensive presentation of ISTAC. He told if there is transportation there is a potential of dispute between the parties. In national courts it may take long time, it's expensive and judges are not experts. In ISTAC we want to be transport-friendly arbitration institute and to cooperate as much as possible with BSEC-URTA. We are ready to provide much faster resolution as 3 months only for cases in transportation sphere and arbitrators are experts in the field.

Mr. Sancar Suer showed that a Survey was made on arbitration among our members and observers. The International Secretariat received their replies and understood that there is need of basic information on arbitration to be given to associations. He stated that a brochure on arbitration will be published for distribution among associations and request of nominees from associations to the contact point will follow it.

The General Assembly evaluated the development of cooperation between Istanbul Arbitration Center (ISTAC) and BSEC-URTA and mandated the International Secretariat to follow the implementation of steps foreseen in the action plan for 2018.

SECOND SESSION

The Chairman gave the floor to **Dr. Mahmoud Abdallatt, AULT Secretary General**, who expressed that AULT has very special relationship with BSEC-URTA and its leadership. He told audience that soon the Syrian border will be opened for transport and when it opens things will change dramatically the cargo and passengers movement between Middle East, Turkey, Europe, Black Sea Region. AULT is much willing to help in cooperation with BSEC-URTA being happy to provide all the needed assistance to BSEC operators for working in Middle East region. At the same time AULT would like to be a part of arbitration project and insurance project.

IX. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2018 (G4987)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to make a progress report regarding the BSEC-URTA priorities in 2018 (G4987).

In this connection, the General Assembly evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2018 as follows:

- a) Increase and Diversification of the BSEC-URTA Revenues
 - *Development of new Members/Observers/Donors/Sponsors (THADA, ABBAT, ICCIMA);*
 - *Business model with VIATRANS, TOBB-UND, URVEST.*
- 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;*
 - *In 2018, the BSEC Permit system is based upon 500 permits per country, which are good for both bilateral and transit transport operations among and through territories of all 8 participating States;*
 - *ICCIMA interest in participating Iran in the system.*

- 4 out of the 8 participating countries, namely Albania, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova agreed to initiate in 2018 a Pilot Project for a Multiple BSEC Permit System.

c) Support of Working Party on Insurance in developing BSEC CMR Insurance.

- Clarification with SWISS RE possibility of including Turkey into the CMR+ Pilot Project.
- Market search for evaluation of proposals on creation of IT-platform.
- Technical analysis and elaboration of Financial Plan for IT-platform and generally for the CMR+ Project.
- After 3-4 countries are determined for participation in the CMR+ Pilot Project and concrete steps in creation of IT-platform are elaborated the International Secretariat submits to the IRU fund for financing support. As B Plan be ready to elaborate other mechanisms of searching donors/investors such as BSTDB.
- Elaborate the Road Map for CMR+ initiative with duly written steps, and then approve it on the 33rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, which will be held on 8 June 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Preparation of legal basis, regulatory documents (like MoU, agreements etc.) between BSEC-URTA, Associations and insurers and reinsure
- Identifying the possibility of embedding a free-of-charge arbitration component in a future BSEC CMR insurance product.

d) Follow and contribute to integration of “single window” system among BSEC Member States

- Appropriate meetings will be held in the second semester of 2018 under the Azeri Chairmanship of BSEC Organization (1 July-31 December 2018).

e) Following eTIR Pilot Project

- eTIR Pilot Project Turkey/Iran. After implementation with success of the 2nd stage of the Project, the Customs authorities of Iran and Turkey continue accepting the coverage of e-guaranties issued for the transport operations between the two countries.
- eTIR Pilot Project Moldova/Ukraine. AITA, Moldovan Customs Authority, AIRCU, Ukrainian Customs Authority and IRU held meetings on technical and organizational matters related to implementation of the Pilot Project.
- eTIR Pilot Project Ukraine/Turkey. A coordinating meeting of the Turkish and Ukrainian Customs Authorities, ASMAP-UA and TOBB and IRU and BSEC-URTA for development of e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine was held during 9-10 May in Istanbul and Izmir, Turkey. Custom Authorities from Turkey and Ukraine are evaluating results of the meeting in order to set up an action plan for beginning of the Pilot Project.
- e-TIR connecting Ukraine with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Customs authorities from concerned countries and member associations signed protocols in order to start implementation of the Pilot Project.

Ms. Asli Gozutok noted that we have got a lot of projects, and we are eager to bring them out of Pilot status and implement them on permanent basis. Besides, we are trying to promote eCMR tools and CMR Protocol in respect of authorities. There is willingness of operators of the region to use some other transit systems which can start from Turkey or from member states. BSEC-URTA wants to contribute and succeed all the topics as priorities. Very recent development within Iran Pilot Project. Customs authorities increased number of customs offices within pilot. Transport sector is pushing from the bottom. We need more willingness and more cooperation in UN ECE meetings. BSEC-URTA with IRU will support the digitalization seminar in Baku on 5 September 2018.

General Assembly took note and approved the Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2018 (G4987) and instructed the International Secretariat to continue a sustainable work for their implementation.

X. FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- AUDIT REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC-URTA BUDGET FOR 2017

The Chairman gave the floor to **auditor Ms. Viliana Ivanova** who presented the implementation details of 2017 Budget. The main issue was contribution fee payment. Auditors instructed International Secretariat to send reminder to those who didn't make payment. Due to recent situation payments were done by everybody despite Rosgosstrakh.

Ms. Asli Gozutok the Budget was endorsed in October 2017 with the existing figures.

Ms. Natalia Polunina showed that always Rosgosstrakh fulfilled its financial obligations. But in 2017 the owner of the company changed, management changed. Nowadays Rosgosstrakh is owned by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. Banking regulations, approach changed. Contribution fee to BSEC-URTA may be paid not exceeding 2 500 Euro. When the insurance project that is under elaboration begins to work there will be an opportunity to raise the question of increase the contribution fee.

Mr. Adrian Albu showed that Rosgosstrakh was always paying in time. Company sent a request to International Secretariat to issue invoice for 2 500 Euro. It was impossible to do it because of our internal rules. The Budget was approved by the General Assembly on 13 October 2017 and became a must for the International Secretariat to implement it. The General Assembly should decide how to go out from the situation.

General Assembly approved the Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2017 (G4973). Noted the information provided by the International Secretariat on non-receival of the Observer fee from Rosgosstrakh for 2018 and following the explanations given by Rosgosstrakh representative Ms. Natalia Polunina decided to decrease the contribution fee for 2018 from 10,000 Euro to 2,500 Euro.

- REINFORCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu** who introduced new appointed Deputy Secretary General Mr. Alpdogan Kahraman, his experience and skills.

General Assembly took note of the information provided by the BSEC-URTA Secretary General on the appointment of Mr. Alpdogan Kahraman as Deputy Secretary General for the period 1 April 2018 - 1 April 2019 and expressed its support for reinforcement of the International Secretariat within the available financial resources.

- FOUNDATION OF A COMMERCIAL COMPANY OF BSEC-URTA

The Chairman told that the idea is not new, the Management Council considered this issue in February in order to handle commercial proposals from companies willing to cooperate with BSEC-URTA (URVEST, Mobiltrust etc.). Management Council decided to establish commercial company under BSEC-URTA. The International Secretariat has carried out legal work with its Legal Adviser Mr. Suer.

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Sancar Suer, Legal Adviser**, who provided legal details on economic entity establishment options: separate economic entity, economic entity inside the organisation as a brunch.

General Assembly evaluated the information provided by the Legal Adviser, Mr. Sancar Sefer Suer, that there is no legal necessity to develop a commercial company next to BSEC-URTA, the existing provisions according to the Turkish legislation give a possibility to develop as part of BSEC-URTA of an economic structure which could deal with commercial operations of the organization. In this regard the General Assembly decided to establish an economic entity within the Union and authorized the Management Council to take all necessary steps to implement the General Assembly Decision.

- REQUEST OF AMERIT FOR BSEC-URTA MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman explained that International Secretariat received the request of AMERIT to grant full Member status and gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**.

Mr. Adrian Albu: AMERIT was given Observer status three years ago. According to BSEC-URTA Statutes (Article 4 Membership) "Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, however, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly may also grant, by two-thirds majority of the core Members, Member status to:

- an existing BSEC-URTA Observer, which completed 3 years within the BSEC-URTA and is active in a region neighbouring the BSEC region".

In the end of 2018 AMERIT will fulfil this condition, it's active member of IRU and fits all necessary criteria.

Ms. Olivera Miovska thanked everybody for giving AMERIT support.

General Assembly decided to grant BSEC-URTA Membership to AMERIT as of 1 January 2019 with a contribution fee of 4,000 EURO.

XI. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman informed about renewal of the invitation of AIRCA (Armenia) to host the next meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Yerevan.

Mr. Herbert Hambartsumyan, AIRCA President, reiterated the invitation of AIRCA to Yerevan to host the next meeting of General Assembly.

General Assembly agreed to hold its next meeting in Yerevan, Armenia on 5th October 2018.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

The Chairman stated that Management Council made a decision to be a founding member of Belt Road International Transport Alliance. In June there will be founding preparation meeting and President made a proposal to the General Assembly to mandate the Secretary General to participate and represent the organisation there.

The General Assembly noted the information provided by BSEC-URTA President on participation of the Secretary General to the founding meeting of Belt Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA) on 19 June 2018.

XIII. DECISIONS (G4989) OF THE 33rd 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 organization of the meeting and AEBTRI 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 33rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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