

G6091

Istanbul, 28 April 2019

35TH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOBB PLAZA
Istanbul-Turkey
Tuesday, 28 May at 12:00 hrs

MINUTES OF THE 34ND 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 the BSEC Deputy Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, H.E. Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and IT, Mr. Armen Pambukhchyan as well as President of AIRCA Mr. Herbert Hambardzumyan for their top-level participation. She told that Armenia has very strategically precious location on the crossroads and at the same time it is a special destination for transportation of the BSEC region countries.

Mr. Herbert Hambardzumyan, as President of AIRCA, welcomed all participants and thanked high-level representatives of participating international organizations, notably the BSEC Deputy Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, H.E. Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and IT, Mr. Armen Pambukhchyan and BSEC-URTA President, Ms. Asli Gozutok and wished fruitful work.

Mr. Armen Pambukhchyan, Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and IT, welcomed all the attendees on behalf of the Ministry. He underlined important role of BSEC-URTA in transportation sector and in development of international transport in the region. For Armenia as a landlocked country BSEC is an essential body which helps in solving numerous problems related international carriage.

H.E. Traian Chebeleu, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, welcomed the hosting organisation AIRCA and other participants, thanked for being invited to this event. He underlined that transport is the major area for BSEC activities. BSEC attaches great importance to cooperation with BSEC-URTA in joint efforts to promote faster, safer and more competitive transport in BSEC region. Currently much attention is paid to digitalization of procedures of transport, in particular the promotion of single window and joint control procedures reducing waiting time for vehicles at national border crossing points and facilitating customs checks; advancement of the existing TIR tools, TIR Carnet, eTIR and TIR EPD. Encouragement of adoption of the Annex 11 to the TIR Convention as legal basis for digitalization of TIR procedures for further facilitation of international trade is foundation stone either. BSEC also supports the efforts of digitalizing the BSEC Permit System and extending it for multiple trip usage.

Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of IRU, welcomed the high level guests and representatives of member associations participating in the General Assembly, congratulated AIRCA for hosting it and highlighted his pleasure to be in Armenia. He told that the experience of BSEC on Brexit issue will be very important. The biggest problem will be permits. BSEC Permit System will be more flexible,

electronic. You are giving way for others in the world when you continue to facilitate trade. Keep up good work. We should arrange future for ourselves focusing on innovation and starting with today and shape our activities for not only to follow but lead developments. Mr. Umberto de Pretto also invited all the participants to IRU General Assembly in Oman.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda (G5075/corr. 1) was adopted, unanimously.

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

Minutes of the 33rd Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G5076) were adopted, unanimously.

IV. AIRCA PRESENTATION ON TRANSPORT IN ARMENIA AND ON AIRCA ACTIVITIES

(Oral Presentation)

Ms. Gayane Barseghyan, TIR transport, SafeTIR responsible at AIRCA, made a comprehensive presentation on international road transport organized in Armenia and activities of AIRCA. Today AIRCA has 38 Active and 298 Associated members. They represent almost all large and general transport companies in Armenia. The total amount of trucks owned by members which are approved for TIR transport is about 800 units. Most of them are used ones. All trucks correspond to Euro 3-4-5 standards. Almost 80% are refrigerators. Measures assisting to development of road transport in Armenia: 1. Improvement of laws on transport. 2. Correction of international agreements on 3-rd countries transportation. 3. Joining to international conventions on road transport, particularly ADR. 4. Implementation of Weight Certificate in CIS and BSEC. 5. Reducing leasing percentage and VAT for new vehicles purchase. 6. Currently, everything is done for implementation of TIR-EPD and e-CMR systems in Armenia.

V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

(Oral Presentation)

Ms Asli Gozutok, 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 2018 (G5081).
- Conclusions of Seminar on International Trade and Transport Facilitation Through Digitalization of TIR Procedures, Baku on 5 September 2018 (G5077).
- Report of the 7th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI7/5079).
- Report on the Results of Activities of the BSEC-URTA Working Party on Border Crossing Problems in BSEC region (G5080).
- BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2019 (G5082).
- BSEC-URTA Draft Budget for 2019 (G5083).

The Management Council evaluated the information provided by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General on the results of Border Crossing Problems Survey. Also, endorsed the Draft BSEC-URTA Resolution on Implementation of Facilitation Measures Designed to Optimize Border Crossing at Main Land Borders of the BSEC Region along the Road Transport Corridors Connecting Europe to Middle East and Central Asia and decided to present it to the 34th Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly on 5 October 2018.

VI. CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION THROUGH DIGITALIZATION OF TIR PROCEDURES, BAKU ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2018 (G5077)

The General Assembly endorsed the Conclusions of the Seminar on International Trade and Transport Facilitation Through Digitalisation of TIR Procedures, Baku on 5 September 2018.

VII. REPORT OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON INSURANCE IN ISTANBUL ON 27 JULY 2018 (WPI7/5079)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Ms. Natalia Polunina**, Chairperson of the Working Group, to present the Report of the 7th meeting (WPI7/5079) as well as the verbal report of the meeting held on 27 July 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey.

General Assembly took note of the report of the 7th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party on Insurance (WPI7/5079) held in Istanbul on 27 July 2018 as presented by the Chairperson Ms. Natalia Polunina.

VIII. REPORT ON RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BSEC-URTA AD HOC WORKING PARTY ON BORDER CROSSING PROBLEMS IN BSEC REGION ()

General Assembly evaluated the information provided by the Deputy Secretary General on the results of Border Crossing Problems Survey (G5080). Adopted the BSEC-URTA Resolution on Implementation of Facilitation Measures Designed to Optimize Border Crossing at Main Land Borders of the BSEC Region along the Road Transport Corridors Connecting Europe to Middle East and Central Asia, instructed the International Secretariat to disseminate it to the concerned organizations and authorities and requested the President and the Secretary General to present it during the forthcoming Meeting of Ministers of Transport of BSEC Member States to be held in Baku on 25 October 2018.

SECOND SESSION

IX. ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2018 (G5081)

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 (G5081).

In this connection, the General Assembly evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2018 as follows (G5081):

a) Increase and Diversification of the BSEC-URTA Revenues

- *Development of new Members/Observers/Donors/Sponsors (THADA, ABBAT, ICCIMA); participation in a preliminary founding meeting of the Belt Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA) on 18-19 June 2018 in Beijing;*
- *Develop commercial activities (establishment of the Economical Enterprise. BSEC-URTA; elaboration of a regional CMR+ product and decision to launch the product sales; business model with TOBB-UND).*

b) Develop further and expand BSEC Permit to Eurasia

- *4 of 8 participating countries (Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova) recognized on reciprocity basis BSEC Permits good for 3rd country transport operations in their countries;*

- *The Turkish MoT, TOBB and UND are prepared to propose the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport to consider in a positive manner development of the BSEC Permit system in an electronical format;*
- c) Support of Working Party on Insurance in developing BSEC CMR Insurance
- *With support of the Chairperson, interested insurance companies from the region participated in the 7th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Party took place in Istanbul on 27 July 2018 in order to conclude development of a regional CMR+ product.*
- d) Support Working Party on Border Crossing Problems in BSEC Region
- *Member Associations and Observers nominated representatives to the WPBC;*
 - *Survey on Border Crossings was held between the dates of 3 July – 3 September 2018. Summary analytic report based on data received from associations was prepared for distribution on transport related meetings of BSEC and to other competent authorities.*
- 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;*
 - *e-TIR connecting Ukraine with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Organized in partnership with IRU, State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, BSEC, BSEC-URTA and ABADA a Seminar on International Trade and Transport Facilitation Trough Digitalization of TIR Procedures was held in Baku on 5 September 2018.*

General Assembly approved the Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2018 (G5081) and requested the Management Council to identify BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2019 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.

X. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2019 (G5082)

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to present the BSEC-URTA Working Programme 2019 (G5082).

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

The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2019 (G5082) was adopted, unanimously.

XI. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- BSEC-URTA BUDGET 2019

The Chairman gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, to present the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2019 (G5083).

The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2019 (G5083) was adopted, unanimously.

- APPOINTMENT OF BSEC-URTA DEPUTY PRESIDENT FOR 2019-2020 AND ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA VICE PRESIDENTS FOR 2019-2020

The Chairman informed the General Assembly on the subject matter.

General Assembly upon proposal of BSEC-URTA President appointed Mr. Georgi Petarneychev (President of AEBTRI) as BSEC-URTA Deputy President for the term-of-office 2019-2020 and elected Mr. Eduart Kasa (Director of ANALTIR) and Ms. Elena Medvedeva (Executive Director of ASMAP-UA) as BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents for the term-of-office 2019-2020.

XII. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman stated about receiving invitations: by TOBB (Turkey) and AMERIT (FYROM) to hold the next meetings.

General Assembly welcomed the invitation of TOBB to hold the next spring statutory meetings in Istanbul and the invitation of AMERIT to hold the autumn session of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Skopje or Ohrid, Macedonia at a date to be later determined.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Under miscellaneous item **the Chairman** informed about invitation to the next meeting of Belt Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA).

General Assembly decided to participate to the next meeting of Belt Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA) to be held in June 2019 in Beijing and instructed the International Secretariat to contribute to the elaboration of the meeting related documents.

XIV. DECISIONS (G5085) OF THE 34th 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.

XV. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman in her closing remarks thanked the International Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the meeting and AIRCA 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 34th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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