



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

DOC/GA12/WP/07

Istanbul, 8 October 2007

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2008

The BSEC-URTA Member Associations are kindly requested to review below the vision, mission, strategic objectives and 2008 working program of the BSEC-URTA, submitted to consideration and approval of the 12th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:-

VISION

Common solutions for common problems.

MISSION

Solidarity is our strength.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Facilitation.** Support major international transport corridors and work together with the BSEC Governments and IRU as well as other regional cooperation processes, for facilitation of road transport by eliminating barriers and difficulties, removing and opposing any discriminatory measures and harmonizing or simplifying procedures and practices.
2. **IRU-BSEC Interaction.** Inform the IRU on regional problems and priorities regarding the road goods transport, channel its expertise, know how and guidance to the work of BSEC organs and related bodies.
3. **Good Examples.** Promote good examples and success stories among the Member Associations as well as their members and support the expansion of best practices throughout the BSEC region.
4. **Project Development and Information.** Make or contribute to regional researches and surveys related with the road goods transport in the BSEC region, and trigger or support internationally financed research, training and consultancy projects for benefit of all or interested Member Associations.
5. **Lobbying and Promotion.** Organize with the Member Associations, IRU and BSEC Governments or contribute to the meetings, seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other types of events with a view to improving public image of road goods transport, protecting its common interests and creating new opportunities, particularly on the regional level.
6. **Combined Transportation.** Support improvement of existing and development of new combined transportation services in the BSEC region.
7. **Professional Training.** Support the Member Associations to give professional training to national industry on international standards and encourage cooperation between the Member Associations in the field of professional training.



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WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2008

Facilitation:

1. BSEC VISA FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS (BVPD)
 - a. Together with the Member Associations and the IRU, lobby for signing of the BSEC Agreement on Simplification Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States by at least 5 BSEC Member States so that it can enter into force.
 - b. Work together with the BSEC PERMIS and the IRU to obtain confirmation of the European Commission regarding compatibility of this Agreement with the EU Aquis, thus permitting Bulgaria, Greece, and Romania to join the Agreement if they wish so.
 - c. Obtain support of the IRU and the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods to create a BSEC data base of professional drivers similar in nature to that of the Schengen agreement, which can be maintained in cooperation with the Member Associations and acceded by the national authorities for granting of long term and multiple entry visas to the professional drivers through simplified procedures.

2. INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE (IVWC)
 - a. Follow up the entry into force of the new Annex 8 to the UNECE 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods on 20 May 2008.
 - b. Obtain information from the concerned Member Associations about the practices and lessons learnt regarding implementation of the CIS regional vehicle weight certificate.
 - c. If the new Annex 8 enters into force as expected, request from the BSEC PERMIS to organise a round table meeting on implementation of the IVWC in the BSEC region with participation of the BSEC Member States and UNECE experts and the IRU.

3. SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES
 - a. Lobby for accession and implementation by the BSEC Member States of UNECE conventions and international agreements related to road transport.
 - b. Participate in the work of the BSEC Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Customs and present the findings and conclusions of the BSRH Caravan.
 - c. Encourage the BSEC PERMIS to organise a specialised BSEC Meeting on Border Crossing Cooperation with the participation of the European Commission, if possible, which brings together representatives of road transport industry and concerned authorities including Customs Administration, Border Police and the Ministry of Transport.

4. HARMONIZATION OF CHARGES
 - a. Ask support of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport to create a regional database within the framework of the BSEC PERMIS or the BSEC-URTA, which provides information about road user charges, tolls and other charges and fees applicable to hauliers in the BSEC region.



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- b. Follow up work of the Steering Committee to harmonise charges and simplify collecting procedures in parallel with the EU practices.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL QUOTA SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THE ECMT LICENSES

- a. In compliance with a recent decision of the Steering Committee, work for the BSEC PERMIS to allocate funds, directly or through the PDF, for co-sponsoring together with the IRU, a technical study by the industry experts with a view to suggesting a model for a BSEC regional quota system and identifying a set of criteria as basis for establishment, distribution and usage of the country quotas.
- b. In cooperation with the BSEC-URTA Member Associations, prepare a list of arguments in favour of creation of a regional quota system in the BSEC region similar to the ECMT licenses, which may be useful for lobbying.
- c. Guide the BSEC-URTA Member Associations to address their competent authorities with the request of political support to realisation of such a regional quota system within the framework of the BSEC Organization.

IRU-BSEC Interaction:

1. IRU-BSEC COOPERATION

- a. Continue to support implementation of the MoU between the BSEC Organization and the IRU, which was signed in Sochi on 27 September 2006.
- b. Encourage mutual participation of representatives of the BSEC and IRU Secretariats in their activities and events in 2008, particularly the 31st IRU World Congress to be held in Istanbul on 15-16 May 2008.

2. IRU-BSEC BUSINESS COUNCIL COOPERATION

- a. Encourage mutual participation of representatives of the BSEC BC and IRU Secretariats in their activities and events in 2008, particularly the 31st IRU World Congress to be held in Istanbul on 15-16 May 2008.

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.
- b. Prepare a comparative chart of management structure of each BSEC-URTA Member Association for information and consideration of the Member Associations.

2. COMPANY PRACTICES

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



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

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.
- b. In this connection, assist the AEBTRI, Bulgaria and TOFED, Turkey to implement a professional training project within 2008, which was already approved by the European Commission in 2007 for financial support.

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.
- 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.

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.

Lobbying and Promotion:

1. COOPERATION BETWEEN TRANSPORT RELATED BSEC NGOS

- a. Organise a joint meeting among the transport related BSEC NGOS at presidential level.
- b. Make a joint visit to the BSEC Secretary General for annual coordination and mutual exchange of information on 2008 priorities of the BSEC transport industry.
- c. Encourage or support establishment of new BSEC NGOS.
- d. Support the IRU to organise new truck caravans in 2008 in cooperation with the UN regional commissions and national associations.

2. COOPERATION WITH BSEC PERMIS AND BSEC BC

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



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Combined Transportation:

1. IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- a. Make a joint project application together with interested transport related BSEC NGOs under the BSEC PDF, about developing a BSEC web site on existing Ro-Ro services in the BSEC region and studying areas of public-private cooperation to improve the quality and reliability of existing services in support of implementing the BSEC MoU on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the Black Sea region.

Professional Training:

1. BSEC-URTA SURVEY ON PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- a. Monitor existing training services and activities of the BSEC-URTA Member Associations, periodically, and ensure sharing of related information among all interested sides.
- b. Help the interested BSEC-URTA Member Associations to identify areas of cooperation in the field of improving their professional training services.
- c. Support recognition by the competent national authorities, of the IRU Academy certificates and diplomas issued by concerned BSEC-URTA Member Associations.

2. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CPC CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS

- a. Ask support of the BSEC PERMIS to reinforce the process of elaborating a draft BSEC Agreement on mutual recognition of CPC certificates and diplomas, which was frozen since last year due to lack of interest or support of the BSEC Member States.

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