

37th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Since the 36th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly held at Skopje – North Macedonia, on 18th October 2019, 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 2020 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 18th OCTOBER 2019 AND 31st DECEMBER 2020

PRIORITY	ACTIONS	RESULTS
Increase and diversify BSEC-URTA revenues	Develop commercial activities	BSEC-URTA established an economic entity in the form of commercial enterprise within BSEC-URTA In this framework the International Secretariat continued consultations with TOBB-UND Company in order to develop a business model for promoting their services on regional level. Consultations were held with: AEBTRI, ANALTIR, ASMAP UA, UNTRR, PUMEDTRANS, SMP, CCIS, ZMPD
Develop further and expand BSEC Permit to Eurasia	Expand the Permit System in parallel with promotion of ePermit system.	The first technical meeting on BSEC electronic-permit pilot project was held on 10-11 March 2020 in Ankara with the delegations from the Republic of Turkey, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The delegations designated contact points and agreed to start the elaboration and implementation of the e-Permit Pilot Project in coordination with BSEC PERMIS, IRU and BSEC-URTA. The second technical meeting on BSEC e-Permit Pilot Project was held on 1 July 2020 online. Representatives of ministries of transport of Turkey, Moldova and Ukraine as well as of BSEC PERMIS, BSEC-URTA, IRU, TOBB, ASMAP-UA and AITA participated the meeting. The participants agreed to hold bilateral meetings to start tests of e-Permit Pilot Project in coordination with BSEC PERMIS. Also, the parties decided to hold the third technical meeting within 2020 with all interested sides to evaluate the progress on the project. The third technical meeting on BSEC e-Permit Pilot Project was held on 1 July 2020 online on the occasion of the meeting of parties to the BSEC Permit Project on continuation of the system in 2021.

		<p>The representative of Ministry of Transport of Turkey presented a web application developed by ministry which could be suitable for electronic exchange of permits between interested parties. The presentation was much appreciated by participants to the meeting. During December 2020 a test exchange of permits will be done between Turkey and Ukraine.</p> <p>The Meeting of participating countries to the BSEC Permit System on continuation of the system in 2021 was held online on 21 October 2020. 7 BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, agreed to distribute 1500 permits in 2020 increasing with 50% the figure of 2019 and tripling the figure of the 2018. 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.</p> <p>IRU and BSEC-URTA support technically the BSEC in designing and printing the 2021 Quota of Permits which have been produced and submitted to the PERMIS on 20 November 2020.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Support Working Party on Border Crossing Problems in BSEC Region</p>	<p>Monitor waiting times at Border Crossing Points along road transport corridor in the region.</p>	<p>BSEC-URTA International Secretariat paid site visits to some border crossing points along the Balkan road transport corridors during 2-5 March 2020. The visits were done in order to assess the actual situation in regard to the border crossing waiting times and the related problems faced by the drivers, in particular problems due to immigrants forcing and penetrating the commercial compartments of vehicles.</p> <p>Monitored and worked with IRU, BSEC, TRACECA, ECO, Turcuk Council, National Governments and Member Associations for diminish of the impact of Covid-19 on activities of BSEC-URTA members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -February 2020, Turkmenistan closed its all borders (still closed) and Turkey closed its border with Iran (opened in June) - March 2020, Turkey closed its border with Iraq (opened in June) and took restricted measures against international road transport on its borders (removed in June). Ferry Lines in the Black Sea stopped taking on board drivers (removed in June) -March 2020 all BSEC Member States applied restrictive measures at their borders and along their national routes (partially removed in June and partilly reintroduced starting with October). <p>During the Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods held online on 10 June representatives of BSEC-URTA stressed that international transportation will play a significant role in the recovery of trade and of the economies of BSEC member states during and post Covid pandemic. BSEC-URTA put forward concrete proposals to the BSEC governments for the next 6 months in order to facilitate road transport of goods in the BSEC region and speed up the recovery process of economy.</p>

	Enhance cooperation on improvement, development and expansion of the secure parking concept among BSEC countries.	<p>International and regional cooperation for diminishing the negative impacts of covid-19 are essential. Facilitation measures in road transport such as long term visas for professional drivers, suspension of transit permit quotas, reduction of road-user charges etc. will help the recovery of the private sector.</p> <p>Digitalization in transport has become even more important because of Covid-19 and projects such as e-Permit, e-CMR and e-TIR are expected to be accelerated in the near future.</p> <p>A short movie was realized presenting as good example the truck parking area of TOBB-GTI Co at Kapikule Border Crossing point.</p> <p>The movie and information about TOBB-GTI Co was presented to the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport, Working Group on Customs matters, Working Group on Trade and Economic Development, Working Group on Transport, PABSEC and the EC DG MOVE experts for further promotion to governments of Member States.</p>
Follow eTIR Pilot Projects	<p>e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran</p> <p>e-TIR Pilot Project between Moldova and Ukraine</p> <p>e-TIR connecting Ukraine with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan</p> <p>e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine</p>	<p>After implementation with success of the 2nd stage of the Project, the Customs authorities of Iran and Turkey drafted a cooperation agreement on fully coverage of road transport operations between the two countries by eTIR guaranties. The draft agreement is still unsigned.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Customs authorities from concerned countries and member associations signed protocols in order to start implementation of the Pilot Project.</p> <p>No any development yet.</p>
Promote eVisa for professional drivers	Present good examples and request their application by the BSEC organs	<p>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 and requested consideration by member states the digitalization of issuance procedures of such visas.</p> <p>During the Covid-19 crises in the first half of 2020 many problems related to visas of professional drivers occurred in the EU space and IRU in coordination with BSEC-URTA addressed the EC DG HOME for seeking solutions. Next to extension of the validity of visas and some derogations related to number of days permitted to stay in the EU space the EC is working to launch in 2021 of a Pilot Project on issuance of e-Visas.</p>
