



UNION OF ROAD TRANSPORT ASSOCIATIONS IN THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION REGION
(BSEC-URTA)

DOC/GA04/IRU/03

Istanbul, 18 October 2003

FOURTH MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Baku – AZERBAIJAN
Thursday, 30 October 2003, at 10:00 hrs

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT UNION (IRU)

(Information Paper Prepared by the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat)

In compliance with the Preamble of its Statutes, BSEC-URTA wishes to establish a close and permanent cooperation with the IRU so that its activities, in-depth global experience and extensive means and facilities can rightly be used in regional formulations on the BSEC level. Moreover, Article 2 of the Statutes stipulates that BSEC-URTA shall carry out its activities in close co-operation with IRU, BSEC and its Related Bodies.

On the other hand, IRU has been giving its strong support to BSEC-URTA since its foundation in 2001, which is composed of IRU Members National Associations from 11 BSEC countries and tries to act like a bridge channeling road transport related activities and developments in the region towards IRU and conveying the latter's expertise, accumulated knowledge and leading role to the projects, working programmes and decision making mechanisms of BSEC and its Related Bodies.

In the Third Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly, which was held in Istanbul on 6 June 2003, there were important topics and developments as far as IRU and BSEC-URTA are concerned:-

- (1) Prepare the necessary documentation together with IRU, and bring to consideration of BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs the issue of having an Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas, Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator in the BSEC Region;
- (2) Conduct a fact finding mission to Iraq starting in Bulgaria and ending in Baghdad, of which the results would be presented on the occasion of an IRU event in early September 2003;
- (3) Make an official request to IRU for its financial support to BSEC-URTA activities, which declared to consider such a request in a favorable way.

In follow up of the abovementioned decisions made in Istanbul on 6 June 2003, certain developments took place or activities were carried out as follows:-

- (1) IRU prepared a Draft Agreement for the BSEC on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas, Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator in the BSEC Region.

BSEC-URTA officially asked BSEC PERMIS to bring this matter to the consideration of meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport at its meeting in Baku on 1-2 October 2003.



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WG welcomed this initiative and appreciated such cooperation and contribution of IRU and decided to submit the matter to consideration of BSEC Committee of Senior Officials at its meeting in Baku on 29-30 October 2003.

BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs is expected to make a decision on this issue at its Ninth Meeting to be held in Baku on 31 October 2003, where BSEC-URTA will be represented, too.

- (2) Due to deteriorating security conditions on the route from Northern Iraq towards Baghdad and taking note of the fact that IRU already achieved a fact finding mission from the Mediterranean Sea to the border crossing points on the Western Iraq, the BSEC-URTA fact finding mission to Baghdad had to be cancelled.
- (3) BSEC-URTA President wrote an official letter to IRU Secretary General on 1 July 2003 (LET/PRE/IRU/307-03) and asked his consideration and proper action for IRU to contribute EUR 35,000 per year to the BSEC-URTA budget starting from 1 January 2004.

By his letter dated 2 July 2003 (AD/G37274/PHW) IRU Secretary General informed his commitment to submit a formal request to competent IRU bodies to assist in the financing of BSEC-URTA's valuable activities. IRU Secretary General assured BSEC-URTA President that he would do his utmost to obtain an affirmative response and advised that he would be in a position to officially confirm if the competent IRU organs have agreed to contribute EUR 35,000 to the BSEC-URTA budget, only after the next IRU General Assembly meeting on 7 November 2003.

In addition, upon invitation of IRU, BSEC-URTA General Secretary had the opportunity to participate and make an intervention in IRU Second Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference, which was held in Teheran on 6-7 October 2003 (please see the Conference Declaration in Annex 1).

As a result of the above meetings and contacts, the following issues, projects or subjects would remain to be priority for the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat in its cooperation with the IRU:-

- (1) Work for increasing the interaction and contacts between IRU and BSEC PERMIS;
- (2) Follow up and take new action as regards elaborating and finalizing of an Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas, Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualification for Road Haulage Operator and Road Passenger Transport Operator in the BSEC Region;
- (3) Look for cooperation in organization of an International Conference on Transport and Logistics in the Black Sea in Sofia in June 2004 as a parallel event of Fifth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly;
- (4) Look for cooperation in forming a Network of Excellence between Training Centers/Institutes of Member Associations under European Union 6th Framework Program;
- (5) Follow up decision of the IRU competent organs concerning IRU's contribution to the BSEC-URTA budget.

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