



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

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Istanbul, 05 October 2004

SIXTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Marriott Hotel, Tbilisi - GEORGIA
Tuesday 26 October 2004, at 10:00 hrs

CONCLUSIONS OF ISTANBUL 2004: INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT CONFERENCE ON GLOBALISATION

(Information paper prepared by the International Secretariat)

Istanbul 2004: International Road Transport Conference on Globalisation was organized by the International Transporters' Association of Turkey (UND) in partnership with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and took place in Istanbul on 22-23 September 2004.

Delegates from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, including the representatives of Road Transport Associations from 25 countries and representatives from Ministries of Transport of 21 countries, participated at this Conference.

Participants of the Conference identified five main subjects as priority areas for elaboration of new public policies to meet the needs of road transport industry in the changing world from a global perspective. For each of these subjects five separate workshops were organized, where participants, during their discussions, determined the current situation and elaborated proposed solutions for the consideration of all stakeholders, particularly the governments.

Titles and moderators of five Workshops under the Conference and the topics dealt with whereof are the followings:

Workshop 1: Border Crossing Facilitation.

Moderator - Mr. Peter Krausz, Head of IRU Members and Policy.

Current Situation and Problems:

- Border Crossing problems - major hindrance for trade, transport, international coach tourism,
 - Divergent procedures - major source of inefficiencies and costs,
 - Frequently changing rules,
 - No transparency,
 - Freedom of transit often restricted,
 - Economic losses & human suffering,
 - Security, also for drivers
 - Visa procedures

Proposed Solutions:

- Standardise procedures, public-private partnership,
- Simplify, harmonise, coordinate,
- Weight certificate, no escort, 24 hours-open border control services at major crossings,
- Modern control technology & techniques,
- Training and information.
- Advance notice of border closures,
- New investment, international financing,
- Multi-entry annual visa, accepting the copy of passport, ideal solutions (no visa for drivers),
- Fair and efficient fiscal treatment.



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Workshop 2: International Transport Corridors.

Moderator - Mr. Talat Aydın, Director General of Land Transport of Turkey.

Current Situation:

- Pan-European Transport Conference - 1994, the Corridor Concept,
- Lack of Comprehensive transport policy,
- Poor standards of roads beyond European networks,
- UN is the leading platform.

Proposed Measures:

- Develop adequate and safe infrastructure,
- Prepare and review national transport master plans,
- Strengthen corridor concept,
- Complete infrastructure and regulations.

Workshop 3: International Conventions.

Moderator - Mr. J. Capel FERRER, Director of Transport Division of UNECE.

Current Situation:

- Developed by UNECE conventions, bilateral agreements, recommendations, resolutions,
- Lack of knowledge of existing instruments,
- Few bilateral or multilateral agreements in Asia,
- Need for these countries to accede to implement instruments.

Proposed Measures:

- Join and implement TIR, CMR, ADR, ATP, AETR, etc.,
- Set beneficial bilateral and multilateral legal frameworks,
- Accept new Annex 8 to Border Harmonization Convention, 1982,
- Ensure mobility - GATT and GATS,
- Transfer knowledge to transition countries,
- Harmonize social, technical and market access, etc. conditions.

Workshop 4: Bilateral and Regional Cooperation.

Moderator - Mr. Haydar Özkan, UND Vice Chairman of Executive Committee, BSEC-URTA Secretary General.

Current Situation:

- Globalization = more mobility of people and goods,
- Bilateral & Regional cooperation is used to boost regional trade, which is possible only by removal of barriers before tourism and trade and facilitation of transport,
- Some cooperation processes are not successful as the others,
- EU's New Neighborhood Policy, a reason for professional optimism in the Black Sea,
- There are many cooperation processes in our region such as SECI, CIS, ECO, Arab League, ASEAN and other organizations,
- Three blocks of countries in the Euro-Asian region - with Developed/In Transition/Strongly Developing Economics.

Proposed Solutions:

- Support regional cooperation actively, such as BSEC, SECI and CIS,
- Interlink these processes,
- Encourage BSEC to conclude agreement on visa for drivers,
- Support CIS and BSEC to conclude agreement on mutual recognition of diplomas/certificates for CPC,
- UNECE and IRU to play more active coordinating role,
- UNECE to organize a coordinating meeting in Geneva in 2005 with the participation of representatives from related BSEC, CIS and SECI bodies,
- Encourage cooperation in the transport researches,
- ECMT Licenses are crucial for the Industry, which must be maintained and even developed further,
- Governments to aim relaxing quotas in their bilateral trade.



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Workshop 5: Road Transport Contribution to the Economy.

Moderator - Mr. Francesco Pasifico, IRU Vice President.

Current Situation:

- Transport is life-link,
- Road Transport boots economic growth,
- Benefits of road transport are lessened due to inadequate infrastructure and restrictive regulations,
- EU's financing policy for TEN is an example of adverse conditions created for road transport.

Proposed Solutions:

- Avoid financing policies having adverse conditions for road transport,
- Penalizing road transport operators = Penalizing Economy,
- Road transport operators are SMEs,
- Encourage operators with new incentives toward logistics services,
- Governments should cooperate with sector associations,
- Create a healthy training infrastructure for all in the industry from driver to server managers,
- Support research and development projects to optimize costs of transport,
- Improve transport infrastructure.

All these results were included in the Conference Final Declaration, adopted by all participants on 23 September 2004 (see Annex).



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CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

The successful organization of the Conference, which was emphasized by many participants, is a result of the three main components:

1. International presence:

Conference gathered a quite satisfactory level of international participation. Thirty-one countries were represented by their National Road Transport Associations and/or Ministers of Vice-Ministers of Transport.

2. The methodology:

A unique model of elaboration of a common opinion and a common decision, by means of simultaneously organized five workshops on five main subjects for road transportation, was implemented. Participants of each workshop considered separate topics and created certain documents, which served a dedicated part in the Final Conference Declaration.

3. Involvement of Governments:

It was very efficient to organize a governmental meeting right after the Conference where the position of the private sector was heard by the governments and its proposals were endorsed by a Ministerial Conference Declaration that took the private sector's Declaration as an annex thereto.

As a result, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly may consider to hold follow-up conferences within the same framework in the future, too.

On a voluntary basis, ISTANBUL 2004 Conference could be organized every two years, by a BSEC-URTA Member Association with the title of CITY NAME and year, e.g. SOFIA 2006, BUCHAREST 2008, MOSCOW 2010, KYIV 2012, ATHENS 2014 ...

BSEC-URTA and IRU could help the organization of such a big event by a National Association to bring together the industry and the governments.

Between two Conferences, BSEC-URTA International Secretariat may be asked to organize follow-up workshops on five already determined subjects in parallel with the BSEC-URTA General Assembly meetings.

Follow-up workshops could be organized with the support of IRU and participation of any interested IRU Member Associations.

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