



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

DOC/GA13/BSECMOU/08

Istanbul, 5 May 2008

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Holiday Inn Vinogradovo, Moscow – RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
Wednesday, 4 June 2008, at 10:00 hrs

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSEC MOU ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT  
OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION**

*(Information Paper prepared by the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat)*

On 20 July 2006, the BSEC Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Goods Transport in the BSEC Region, entered into force for the ten signatory countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. During the Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Belgrade on 19 April 2007, the Republic of Serbia signed the above mentioned memorandum, and on 25 June 2007 on the occasion of the Special Meeting of the BSEC Council of Ministers in Istanbul, the Russian Federation became signatory, too.

For the MoU implementation, the BSEC-URTA proposed a Draft Timetable which was submitted for consideration to the Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport, in Sochi on 25-26 September 2006, which decided to forward it to the BSEC Steering Committee for the Implementation of the MoU.

On 21-22 March 2007, in Istanbul, the First Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region was held, which also considered the BSEC-URTA Draft Time-Table and agreed on it as a framework for the Implementation of the MoU. It was decided that the Time-Table can be amended upon agreement of the Steering Committee. The Time-Table is attached as Annex I.

Romania stated that the gradual liberalization of transit, bilateral and the whole road transport market as foreseen in the Time Table, should be subjected to a set of relevant technical and environmental criteria, similar to other practices in Europe, which should be elaborated and considered at the next Meeting(s) of the Steering Committee.

Taking into consideration the technical character of this task and required expertise, the Steering Committee decided that a study is needed to be conducted by industry experts and in this regard requested financial support of the BSEC together with IRU, which also agreed on such a possibility.

During the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, in Istanbul on 12-13 February 2008, the BSEC PERMIS informed the participants about arrangements done for conduct of the technical study as decided during the previous meeting, which would be co-sponsored by the IRU and the BSEC PERMIS and carried out by the NEA Transport Research and Training in Netherlands.

The Steering Committee encouraged the IRU and the PERMIS to continue their work on this study and at the same time it underlined the necessity of a conceptual approach to the issue of creating a regional quota system. It was stressed that the study should be based on the clearly defined goals and experience of other organizations in this field, in particular, the ITF (former ECMT).

It's foreseen by the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee that once the study is prepared, its outcome should be considered by the Steering Committee and the representatives of the private sector, at a round table meeting to be organized in Istanbul during 2008.

The Hellenic Republic and some other delegations expressed the view that entry into force of a regional quota system has not been agreed already under this MoU and questioned the need for a new quota system given that all the BSEC Member States are Parties to the ECMT multilateral quota system.

The Hellenic Republic reserved its position and stated that it will provide its views in writing with regard to the instruction of the NEA and to the related Terms of Reference for a possible study.

During the Meeting, the Hellenic Republic submitted a proposal to amend the Timetable for the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding of Facilitation Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region by introducing delays under several Objectives related to the gradual liberalization of road transport in the region. The Steering Committee took note of the proposal and decided to consider it at its next meeting. (Annex 2)

The Steering Committee was informed by the representative of AITA (Moldova) about the advantages that transport companies of some CIS countries received with introduction of the CIS International Vehicle Weight Certificate and welcomed the entry into force of the new Annex 8 to the UN ECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) on 20 May 2008, which will make this practice universal.

Regarding the harmonization of charging policies for the international road transport, the Steering Committee proposed the Committee of Senior Officials of the BSEC Organization, to establish a BSEC Ad Hoc Expert Group for elaboration of proposals and recommendations on this matter.

The Steering Committee, at its last meeting, also expressed support to the signing of the final text of the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member State, during the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States (Kyiv, April 2008).

However, because Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan stated that they are not ready for signature. Therefore, the Council in Kiev postponed the opening for signature of the Agreement.

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## Annex 1

### TIME-TABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

<b>ARTICLE 3.) PROGRESSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS</b>	
<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Gradually liberalize transit and bilateral international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers along the BSEC Member States.</b>
	<b>a. Liberalize transit international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers along the BSEC Member States, <u>gradually</u>.</b>
Deadline:	01.01.2009
Action:	a) Recommendation by the WG-T, b) Approval by the BSEC Transport Ministers, c) Implementation and coordination by the Steering Committee of the MoU (SC).
Task:	i) SC prepares a BSEC Matrix Table to identify existing transit quotas between BSEC Member States.
	<b>b. Liberalize bilateral international road transport of goods by the BSEC hauliers between the BSEC Member States, <u>gradually</u>.</b>
Deadline:	01.01.2012
Action:	a) Draft timetable by the BSEC-URTA, b) Approval by the WG-T, c) Approval by the BSEC Transport Ministers, d) Implementation and coordination by the SC.
Task:	i) SC prepares a BSEC Matrix Table to identify existing bilateral quotas between BSEC Member States.
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Develop a regional multilateral quota system in partnership with the international organizations, <u>aiming at full liberalization of the international road transport of goods</u> by the BSEC hauliers, within the BSEC region, <u>gradually</u>.</b>
Deadline:	01.01.2016
Action:	a) Elaboration of a Draft Model and Time-Table by the industry's experts b) Consideration of the Draft Model and Time-Table by the SC.
Task:	SC elaborates a mechanism and defines set of criteria for distribution of regional quota system.
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Support development of efficient and adequate RO-RO and RO-LA transport services in the BSEC region.</b>
Deadline:	Continuous
Action:	a) Needs Assessment and Draft Support Action Plan will be conducted by the WG-T in cooperation with transport BSEC NGOs and other interested organizations, b) Implementation and coordination will be carried out by the Steering Committee
Task:	Conduct of a Needs Assessment Analysis and elaboration of a

	Draft Support Action Plan according to those needs.
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Monitor border waiting times, in cooperation with the IRU, throughout major border gates in the territory of BSEC Member States, as a substantial gauge to monitor success of policies and actions exerted under the BSEC MoU.</b>
Deadline:	Continuous
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Technical infrastructure by the IRU, with support of the BSEC Member States,</li> <li>b) Border waiting times real data by the BSEC-URTA Member Associations,</li> <li>c) Periodical Monitoring Reports by SC in cooperation with the BSEC-URTA,</li> <li>d) Analysis and policy making by the WG-T.</li> </ul>
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) IRU extends its existing technical infrastructure to cover the BSEC border gates,</li> <li>ii) BSEC-URTA Member Associations identify personnel as data providers,</li> <li>iii) BSTDB sponsors printing of periodical sector reports including the road transport, trade and border waiting times statistics, produced by the SC with the support of the BSEC-URTA.</li> </ul>
<b>ARTICLE 4.) ACCESSION TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS – HARMONIZATION OF MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS, TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND SOCIAL REGULATIONS</b>	
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Expand key UN transport conventions and agreements to the BSEC region.</b>
Deadline:	Continuous
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Priority conventions identified by the WG-T,</li> <li>b) Accession to Priority conventions by each BSEC Member State,</li> <li>c) Progress report by the SC.</li> </ul>
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) SC prepares and presents periodical BSEC Matrix Table on key UN transport conventions and agreements acceded by the BSEC Member States.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 6</b>	<b>Introduce International Vehicle Weight Certificate according to Annex 8 to the 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.</b>
Deadline:	01.01.2009
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identification of technical and administrative bottlenecks in each BSEC Member State by WG-T,</li> <li>b) Action Plan within a time frame by the SC,</li> <li>c) Approval of the Action Plan by the WG-T.</li> </ul>
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) SC conducts a survey to make a technical and administrative bottlenecks analysis in the BSEC region,</li> <li>ii) SC will find ways to support BSEC Member States in order to remove the technical and administrative bottlenecks for introduction of International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Member States as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>ARTICLE 5.) CHARGING POLICIES – INFORMATION SYSTEM ON CHARGES RELATED TO ROAD TRANSPORT</b>	
<b>Objective 7</b>	<b>Rationalize and <u>gradually harmonize</u> the charging policies for the international road transport of goods in the BSEC region.</b>

Deadline:	01.01.2012
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) BSEC Matrix Table reflecting the current situation is prepared by the SC,</li> <li>b) To convene Expert Group on Transport Charging Policies in order to elaborate recommendations with regard to harmonization of transport charges,</li> </ul>
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) SC prepares a Matrix Table of existing charges in the BSEC Member States,</li> <li>ii) Expert Group will elaborate the Time-Table on Harmonization of Charges.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 8</b>	<b>Establish an information system to provide information to foreign transport operators on tolls and charges related to the use of national roads network in the BSEC region.</b>
Deadline:	01.01.2008
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Decision to establish such an information system by the WG-T,</li> <li>b) Design of the system by the SC,</li> <li>c) Creation of the system by BSEC or BSEC-URTA,</li> <li>d) Data provided by the BSEC Member States,</li> <li>e) Implementation and coordination by the SC.</li> </ul>
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) SC defines content and design parameters of the system,</li> <li>ii) PERMIS or BSEC-URTA carries out or manages creation of the system,</li> <li>iii) PERMIS collects periodical data from the BSEC Transport Ministries.</li> </ul>
<b>ARTICLE 6.) FACILITATION OF VISA PROCEDURES FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS</b>	
<b>Objective 9</b>	<b>Facilitate visa procedures for professional drivers.</b>
Deadline:	01.01.2008
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Signing and entry into force of the BSEC Agreement on Facilitation of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States,</li> <li>b) Implementation of the Agreement by Member States in cooperation with the PERMIS,</li> <li>c) Follow-up and coordination by the SC.</li> </ul>
Task:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs opens the Agreement to signatures,</li> <li>ii) Interested BSEC Member States sign and ratify the Agreement,</li> <li>iii) PERMIS cooperates with the concerned BSEC Member States for implementation of the Agreement,</li> <li>iv) SC monitors progress, facilitates necessary coordination for implementation of the Agreement.</li> </ul>

### **Proposal of the Hellenic Republic for the amendment of the Timetable for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on facilitation of road transport of goods in the BSEC region.**

Document distributed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, which has taken place in Istanbul on 12 and 13 February 2008

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According to Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee of the MoU and according to Article 8 para. 5 of the MoU, the timetable for the implementation of the MoU is to be revised annually. In this context, the Hellenic Republic proposes for consideration the following amendments and would like to invite other Member States to submit their views.

#### **1. Gradual liberalisation of bilateral and transit road transport of goods – Objective 1**

a. Proposed amendment: The deadline in Objective 1 should be fixed for a later date, in order to ensure that the gradual liberalisation progresses in parallel with other actions under this MoU, which are absolutely necessary for efficient liberalisation. In particular, the deadline for Objective 1 should be connected to actual progress in key areas in Objective 5 (see point 3 below).

b. Legal basis for amendment: According to Articles 2 and 4, one of the target areas in the MoU is compliance with international standards on road safety, protection of environment and fair competition.

c. Wording of proposed amendment:

(i) The following to be added in Objective 1 (a):

"Deadline: 01.01.2013

Task: ii) SC confirms the satisfactory progress in Objective 5"

(ii) To be added in Objective 1 (b)

"Deadline: 01.01.2016

Task: ii) SC confirms the satisfactory progress in Objective 5"

#### **2. Development of a regional multilateral quota system - Objective 2**

a. Proposed amendment: The description of Objective 2 should mention that the Draft Model which will be elaborated by the Steering Committee will be adopted by the BSEC Member States as a new International Agreement under the aegis of the BSEC.

b. Legal basis for amendment: According to Article 7 para. 2 of the MoU, the Parties have agreed to strive towards a multilateral framework agreement

c. Wording of proposed amendment: To be added as Action no (c): "Draft Model is submitted to the BSEC PERMIS for consideration by BSEC Member States"

#### **3. Accession to International Agreements - Objective 5**

a. Proposed amendment: SC should identify priority areas and set deadlines.

Proposed priority conventions include:

- The revised AETR European Agreement
- The ADR European Agreement
- The TIR Convention
- The International Convention on the Harmonisation of Frontier Controls of Goods
- The ATP Agreement

b. Legal basis for amendment:

The promotion of safety of life and property on the road, protection of environment and fair competition in accordance with international standards is a key concern for each Member State on its territory and forms part of this MoU. The liberalisation of transit and bilateral transport in the

area should progress in parallel with the harmonisation of legal regimes of the Member States in the above key areas.

c. Wording of proposed amendment:

To be added in Objective 5

"Deadline: 01.01.2013 for Priority Conventions

Action: a) Priority Conventions identified by the SC and confirmed by the WGT"

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