

G6093 Istanbul, 05 May 2019



35th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOBB PLAZA Istanbul - Turkey Tuesday 28 May 2019, at 14:00 hrs

ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES FOR 2019

Since the 34th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly held at Yerevan – Armenia, on 5th October 2018, the International Secretariat participated in events of importance for the industry, contributed to international gatherings and worked for promotion of the BSEC-URTA and its objectives.

A summary of these activities according to the BSEC-URTA strategic objectives, Working Program for 2019 and short-term priorities set by the BSEC-URTA Management Council is given in the attached table.

BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT ON SHORT TERM PRIORITIES BETWEEN 5TH OCTOBER 2018 AND 28TH MAY 2019

PRIORITY	ACTIONS	RESULTS
Increase and diversify BSEC-URTA revenues	Develop commercial activities.	The legal registration of the economical branch of BSEC-URTA is over. BSEC-URTA established an economic entity in the form of commercial enterprise within BSEC-URTA under the name "BSEC-URTA Karadeniz Ekonomik İşbrliği Karayolu Taşıma Dernekleri Birliği İktisadi İşletme" (Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region Economical Enterprise. BSEC-URTA). In this framework the International Secretariat continued consultations with VIATRANS and TOBB-UND Company in order to develop a business model for promoting their services on regional level.

Develop During the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, Baku, Expand the Permit further and Azerbaijan, 24 October 2018 and the Meeting of the Ministers in System expand BSEC charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States, Baku, Azerbaijan, Permit 25 October 2018, the BSEC-URTA delegation called on the to Eurasia delegations of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Greece to join the BSEC Permit System in order to fully cover the entire region of BSEC. The «BSEC Permit System» Meeting was held back-to-back with the 13th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region on 27 November 2018 in BSEC Headquarters in Istanbul. Member States, namely Albania, Georgia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, agreed to distribute 1000 permits in 2019 doubling the figure of the 2018. Armenia continues with 500 permits with the possibility to reconsider its position. 5 Member States (Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine) agreed to enlarge the usage of the permit on a voluntary basis to 3rd country transport operations. 5 out of the 8 participating countries, namely Albania, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Turkey agreed to initiate in 2019 a Pilot Project for an electronic BSEC Permit System. ICCIMA (Iran) and AMERIT (North Macedonia) have continued interest for supporting participation of Iran and North Macedonia in the BSEC Permit system subject to decision of their competent authorities and acceptance of BSEC Organization. ICCIMA and AMERIT are required to encourage their national authorities to make a final decision on this matter. Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Turkey and TOBB took an Digitalize the BSEC initiative to start an e-PERMIT pilot project. At an initial stage Turkey Permit System; will work with Moldova to digitalize the exchange of road transport permits between the two countries including the BSEC Permit, too. After completion of this initial stage the Pilot Project will be extended to all BSEC Member States on a voluntary bases. Support Activities of the ad Summary analytic report based on data received from Member Working Party hoc Working Party Associations and Observers during the Survey on Border Crossing (3 on Border on Border Crossing July - 3 September 2018) was distributed on transport related Crossina Problems in BSEC meetings of BSEC (Meeting of the BSEC WG on Transport, Baku, Problems in Region. Azerbaijan, 24 October 2018, Meeting of the Ministers in charge of **BSEC** Region Transport of the BSEC Member States Baku, Azerbaijan, 25 October 2018, Meeting of the BSEC WG on Customs Matters and joint Meeting of BSEC WGs on Trade & Economic Development and on Customs Matters 6 December 2018) and to other competent authorities (BSEC, EU, UNECE). During the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters on 6 December 2018 in Istanbul. it was decided to make site visits to border crossing points with obligatory participation of BSEC-URTA as well as to share experience of effective cross-border procedures on the spot. On 27 May 2019 will take place a Study Visit of representatives of Customs Authorities of the BSEC Member States. BSEC-URTA Member Associations, high representatives of UNECE. IRU and BSEC to the border crossing point (BCP) Kapıkule – Kapitan Andreevo on the Turkish-Bulgarian border followed on 28 May 2019

by a round table to assess the results of the site visit.

Follow eTIR Pilot Projects	e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran;	After implementation with success of the 2 nd stage of the Project, the Customs authorities of Iran and Turkey drafted and agreed on a cooperation agreement on fully coverage of road transport operations between the two countries by eTIR guaranties.
		During the 2 nd quarter of 2019 the agreement is going to be signed by parties and deferred for ratification to the national parliaments.
	e-TIR Pilot Project between Moldova and Ukraine;	With the help of US Aid, AITA and IRU the TIR EPD application is fully operational for Moldova and thus creating the necessary framework for an e-TIR Pilot Project between Moldova and Ukraine;
		AITA, Moldovan Customs Authority, AIRCU, Ukrainian Customs Authority and IRU held meetings on technical and organizational matters related to implementation of such a 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.
		Georgia informed that the implementation of the eTIR messages is at a final stage, and that they wish to activate eTIR transports soonest with Azerbaijan.
		Kazakhstan has implemented the eTIR messages. Negotiations will take place in Q3/19 to start eTIR transports with Azerbaijan.
		Azerbaijan has implemented the eTIR messages. Negotiations will take place in Q3/19 to start eTIR transports with Georgia.
		Ukrainian Customs will start the IT implementation by Q2 2019
	e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine;	Custom Authorities from Turkey and Ukraine are still evaluating results of the meeting held during 9-10 May 2018 in Istanbul and Izmir, Turkey in order to set up an action plan for beginning of the Pilot Project. No any development yet.
Promote eVisa for professional drivers	Present good examples and request application of these to the BSEC organs	The International Secretariat presented the good examples in the region and beyond in granting eVisas (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Oman, USA) during the transport related meetings of BSEC (Meeting of the BSEC WG on Transport, Baku, Azerbaijan, 24 October 2018, Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Transport of the BSEC Member States Baku, Azerbaijan, 25 October 2018, Meeting of the BSEC WG on Customs Matters and joint Meeting of BSEC WGs on Trade & Economic Development and on Customs Matters 6 December 2018.
		Following actions of BSEC-URTA the BSEC Secretary General will take the necessary measures to activate the Group of Experts on Visa Agreement to examine the possibility of granting professional drivers electronic visas.
Implement the ISTAC - BSEC-URTA Action Plan and promote its established activities.	Explore arbitration options for transport sector in BSEC and LAS	The Road Transportation and Arbitration brochure in 3 languages (English, Russian, Turkish) was jointly elaborated and published by two entities in order to satisfy the request of the sector for information concerning arbitration. It was disseminated by post and electronically. PDF version is available on www.bsec-urta.org.
		Conference "Ways of Disputes Resolution in Logistics and Transportation Sector & Proposals of Alternative Methods of Disputes Resolution" was held in Istanbul Bar on 4 January 2019. It was jointly

organized by Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC), BSEC-URTA and Association of International Hauliers of Turkey (UND).

BSEC-URTA President and Secretary General participated in the AULT General Assembly in Beirut on 2 May 2019 and presented the cooperation with ISTAC calling AULT to become part in this cooperation process.

Next Steps of Cooperation:

- appointment by Member and Observer Associations of persons to be trained by ISTAC on alternative dispute resolution and application their skills at logistics services to serve as a Contact Point;
- nomination of Arbitrators and Technic Experts from BSEC-URTA Members and Observers' countries;
- hosting of seminars on Ways of disputes resolution in Logistics and Transportation Sector in BSEC-URTA Members and Observers' countries.

BSEC-URTA Members and Observers are more than welcome to appoint a representative with relevant experience to the newly established ISTAC Working Party on Logistics.

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