

G6205

Istanbul, 16 October 2020

37TH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOBB Plaza
Istanbul, Turkey
Friday, 2 April 2021 at 12:00

MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

I. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

Mrs. Asli Calik, President of BSEC-URTA, welcomed all participants and thanked to Mr. Lefter Andonov Secretary General of the AMERIT and to the staff members of AMERIT for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants. At the same time BSEC-URTA President welcomed and thanked the high guests from the government and from abroad for their participation in the meeting: the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of North Macedonia H.E. Goran Sugareski, the Director General of Customs Administration of the Republic of North Macedonia, H.E. Gjoko Tanasoski, the Director of the State Transport Inspectorate of the Republic of North Macedonia, H.E. Rufat Huseini, the IRU Secretary General, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, and the Project Coordinator of BSEC Organization, Mr. Yevgen Koziy.

H.E. Goran Sugareski, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of North Macedonia thanked BSEC-URTA President for being invited to this event, welcomed the participants and appreciated AMERIT for hosting the General Assembly of BSEC-URTA. He underlined the strategic role of road transport for the economy of North Macedonia and for the trade of the countries from Balkans and the Black Sea region and in this regard the continues need for its facilitation. He emphasized that the BSEC Organization is a good platform for economic cooperation and that North Macedonia will join soon the organization and its projects like the BSEC Permit System.

Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General of IRU, welcomed the high level guests and representatives of member associations participating in the General Assembly, congratulated AMERIT for hosting it and highlighted his pleasure to be in Skopje. He stated that currently much attention is paid to digitalization of transport procedures, 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, 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. IRU also supports the efforts of digitalizing the BSEC Permit System and extending it for multiple trip usage.

Mr. Yevgen Koziy, Project Coordinator of BSEC Organization welcomed the participants and thanked for being invited to the meeting. He showed that BSEC attaches great importance to cooperation with BSEC-URTA and IRU in joining efforts to promote faster, safer and more competitive transport in BSEC region.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda (G6134/corr) was adopted, unanimously.

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

Minutes of the 35th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (G6135) were adopted, unanimously.

IV. AMERIT PRESENTATION ON ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN NORTH MACEDONIA AND ON OWN ACTIVITIES (Oral Presentation)

Mrs. Olivera Miovska, Head of TIR Department of AMERIT made a presentation on the road transport system in North Macedonia and on activities carried out by AMERIT for its members.

V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Oral Presentation)

Mrs Asli Calik, 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 2019 (G6136).
- 19th International Conference “International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”, Odessa, 4-5 September 2019
- BSEC Permit system 2020
- Working Programme 2020(G6137).
- Budget 2020(G6137).

The BSEC-URTA Management Council unanimously endorsed all the above mentioned documents and agreed to be presented to the General Assembly today for consideration and decision.

VI. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH BSEC

Mr. Yevgen Koziy, Project Coordinator of BSEC provided information to the General Assembly on the legal and political aspects of the development of transport routes in the BSEC region as defined by the 54th meeting of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC in Sochi-Russia on 25-26 September 2019.

Mr. Adrian Albu, Secretary General of BSEC-URTA informed the General Assembly that 7 BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, agreed to distribute 1000 permits in 2020. Armenia continues with 800 permits. 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. ICCIMA (Iran) and AMERIT (North Macedonia) show interest in participation of Iran and North Macedonia in the BSEC Permit system subject to decision of their competent authorities and acceptance of BSEC Organization. Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Turkey and TOBB took an initiative to start an e-PERMIT pilot project. At an initial stage Turkey 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 basis.

The General Assembly appreciated the good cooperation and coordination with the BSEC Organization under the BSEC Permit Project, expressed the hope for enlargement of the geographical coverage of the Permit, welcomed the decision of North Macedonia authorities to join the system and called for speeding up its digitalization.

VII. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH IRU

Mr. Alpdogan Kahraman, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC-URTA informed the General Assembly on participation in the 19th International Road Transport Conference jointly organized by ASMAP-UA and IRU in Odessa on 4-5 September 2019 and the General Assembly endorsed the conference Resolution.

Mr. Umberto De Pretto, IRU Secretary General, provided information to the General Assembly on the IRU initiative to organize the Logistics and Innovation Forum in London on 21 February 2020 and the World

Congress 2020 in Berlin on 19-21 October 2020. The General Assembly expressed its full support to these events.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORT ON BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2019

Mr. Adrian Albu, Secretary General of BSEC-URTA made a progress report regarding the BSEC-URTA Priority Activities in 2019 (G6136). In this connection, the General Assembly evaluated the Activity Report on the BSEC-URTA Priorities in 2019 as follows:

Increase and diversify BSEC-URTA revenues:

BSEC-URTA established an economic entity in the form of commercial enterprise within BSEC-URTA under the name "BSEC-URTA Karadeniz Ekonomik İşbirliği 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 further and expand BSEC Permit to Eurasia

7 BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, agreed to distribute 1000 permits in 2019 doubling the figure of the 2018. Armenia agreed to increase the quota amount to 800 permits. 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. ICCIMA (Iran) and AMERIT (North Macedonia) are supporting participation of Iran and North Macedonia in the BSEC Permit system subject to decision of their competent authorities and acceptance of BSEC Organization. Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Turkey and TOBB took an initiative to start an electronic PERMIT pilot project. At an initial stage Turkey 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 Working Party on Border Crossing Problems in BSEC Region

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 took 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) Kapikule – Kapitan Andreevo on the Turkish-Bulgarian border followed on 28 May 2019 by a round table to assess the results of the site visit. A Resolution was drafted by the International Secretariat which was considered and adopted by the General Assembly.

Follow eTIR Pilot Projects

e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran

After implementation with success of the 2nd stage of the Project, the Customs authorities of Iran and Turkey drafted on a cooperation agreement on fully coverage of road transport operations between the two countries by eTIR guaranties. The agreement is not yet signed.

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.

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

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. The International Secretariat will address the European Commission with a proposal to examine the possibility of granting professional drivers electronic visas.

The General Assembly approved the Activity Report on BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2019 (G6136) as presented by the Secretary General, Mr. Adrian Albu and requested the Management Council to identify BSEC-URTA Priorities for 2020 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. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2020

The Chairperson gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General who presented the International Secretariat proposals for the Working Programme for 2020.

The Meeting, on this occasion, reviewed and reconfirmed the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA. The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2020 (G6207) was adopted, unanimously.

X. TOBB-UND CO. REQUEST FOR BSEC-URTA MEMBERSHIP

The Chairperson gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu**, BSEC-URTA Secretary General who presented the request of TOBB-UND Company for upgrading its Observer Status to the BSEC-URTA to full flagged Membership. The General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Management Council decided to upgrade the status of TOBB-UND CO from Observer to full Membership of BSEC-URTA in accordance with BSEC-URTA Statutes Provisions of Article 4 Paragraph 2 and decided to grant it starting as of 1 January 2020 with a contribution fee of 4,000 euro/per year.

XI. ROSGOSSTRAKH REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM BSEC-URTA

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Secretary General informed the meeting that ROSGOSSTRAKH didn't fulfil its statutory obligation to contribute to the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2019 and informed the International Secretariat that its top management decided to leave the organization. Participants noted with regret the decision of ROSGOSSTRAKH to leave BSEC-URTA and decided to withdraw the BSEC-URTA Observer status of ROSGOSSTRAKH as of 1 January 2020.

XII. AUDIT REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA BUDGET FOR 2018 (G6151)

The Chairperson gave the floor to **Ms. Viliانا Ivanova (AEBTRI) elected auditor** on behalf of BSEC-URTA Auditors (2018-2019) to present the General Assembly the Audit Report on the BSEC-URTA Budget and Accounts- 2018. The General Assembly approved the Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2018 (G6151).

XIII. BSEC-URTA BUDGET FOR 2020 (G6138)

The Chairperson gave the floor to **Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Secretary General**, to present the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2020 (G5083). The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2020 (G5083) was adopted, unanimously.

XIV. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson, Ms. Asli Calik informed the meeting that President of OFAE wishes to have the floor under this agenda item. **Mr. Apostolos Kenanidis** in name of OFAE invited BSEC-URTA Member Associations to hold the next General Assembly of BSEC-URTA in Athens, Hellenic Republic in spring 2020 at a date to be later decided upon.

XV. DECISIONS (G6139) OF THE 36th MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson, Ms. Asli Calik 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.

XVI. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairperson, Ms. Asli Calik in her closing remarks highly appreciated AMERIT for hosting BSEC-URTA statutory meetings in Skopje during 17-18 October 2019 and warmly thanked the Secretary General of AMERIT, Mr. Lefter Andonov and his valuable staff for the excellent organization of the meetings and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants.

The 36th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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