

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM

ON IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF QUOTA PERMITS TO HAULIERS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

23 JUNE 2004 – BUCHAREST

FINAL DECLARATION

The International Transport Forum organized jointly by the BSEC Business Council and the BSEC-URTA and hosted by the ARTRI in Bucharest on 23 June 2004:

- Welcomes such an initiative to discuss various aspects of improvement of quota permit distribution systems in the BSEC region,
- Acknowledges with gratitude the active participation of representatives of international organizations in its work, particularly the ECMT and the European Commission,
- Feels grateful for the leading guidance and support of the IRU at all stages of preparation and conduct of the Forum,
- States that the trade is dependent upon road transport without barriers, including the quotas,
- Expects that the open, fruitful and target oriented consideration of this matter by all stakeholders in the BSEC region, namely the Ministries of Transport, National Associations of international road transport and international organizations, will pave the way for serious and quick action by all competent organs to work for further improvement of distribution systems in their countries,
- Believes that the concrete presentations of good examples in the region indicated that the better management of quota permit stocks of a country by means of IT solutions, is possible, thus resulting in maximized benefits from the available scarce resources,
- Notes that competent national authorities should encourage development and use of such IT solutions in their countries for a better performing road transport industry.
- Strongly supports the ongoing work of the Ministers of Transport at the ECMT for re-formulating the number and distribution of ECMT permits between the member countries, after the enlargement of the EU.

Considering the above, participants of the Forum propose to Governments of the BSEC region to make efforts, in cooperation with National Associations of international road transport and the BSEC URTA, to:

1. *Bilateral Agreements*
 - review existing bilateral agreements on international road transport within the region and beyond its frontiers, in order to make them more flexible and less restrictive;
 - improve bilateral permit distribution systems, first, by defining fair principles of distribution, and second, by developing efficient, secure, informative, reliable and transparent IT-based distribution systems.
2. *Multilateral, Regional Arrangements*
 - review the feasibility of concluding an implementable, regional and liberal road transport agreement between Governments of BSEC region based on lessons from the SECI experience.
3. *ECMT Quota*
 - improve enforcement of ECMT harmonization efforts in international road transport;
 - improve control of proper use of ECMT permits;
 - introduce vehicles of high technical and environmental/safety standards in "ECMT traffic" in order to increase the number of available ECMT permits according to ECMT rules;
 - make the necessary political representations in ECMT meetings in order to maintain and enhance the useful ECMT multilateral quota system.
4. *Flanking Measures*
 - facilitate conditions for intra-BSEC trade relations in order to let intra-BSEC trade grow in the common interest of all BSEC member countries;
 - continue efforts to pull down administrative barriers to the further development of international transport by road which itself could become an engine of cooperation and a facilitation of intra-BSEC trade.

Bucharest, 23 June 2004
