



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

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Istanbul, 2 October 2007

## TWELFTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Grand Hotel Sofia –BULGARIA  
Friday, 2 November 2007, at 10:00 hrs

### ACTIVITY REPORT

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

Since the Eleventh Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly held in Belgrade, Serbia, on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007, the International Secretariat participated in events of importance for the industry, contributed to international gatherings and worked for promotion of the BSEC-URTA and its objectives.

A summary of these activities developed under the strategic objectives and 2007 working program of the BSEC-URTA is given below by priorities set out by the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

#### FACILITATION:

##### 1. BSEC VISA FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS (BVPD)

(a) Take part in the meetings and follow-up results of the related BSEC competent organs and related bodies.

The International Secretariat participated in the Meeting of Experts in Chisinau on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007, which was hosted by the AITA, and contributed to the finalization of the draft Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States. The Agreement was eventually approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States held in Belgrade on 19 April 2007. The Agreement is now open to the signature of interested BSEC Member States.

BSEC-URTA representatives stressed the existing problems in obtaining visas for professional drivers during their interventions at the meetings of the transport related BSEC bodies, including the Meeting of the BSEC Ministers of Transport (Istanbul, 5 July 2007), and urged the countries to sign the finalised Agreement as soon as possible.

The BSEC-URTA also urged the Ukrainian Government, as the next BSEC Chairman-in-office from 1 November 2007, to give priority to this matter and invited Ukraine to become the first signatory country thereof on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Road Transport organized in Yalta on 6-7 September 2007, which was organised by the BSEC-URTA Member Association in this country, the AIRCU.



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- (b) Work together with the IRU, BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC Country Coordinator for Transport, and coordinate Member Associations in the above direction bearing in mind that facilitation of visas for professional drivers is part of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods, which entered into force on 20 July 2006.

The BSEC PERMIS organised an information seminar for the BSEC-URTA Member Associations in Istanbul on 26 June 2007, about the legal status and next procedures for signature and entry into force of the BSEC Agreement on driver visas. IRU and BSEC Secretaries General also attended the seminar.

Participants agreed that it is important for each BSEC-URTA Member Association to make active lobbying vis-à-vis its national authorities to sign the Agreement as soon as possible.

Moreover, the BSEC Secretary General informed that he would seek confirmation and support of the European Commission, that the Agreement is in line with the EU *acquis communautaire* and those BSEC Member States, which are also members of the EU, could sign it if they so wish.

The IRU Secretary General expressed readiness to write to national authorities of each BSEC Member State with the request of their signature to this very important agreement.

The BSEC-URTA President coordinated lobbying efforts of the ANALTIR, ABADA, AIRCA, AITA, GIRCA and AIRCU on national level in this connection.

As of 1 October 2007, there is only one BSEC country, namely Turkey, which notified the BSEC PERMIS about its readiness to sign this Agreement.

**2. INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE (IVWC)**

- (a) Follow up entry into force of the new Annex 8 to the UNECE 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.

The new Annex 8 to the 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, on Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for the International Road Transport, which includes, among others, introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate, is expected to enter into force on 20 May 2008 if any amendments will not be submitted to the UN Secretary General until 20 February 2008 by the Contracting Parties.

- (b) Lobby for organization of a BSEC round table meeting with the participation of the BSEC Customs Administrations, the Border Guards Authorities, road transport authorities and the road transport industry, to consider implementation of the IVWC in accordance with new Annex 8 of the UNECE 1982 Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.

The International Secretariat proposed to the BSEC PERMIS to consider organising a joint meeting of the Working Groups on Transport and Customs in this connection. This proposal is evaluated for implementation by the BSEC PERMIS, now.

- (c) Follow up with the related BSEC Working Groups, the implementation of the IVWC according the Implementation Timetable of the BSEC Road Transport MoU.

At this stage some CIS countries (Russia, Moldova, Byelorussia and Ukraine) have already started using an IVWC based on a CIS regional agreement, which is similar to what is foreseen under new Annex 8 of the 1982 Convention.

AITA presented detailed information about this regional practice at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Belgrade and invited all the BSEC-URTA Member



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Associations from non-CIS countries, to lobby for joining of their country in this regional agreement.

The BSEC-URTA will bring this option to the consideration of the BSEC Member States at the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, which will consider also the next steps to reach this objective.

**3. SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES**

*(a) Lobby for joining of all BSEC Member States to major UN conventions and international agreements on transport facilitation as well as international WCO conventions.*

During any international or regional meeting in relation with the transport and customs matters, the BSEC-URTA representatives systematically emphasize the importance of acceding to and implementing the UNECE Conventions and International Agreements.

Since last meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Belgrade on 19 April 2007, the following BSEC Member States joined the corresponding UNECE Conventions and International Agreements as of 27 July 2007:

Ukraine	Agreement on International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs (ATP), 1970	27/07/2007
Moldova	Protocol to the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), 1978	31/05/2007
Moldova	European Agreement Supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic, 1971	30/04/2007

With these new accessions, the latest situation of the number of conventions acceded by each BSEC country is given in a table below.

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**UNECE ROAD TRANSPORT RELATED COVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS  
Status at 27 July 2007**

CONVENTION		AL	AR	AZ	BG	GE	GR	MD	RO	RUS	SRB	TR	UA	
Infrastr	1	Construction Traffic Arteries 1950				X	X		X		X	X		
	2	E Road Network 1975	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	3	E Comb. Tr. Network, 1991				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Road traffic and road safety	4	Road Traffic, 1949	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	5	Road Traffic, 1968	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	6	Prot. Road Signs & Signals, 1949				X		X		X	X			
	7	Road Signs & Signals, 1968	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	
	8	Suppl. 1968 Conv. Road Traffic, 1971	X			X		X	X	X	X		X	
	9	Suppl. 1968 Road Signs & Signals, 1971	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
	10	Weights and Dimens, 1950						X				X		
	11	Suppl. 1949 Conv & Protocol, 1950						X				X		
	12	Road Markings, 1957	X			X				X		X	X	
	13	Protocol Road Markings 1973	X			X	X	X			X	X		X
	14	Issue & Validity of Driving Permits				X						X		
Vehic	15	Vehicle Regulations, 1958			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
	16	Tech. Inspect. Vehicles, 1997	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	
	17	Global Vehicles Reg., 1998			X				X	X	X		X	
Other legal instruments	18	Work of Crews Intl. Road Transport(AETR) 1970	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
	19	Tax Priv Road Vehic, 1956						X	X		X			
	20	Taxation Road Passengers Vehicles, 1956							X		X			
	21	Tax Road Goods Vehic 1956							X		X			
	22	Contract Road Goods Transport(CMR) 1956	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	23	Protocol to CMR, 1978	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	
	24	Contract Passengers and Lugg. Road Trans(CVR)1973										X	X	
	25	Protocol to CVR, 1978										X		
Border crossing facilitation	26	Econ. Reg. Road Trans 1954					X							
	27	Touring Facilities, 1954				X		X	X	X	X	X		
	28	Protocol Touring Facilities, 54				X		X	X	X	X	X		
	29	Temp. Imp. Priv. Road Vehicles, 1954	X			X			X	X	X	X		
	30	TIR Convention, 1959	X			X		X	X	X		X		
	31	TIR Convention, 1975	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	32	Temp. Imp. Commercial. Vehicles, 1956			X	X		X			X	X		
	33	Customs Cont Conv, 1956				X		X	X		X			
	34	Customs Cont Conv, 1972		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	35	Customs Treatment Pallets, 1960				X			X		X	X		
Danger. goods	36	Harmonization Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	37	Customs Pool Cont, 1994												
	38	Dang. Goods by Roads(ADR) 1957	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	
	39	Protocol to ADR, 1993	X			X		X	X	X				
	40	LLiab.Dang.Goods-CRTD1989												
	41	Perishab.Foodstuff-ATP,1970	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
<b>COUNTRY TOTAL</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	



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- (b) Participate in the work of the BSEC Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Customs and contribute to their work by representing the interests of the road transport industry.

Several proposals of BSEC-URTA have been endorsed by the Experts and are part of the Action Plan of the Group. The scientific conclusions of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH) Caravan are likely to constitute another substantial contribution to the work of Experts in this regard. The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group will be held under the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-office.

**4. HARMONIZATION OF CHARGES**

- (a) Follow-up, together with the BSEC Working Group on Transport (BSEC WG-T), the measures foreseen by the Timetable for the Implementation of the BSEC Road Transport MoU

The last meeting of the BSEC WG-T in Istanbul on 3-4 July 2007, did not consider this issue under its agenda.

The International Secretariat plans to bring this matter to the consideration of the Steering Committee with the request of identifying specific actions, at its next meeting on 7 December 2007 or 8 January 2008. In this connection, the BSEC PERMIS agreed to circulate the BSEC-URTA proposals to the Contracting Parties by 15 November 2007.

The General Assembly may wish to endorse such proposals of the International Secretariat at its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Sofia on 2 November 2007.

- (b) Follow up the specific work of the ECMT and the EC on this issue and bring them to the consideration of the BSEC WG-T in order to accelerate the Implementation of the BSEC Road Transport MoU.

No specific action has been undertaken, yet.

**5. DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE BSEC REGION**

- (a) Work for creation of a BSEC regional quota system using the ECMT quota model in cooperation with the BSEC WG-T as well as the ECMT and the IRU Secretariats.

At its first meeting, the Steering Committee of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods endorsed the BSEC-URTA proposal to create a BSEC regional quota system similar in nature to the ECMT licenses. The International Secretariat thinks that such a system, among other things, would be a useful tool for gradual integration of the BSEC road transport market as foreseen by the MoU and hence in its implementation time-table.

The Committee decided that there is need for a thorough technical study on this matter. In this connection, the Committee welcomed the readiness of the IRU to co-sponsor such a study by the industry exports if some funds could be allocated by the BSEC through financial support of its BSEC Project Development Fund, and decided to request its financial support, accordingly.

Bearing in mind the long time requirement to obtain financial support under the BSEC PDF, the International Secretariat prefers very much if the BSEC PERMIS could allocate some funds from its own budget, if possible.

If necessary funds could be raised, this study would propose the most adequate regional model based on the European experiences and suggest a list of technical and environmental criteria that could be used for allocation and usage of national quotas within the system.



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- (b) Coordinate efforts of the BSEC-URTA Member Associations in order to ensure that their national authorities adopt a common supportive position regarding the future of the ECMT Quota System and its distribution criteria.

No new coordinated action has been necessary since last meeting of the General Assembly.

**IRU-BSEC INTERACTION:**

**1. IRU-BSEC COOPERATION**

- (a) Contribute to implementation of the MoU between the BSEC Organization and the IRU, which was signed in Sochi on 27 September 2006.

The successful organization of the BSRH Caravan has been the first concrete result of the bilateral cooperation between the IRU and BSEC, where the BSEC-URTA actively took part.

The project was realized under patronage of the BSEC Secretary General taking its start in Belgrade on 19 April 2007 following signing of the BSEC MoU on Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway by the BSEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs and ending in Istanbul on 28 May 2007.

On the other hand, the IRU is invited anymore to all high level meetings of the BSEC Organization by the BSEC PERMIS, systematically.

Creation of a multilateral quota system in the BSEC region and implementation of the BSEC Agreement on Facilitation of Visas for Professional Drivers are the next possible specific areas of cooperation between the IRU and the BSEC, which could be coordinated and contributed by the BSEC-URTA.

**2. IRU-BSEC BUSINESS COUNCIL COOPERATION**

- (b) Support direct visits and contacts between the BSEC BC and the IRU Secretariat General.

A continuous spirit of cooperation and solidarity between the BSEC-URTA and the BSEC Business Council are continued particularly at the meetings of the BSEC competent organs, where transport policy and strategies are elaborated. Since the last meeting of the General Assembly, the Business Council helped the BSEC-URTA by informing the BSRH Caravan project to its members.

**GOOD EXAMPLES:**

**1. ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

- (a) Encourage the host Associations to present about their organizational structure, operations, services and activities as well as their best practices on the occasion of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly meetings.

The practice is maintained, systematically, on the occasion of each meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.



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**2. COMPANY PRACTICES**

- (a) Support the IRU's Best Industry Practices report and stimulate regional interest for it.

BSEC-URTA cooperates with the related Member Associations to give complimentary guidance to successful road transport operators, particularly those, which were invited to make presentations at the BSEC-URTA General Assembly meetings, if they are interested to submit their application to enter next issue of the IRU's Best Industry Practices report, if any.

- (b) Encourage the host Associations to allow representatives of their member companies with good examples to present themselves on the occasion of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly meetings.

The practice is maintained, systematically, on the occasion of each meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION:**

**1. SYSTEMATIC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

- (a) Search for available calls for proposals and calls for expression of interest under the European and international programs and funds, which relate to the road transport and may create benefits for the interested Member Associations or their members, if awarded.

Upon initiative of the Bus and Coach Operators Federation of Turkey (TOFED), the Secretariat facilitated the communication and correspondence between TOFED, AEBTRI and NEA consulting company for a training project application under the Leonardo Da Vinci Program of the EU in March 2007.

The project application made by the TOFED has already been approved and a substantial financial support was granted for its implementation. In the context of the project, it is foreseen that three groups of TOFED members will be trained in Belgium, Bulgaria and the Netherlands.

**2. BSEC-URTA WEB PORTAL**

- (a) Publish the BSEC-URTA official documents on the portal and keep it updated with professional news and regional developments.

The BSEC-URTA web portal is updated, regularly, and Member Associations can have access to all BSEC-URTA working documents, studies and reports as well as photo galleries of the BSEC-URTA meetings and activities online.

- (b) Publish an electronic transport and logistics guide, including a directory of transport operators and service providers in the BSEC region, by compiling the information made available by the Member Associations and the information obtained from various other sources.

No new action has been taken under this matter, yet.



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**3. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STATISTICS**

- (a) Issue two updated versions of the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report according to the information provided by the Member Associations and the information obtained from various other sources.

The practice is continued, systematically, by release of the semi-annual updated versions.

**LOBBYING AND PROMOTION:**

**1. COOPERATION BETWEEN TRANSPORT RELATED BSEC NGOS**

- (a) Implement the MoU signed in Antalya on 24 November 2006 by the BSEC-URTA and the transport related BSEC NGOs: BINSNA, BRASS and BASPA.

A cooperation meeting was held among the BSEC transport related NGOs in Odessa on 7-8 June 2007 on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Black Sea Transport Conference. The BSEC PERMIS Executive Manager for Transport also attended this meeting in part.

The participants discussed various issues about their cooperation and agreed to make a joint work plan to reinforce their cooperation. BSEC-URTA International Secretariat elaborated a draft plan, which was subsequently endorsed by the other NGOs.

In this connection, the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat will lead organization of a Presidential Meeting among the transport related BSEC NGOs as soon as possible.

It was also agreed to pay a joint annual visit to the BSEC Secretary General for a better coordination between all sides.

The International Secretariat elaborated a draft joint project application to the BSEC PDF about the improvement of quality of RO-RO services in the BSEC region, which could be presented to the consideration of competent BSEC organs in 2008, particularly within the framework of implementation of the BSEC MoU on the Motorways of the Black Sea.

- (b) Encourage establishment of new BSEC NGOs.

No concrete action has been undertaken, yet.

**2. COOPERATION WITH BSEC PERMIS AND BSEC BC**

- (a) Organize mutual working visits and debriefings on activities and policy priorities of the BSEC-URTA.

BSEC-URTA International Secretariat visited the BSEC PERMIS on various occasions for coordination and informative purposes since the last meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

Organisation of the BSRH Caravan also provided various opportunities for follow up or mutual discussion of various issues related with the BSEC-URTA Working Program.





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**COMBINED TRANSPORTATION:**

1. IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- (a) Prepare a joint project application under the BSEC Project Development Fund, together with the transport related BSEC NGOs and with the objective of improving the quality of RO-RO services in the BSEC region from user's perspective.

The International Secretariat prepared a draft project application form, which will be finalized by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Sofia on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007.

Subject to approval of other BSEC NGOs, which will join in this project, the official forms will be produced and signed by representatives of the BASPA, BINSAs, BRASS and BSEC-URTA in Istanbul in December 2007 on the occasion of the first Meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation of the BSEC MoU on the Motorways of the Black Sea.

**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:**

1. BSEC-URTA SURVEY ON PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- (a) Organize a BSEC-URTA Survey about professional training services and educational infrastructure provided by the BSEC-URTA Member Associations to national industry.

A specific questionnaire was prepared and circulated to all the BSEC-URTA Member Associations in October 2007, of which the preliminary results will be shown to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

2. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CPC CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS

- (a) Take part in the meetings and follow-up results of the meetings of the competent BSEC organs and its related bodies.

BSEC has not held any meeting on this subject in 2007, yet.

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