

G6207

Istanbul, 16 November 2020

37th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2021

The BSEC-URTA Member Associations are kindly requested to review below the vision, mission, strategic objectives and 2021 draft working programme of the BSEC-URTA, which will be approved by the 37th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:

VISION

Common solutions for common problems

MISSION

To work together with governments and the BSEC Organization, to enable road transport to deliver goods in a cost efficient manner, secure, smoothly and safely in an integrated BSEC road transport market and beyond, by interconnecting businesses, markets and all stakeholders to the best interest of society.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Facilitation.** Work together with the BSEC, its Related Bodies, the IRU and the Governments to develop and further facilitate road transport by implementing main UN international conventions and existing or new multilateral agreements aimed at eliminating barriers to road transport, removing any discriminatory measures, harmonizing and simplifying border crossing procedures.
2. **IRU-BSEC Interaction.** Obtain support of the IRU on solving regional problems and setting priorities regarding the road goods transport, channel its expertise, knowhow and guidance to the work of the BSEC organs and the Related Bodies.
3. **Re-opening of the Silk Road.** Support international activities and projects aimed at promoting re-opening of the Silk Road to modern truck, and develop contacts and cooperation in this connection, with the IRU Member Associations and other interested stakeholders from the countries along the historic Silk Road Routes, which are not represented in the BSEC Organisation.
4. **Professional Training.** Support the Member Associations to give professional training to national industry on international standards of the IRU Academy and encourage cooperation between the Member Associations in this field.
5. **Combined Transportation.** Support improvement of existing and development of new combined transportation services in the BSEC region.
6. **Lobbying and Promotion.** Organize with the Member Associations, IRU, BSEC and National Governments or contribute to the meetings, seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other types of events with a view to improving public image of road goods transport, protecting its common interests and creating new opportunities, particularly on the regional level.

7. **Good Examples.** Promote good examples and success stories among the Member Associations as well as their members and support roll out of best practices across the BSEC region.
8. **Information Sharing.** Make or contribute to regional researches and surveys about road transport industry in the BSEC region, and share available professional information with the BSEC fleet operators and Member Associations through the BSEC-URTA web portal.
9. **Improving Organisational Strength.** Review and update organisational structure and scope of activities in order to eliminate weaknesses and threats, built upon strengths and opportunities.

WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2021

Facilitation:

1. GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF BILATERAL AND TRANSIT ROAD TRANSPORT
 - a. Work with Member Associations and BSEC PERMIS to bring to the attention of BSEC Ministries of Transport that for the period of COVID-19 pandemic crises the road transport industry from the region requests suspension of the bilateral direct and transit permits bearing in mind that the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport in force since 2006 has as operative article “*gradual liberalization of road transport market*”.
 - b. Contribute together with AITA, UND, TOBB and ASMAP-UA to the implementation of the BSEC Pilot Project on ePermit setup between the ministries of transport from Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.
 - c. Continue lobbying with Member Associations, IRU, BSEC PERMIS for enlargement of the geographical coverage of the BSEC Permit, extension of its usage to 3rd Country road transport operations on voluntary and reciprocity basis, shift of its usage from single to multiple journeys.
2. SIMPLIFICATION OF VISA PROCEDURES FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS
 - a. Continue promoting to the BSEC Member States the profession of international truck driver, who should be granted facilitated conditions of mobility to be able to perform their profession freely similar in nature with the sailors or aircraft crews.
 - b. Promote the eVisa concept and good practice of Armenia, Azerbaijan, USA in development of an eVisa system in the Black Sea region.
 - c. Follow up and contribute together with IRU to the work of European Commission DG HOME for implementation of a Pilot Project on electronic Schengen Visa.
4. SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES
 - a. Continue monitoring the waiting times at border crossing points along main road transport corridors in the BSEC region, identify the problems, and call on concerned national authorities and international organizations for implementation of solutions to these problems.
 - b. Continue working for cancelation of disinfection procedures of vehicles at the Bulgarian borders with Turkey.

- c. Follow up continuation of the e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Iran, work for starting of the e-TIR Pilot Project between Turkey and Ukraine for Combined Transport and Multimodal Transport of Containers and encourage development of a similar project between Moldova Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.
- d. Encourage implementation of Green Lanes at BSEC border crossing points with EU Member States.
- e. Participate in the work of the BSEC Working Groups on Trade , Customs and Transport matters and continue promoting digitalization of the TIR System as well as of other road transport documents such as eCMR, ePermit, eVisa.

IRU-BSEC Interaction:

1. IRU-BSEC COOPERATION

- a. Contribute to implementation of the MoU between the BSEC Organization and the IRU if and when possible.
- b. Coordinate participation of the BSEC Secretary General or his delegates to take part in the events organised by the IRU and BSEC-URTA and vice versa.

2. IRU COOPERATION WITH THE BSEC RELATED BODIES

- a. Encourage and contribute to systematic interaction and cooperation with the BSEC Related Bodies on transport and trade facilitation in the BSEC region.

Re-opening of the Silk Road:

- a. Encourage national associations from neighbouring regions, notably across the ECO and LAS regions to join BSEC-URTA and contribute to its activities aimed at promoting or supporting the modern inter-regional Silk Road routes across the BSEC region.
- b. Promote and contribute to the activities undertaken by the BSEC and its organs as well as the ECO and LAS Organizations for implementing main principles of the IRU's Model Highway Initiative at regional level.
- c. Contribute to the development of the Belt Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA) as invited by the Chinese Initiative Committee.

Professional Training:

- a. Support the IRU Academy to organise regional meetings and seminars in partnership with the BSEC.
- b. Encourage BSEC Member States to mutually recognize Diplomas/Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator.

Combined Transport:

- a. Encourage and support ASMAP-UA and TOBB together with their Customs Authorities to continue their work for developing the eTIR Pilot Project initiated in 2018 for the movement of

semitrailers between Turkey and Ukraine using RO-RO vessels as well as for the intermodal transportation of containers between the two countries.

- b. Participate in the meetings of the Steering Committee of the Motorways of the Black Sea and support implementation of the related BSEC MoU.

Lobbying and Promotion:

1. COOPERATION BETWEEN TRANSPORT RELATED BSEC NGOS
 - a. Coordinate with the BSEC transport related NGOs reciprocal participation in meetings and events.
2. COOPERATION WITH THE BSEC PERMIS AND THE BSEC RELATED BODIES
 - a. Organize mutual working visits whenever necessary and make annual debriefings on activities and policy priorities of the BSEC-URTA.
 - b. Participate as sectoral dialog partner in the transport trade and economic development and customs related BSEC meetings, promote BSEC-URTA and IRU objectives and activities and lobby for implementation of solutions for facilitation of road transport of goods in the BSEC region.

Information Sharing:

1. BSEC-URTA WEB PORTAL
 - a. Keep the BSEC-URTA portal updated with professional news and regional developments.
 - b. Encourage the Member Associations to contribute to the content of the BSEC-URTA web portal by sharing information on their past or future main activities as well as recent developments and news at national level.

* * *