



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

DOC/GA04/WP/03

Istanbul, 10 October 2003

FOURTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2004

Introduction

In 2004, BSEC-URTA will continue to plan and execute its activities as well as design and follow its projects in the perspective of facilitating flow of trade in the BSEC region by trying to bring common solutions to common problems of road transport as well as building or leading to building of joint projects between Member Associations and their members, which may result positive outcome for promoting and developing the industry. Moreover, BSEC-URTA will keep its focus on combined transport and the potential fields of synergy with road transport in the Black Sea as well as the Mediterranean and Caspian Seas.

BSEC-URTA will give importance to ensuring interaction with every regional process or project, particularly including EU, SECI, TRACECA and CIS.

With these objectives in mind, BSEC-URTA will pursue its contacts and cooperation efforts with the international organizations and institutions that work for common goals or can contribute to attainment of its own goals. Furthermore, it will strive for channeling the valuable knowledge and experiences of such organizations and institutions into the BSEC process.

Proceeding from this fact, BSEC-URTA will continue its strategic cooperation with IRU in every aspect.

As a concluding remark in this regard, BSEC-URTA will be in permanent consultation with all the organs under BSEC's umbrella, particularly BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, BSEC Business Council, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), BSEC Parliamentary Assembly, and will provide every active support requested from it with regards to all ongoing works and projects. Also, coordination will be ensured with all NGOs having a relationship with the BSEC process, especially including BASPA, BRASS and BINSAs.

Within this framework, BSTDB, too, will regularly be informed on BSEC-URTA's following activities, and efforts will not be spared to look for the Bank's more active cooperation with BSEC-URTA, which tries to stand as a well organized regional NGO representing a very important industry that plays a fundamental role for achievement of more trade and closer economic ties between the BSEC member countries.



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PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 2004

I. BSEC Visa for Professional Drivers (BVPD)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	BSEC VISA FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS (BVPD)	
OBJECTIVE:	To facilitate obtaining visa for professional drivers by creation of a regional concept of "Visa for Professional Drivers". According to this proposal, the BSEC-URTA, together with its Member Associations, installs a Regional Data Center allowing the Diplomatic Authorities to track and verify personal, professional and visa information of drivers, who apply them for an annual multiple entry professional visa.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Follow up results of Ninth Meeting of the BSEC Council of Foreign Affairs concerning the <i>Draft Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States</i> .	-
	2. Attend meetings of the BSEC competent organs on this subject and voice the concerns and/or requests of BSEC-URTA.	-
	3. Activate Member Associations for their coordinated lobbying vis-à-vis their respectful competent national organs.	-

II. Harmonization of Charges

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	HARMONIZATION OF CHARGES	
OBJECTIVE:	To trigger efforts on regional level to eliminate as much as possible the differences in road user charges between BSEC countries.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Finalize <i>BSEC-URTA Report on Harmonization of Road User Charges and Other Charges</i> with feedback and verification of Member Associations.	January 2004
	2. Present this <i>BSEC-URTA Report</i> to the consideration of next meeting of BSEC Working Group on Transport.	February 2004
	3. Circulate conclusions of the BSEC Working Group on Transport to the Member Associations and develop strategy proposals for consideration of BSEC-URTA General Assembly.	March 2004
	4. Implement and follow up the strategies as approved by the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.	June 2004



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III. Simplification of Customs Formalities

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES	
OBJECTIVE:	To eliminate delays at the border crossing because of the customs regulations differing from country to country in the BSEC region. In this regard, to identify right strategies and action in harmony with BSEC efforts and IRU.	
EXPECTED STEPS		VENUE AND TARGET DATE
1. Submit <i>BSEC-URTA Report on Simplification of Border Crossing Procedures for International Road Transport in BSEC Region</i> to BSEC PERMIS.		January 2004
2. Attend meeting of BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development and present this report verbally, too.		2004
3. Circulate conclusions of the BSEC Working Group on Trade and Economic Development to the Member Associations and develop strategy proposals for consideration of BSEC-URTA General Assembly.		2004
4. Implement and follow up the strategies as approved by the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.		June 2004

IV. BSEC Weight Certificate

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	BSEC WEIGHT CERTIFICATE	
OBJECTIVE:	Taking the example of works pursued so far by the SECI, to initiate efforts aiming at creation of an international weight certificate recognized by national authorities of the BSEC countries.	
EXPECTED STEPS		VENUE AND TARGET DATE
1. Request BSEC Working Group to consider the issue of interlinking the similar efforts made within the framework of SECI and CIS.		January 2004
2. Exchange views with IRU Moscow Delegation on possibility of realizing such a request by its good efforts.		January 2004
3. Attend meeting of BSEC Working Group on Transport and present this request verbally, too.		2004
4. Circulate conclusions of the meeting to the Member Associations and develop strategy proposals for consideration of BSEC-URTA General Assembly.		2004
5. Implement and follow up the strategies as approved by the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.		June 2004



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V. Combined Transportation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	COMBINED TRANSPORTATION	
OBJECTIVE:	To promote combined transportation in the Black and Caspian Seas in order to increase competitive advantage of the road transport sector in the BSEC region. In this regard, to improve quality and reduce cost of the services rendered to the road transport sector by the Ro-Ro companies.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Print all the relevant information compiled under this project inside Black Sea Catalogue of Transport and Logistics.	June 2004
	2. Conduct a survey among users of combined transportation measuring the quality of combined transport services in the BSEC region with a view to identifying existing problems and priority areas for action.	June 2004
	3. Taking into consideration the results of Step 2 above, too, continue research on possible ways of cooperation between road, rail and maritime transportation, preferably with the cooperation of BASPA and other interested regional organizations, and prepare a common conclusion paper for consideration of BSEC Working Group on Transport as well as IRU.	September 2004

VI. Training

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	TRAINING	
OBJECTIVE:	Together with the IRU Academy; to identify training needs of the sector and Member Associations, develop sectoral training projects and information seminars, develop regional training strategies and projects.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Follow up conclusions of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and work together with IRU and BSEC PERMIS to realize concluding of a BSEC Agreement on multilateral recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualification for road haulage operator and road passenger transport operator in the BSEC region.	-
	2. Circulate any developments about Step 1 and activate the Member Associations to lobby vis-à-vis their respectful national authorities whenever necessary.	-
	3. Promote and defend AITA-ARTRI-UND Joint Distant Professional Learning Program Development Project before the competent BSEC organs for funding support.	-
	4. Continue supporting the above project under Step 3 at planning and execution stages and encourage involvement of other Member Associations, if interested.	-
	5. Make the necessary initiatives before the European Commission in order to benefit from its 6 th Framework Program for establishment of a Network of Excellence between Training Institutes/Centers of BSEC-URTA Member Associations.	January 2004 and after



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VII. International Funds

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	INTERNATIONAL FUNDS
OBJECTIVE:	To increase Member Associations' awareness about current international fund facilities within reach of the road transport sector, to stimulate Member Associations to elaborate international joint projects in the sector that may create synergies for the BSEC region as a whole, to bring together the fund supplier institutions and representatives of the road transport sector.
EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
1. Make consultations and exchange of views with the Member Associations trying to find appropriate and bankable project ideas, which BSEC-URTA may give guidance in channeling these ideas to the consideration of BSTDB.	January 2004
2. Prepare at least one project application dossier for consideration of BSTDB in the form of training of one BSEC-URTA International Secretariat Personnel.	April 2004
3. Organize a special panel for international funding possibilities and services of BSTDB within the framework of an International Conference on Transport and Logistics in the Black Sea.	June 2004
4. Pursue and make new contacts with other IFIs within the framework of Project Objective top above.	-

VIII. BSEC-URTA Publications*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	BSEC-URTA PUBLICATIONS
OBJECTIVE:	To create reliable and multi-lingual periodical or non-periodical publications focusing on the industry from a regional perspective, which would aim but not limited with providing reference information and statistics, promoting good examples, building general concern on transportation problems, providing inspiration for new projects, sharing all sectoral information equally between all stakeholders, promoting activities of BSEC, BSEC Related Bodies, BSEC-URTA and Member Associations as well as IRU and other regional initiatives including SECI, TRACECA, etc..
EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
1. Compile information from Member Associations and other sources for publishing the Black Sea Transport and Logistics Catalogue, which will include international and national information of relevance, road maps and illustrations as well as list and contact details of transport and logistics companies operating in the BSEC member countries.	January 2004
2. Search advertisers and sponsors for the publication and print the publication.	May 2004
3. Take a decision whether and when to start the BSEC Transport Journal.	June 2004

* Title of this project is changed from BSEC Transport Journal with a view to expanding its meaning and scope so as to include all existing or future publications of BSEC-URTA in general. In parallel, the Project Objective is also revised as given inside the table.



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IX. BSEC Transport Portal and Transport Information Clearing Center *

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	BSEC TRANSPORT PORTAL & TRANSPORT INFORMATION CLEARING CENTER	
OBJECTIVE:	To create an interactive, functional and useful Web Portal for all stakeholders, which would be able to serve as a multi-channel (open to e-mail, fax and internet correspondence) electronic platform on regional level for the exchange of comprehensive basic information between the Member Associations, IRU, BSEC, BSEC Related Bodies, SECI, TRACECA, EU, CIS, ECO and UN/ECE, where transportation legislation, developments, activities, waiting times at the borders, problems, good/bad examples and information can be shared.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Collect the filled in Web Portal Suggestion Forms from the Member Associations and realize the suggestions therein as much as possible.	March 2004
	2. Start contacts with other bodies and international organizations, particularly those mentioned under the Objective above, searching their cooperation to interlink web portals mutually and exchange information on a regular and efficient basis.	April 2004
	3. Measure and monitor the change in the number of visitors and their satisfaction level on the BSEC-URTA web portal and prepare a report together with strategy proposals to the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.	June 2004

X. International Conference of Transport and Logistics in the Black Sea

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS IN THE BLACK SEA	
OBJECTIVE:	To organize an international conference with support of IRU, BSEC Business Council, BSEC PERMIS, BSTDB and other BSEC Related Bodies in Sofia in June 2004, where the high level officials and officers of international bodies and institutions relating with the road transport industry can be brought together with the BSEC-URTA Member Associations in front of the road transport companies in Bulgaria and BSEC region.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Make a draft program and ask comments of interested parties, identify draft speakers/panelists list and make preliminary contacts with all the concerned persons and institutions in cooperation with the host Member Association, AEBTRI.	January 2004
	2. Prepare the final list of speakers/panelists, identify place of event and prepare initial fliers of the Conference for distribution world wide.	February 2004
	3. Finalize organizational details, obtain speaker/panelist presentations, print Conference materials and compile list of participants.	May 2004
	4. Complete all national and logistics arrangements and carry out the event, prepare conclusions and ensure circulation world wide.	June 2004

* Title of this project is formed by merging previously set two titles: "BSEC Transport Portal" and "BSEC Transport Information Clearing Center". In parallel, the Project Objective is also revised as given inside the table.



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XI. International Exhibition of Transport and Logistics in the Black Sea

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS IN THE BLACK SEA	
OBJECTIVE:	To organize an international exhibition parallel to 4 th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Sofia in June 2004, where national and international suppliers of road transport industry as well as leading logistics and transport companies in the BSEC region come together.	
	EXPECTED STEPS	VENUE AND TARGET DATE
	1. Give full and continued support to host association AEBTRI to the extent it requests.	-
	2. Subject to request of AEBTRI, spend every effort to increase awareness about the event in the region and beyond, look for and arrange participation of exhibitors from outside Bulgaria in the event.	-
	3. Throughout all the stages of organization, ensure healthy, close and regular contacts with the AEBTRI team and give active guidance in post-exhibition activities to ensure it becomes the first of its kind for the future activities of BSEC-URTA.	-

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