



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

RES/GA05/BVPD/04

Bucharest, 24 June 2004

BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION *
on Visa for Professional Drivers

The General Assembly:

Being informed that the BSEC Ad Hoc Expert Group on Visa Facilitation for Lorry Drivers held its last meeting at the BSEC PERMIS headquarters on 8-9 June 2004 and agreed on the Draft Agreement on Visa Facilitation for Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States;

Welcoming that the Draft Agreement is now submitted to the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to be held in Tbilisi in October 2004;

Noting that Delegation of Bulgaria informed the Ad Hoc Group of Experts that it is having consultations with the European Commission as regards the Draft Agreement and that the Greek delegation expressed concerns about the compatibility of the present Draft Agreement in the EU context;

Hoping that the Draft Agreement will be approved and opened to the signatures of the BSEC Member States by the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in October 2004;

Expressing that this Draft Agreement will constitute the first concrete example of an inter-governmental agreement in Europe aimed at facilitation of visas for professional drivers;

Stressing that the visa issue is a substantial barrier and top priority for the road transport industry all over the world, which needs urgent solution;

1. Highlights that the international road transport industry is the engine of economic development and represents the most widely used means of transport for carriage of traded goods in the Europe and BSEC region,
2. Underlines that facilitation of visa for professional drivers is a common need of the whole industry in the BSEC region, which will lead to limiting time losses and hidden and direct costs on the transport operations,
3. Calls on the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials and the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to approve the Draft Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States and open it to signature of the BSEC Member States at their next meetings in Tbilisi in October 2004,
4. Considers that this Agreement is a first step for further facilitation of visa for drivers or its complete elimination,
5. Asks the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to assist BSEC-URTA in obtaining written comments of the European Commission or any other related European authority as regards the compatibility of subject Draft Agreement with the current EU rules and regulations,
6. Requests furthermore the IRU to lobby for facilitation of visa issuance for professional drivers in UN/ECE, ECMT and through its other relevant contacts to international organizations and Governments,
7. Instructs the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat to continue its work and to pursue its contacts and cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS and the IRU as well as coordinate action on national level of the Member Associations for opening of the present Draft Agreement to the signature of BSEC Member States as soon as possible.

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* Adopted in Bucharest on 24th June 2004, by the Fifth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, unanimously.