



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

DOC/GA16/ACTIV/09

Istanbul, 9 October 2009

SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Conference Centre Varembé (CCV)
Geneva – Switzerland
Wednesday, 04 November 2009, at 15:00 hrs

ACTIVITY REPORT

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

Since the Fifteenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly held in Yerevan, Armenia, on 12 May 2009, 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 for 2009 and its working program is given below by priorities set out by the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

FACILITATION:

1. BSEC VISA FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS (BVPD)

The issue is addressed under Item VII / 1 of the Agenda of the Sixteenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:

State of Affaires related with the Signing and Ratification of the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States (REP/GA16/BVPD/09).

2. INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE (IVWC)

The issue is addressed under Item VII / 4 of the Agenda of the Sixteenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:

Conclusions of the UNECE Joint Seminar on Implementation of the New Annex 8 to the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (REP/GA16/ICHFCG/09).

3. SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES

- a) *Support work of the newly created BSEC Working Group on Customs in order to elaborate a regional Action Plan, which takes into account common regional objectives as laid out in the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region.*

The International Secretariat requested the WG to include in its Action Plan measures and activities related to the Implementation of the Annex 8 (on Road Transport) to the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982, which entered into force for all 12 BSEC Member States on 20 May 2008.

Since the Fifteenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly on 12 May 2009, the WG did not hold a meeting, yet.

- b) *Lobby for accession to and implementation by the BSEC Member States of the UNECE conventions related to road transport and WCO international agreements on development of standards and technical support for the harmonization of procedures governing the movement of people and goods.*

On the occasion of each and every meeting of the BSEC competent organs, the International Secretariat emphasises the importance of the international agreements for facilitation of road transport of goods and urges the countries to join and implement these global instruments, strictly.

Between 11 March 2009 and 1 October 2009, out of 12 BSEC Member States, the Republic of Serbia became a signatory to the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC.

The latest situation in conjunction with the number of conventions acceded by each BSEC country is given in a table in the next page.

- c) *Support the BSEC PERMIS and the Working Group on Customs to consider developing a regional website, where information could be published about customs procedures and charges in the BSEC Member States with respect to international road transport of goods.*

The International Secretariat has informed the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in Istanbul on 11 February 2009, on its readiness to contribute to developing a regional web site to include information on road transport, customs procedures and charges in the BSEC region. This web site could be linked to the IRU portal, which contains a database on road transport of goods and passengers including in the BSEC countries.

This issue should be followed up in 2010 in coordination with the incoming Serbian Chairmanship of the Steering Committee.

4. HARMONIZATION OF CHARGES

- a) *Promote the idea of creating an official BSEC information system on road transport, which could be integrated with the abovementioned idea of a regional website, where country data could be published on road user charges and any other applicable charges and fees in the region.*

The BSEC-URTA and the IRU expressed readiness to consider a request by the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC to share any existing data in their web portals.

This issue should be followed up in 2010 in coordination with the incoming Serbian Chairmanship of the Steering Committee.

- b) *Follow up work of the Steering Committee of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods aimed at harmonizing charges and simplifying collection procedures*

No action has been taken under this matter, yet.

5. GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF BILATERAL AND TRANSIT ROAD TRANSPORT

The issue is addressed under Item VII / 2 of the Agenda of the Sixteenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:

The Introduction of the "BSEC Permit" in 2010 (REP/GA16/PERMIT/09).

And under Item VII / 3 of the Agenda of the Sixteenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly:

Establishment of a Regional Licence System Similar in nature with the ECMT Licences (REP/GA16/LICENCE/09).

UNECE ROAD TRANSPORT RELATED AGREEMENTS / CONVENTIONS
Status as of 01 October 2009

	Nr.	UNECE Convent. / Road Transport	BSEC Member States											
			AL	AR	AZ	BG	GE	GR	MD	RO	RU	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	X
	3	E Comb. Tr. Network, 1991	X			X	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		X
	6	Prot. Road Signs & Signals, 1949				X		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		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			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	X
	19	Tax Priv Road Vehic, 1956	X						X	X		X		
	20	Taxation Road Passengers Vehicles, 1956	X							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	X	
	23	Protocol to CMR, 1978	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X
	24	Contract Passengers and Lugg. Road Trans(CVR)1973										X		X
	25	Protocol to CVR, 1978										X		
	26	Econ. Reg. Road Trans1954						X						
Border crossing facilitation	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	X
	32	Temp. Imp. Commercial. Vehicles, 1956			X	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	X	
	36	Harmonization Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	37	Customs Pool Cont, 1994												
Danger. goods	38	Dang. Goods by Roads(ADR) 1957	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
	39	Protocol to ADR, 1993	X			X		X	X	X	X			
	40	Liab.Dang.Goods-CRTD1989												
	41	Perishab.Foodstuff-ATP, 1970	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
BSEC Member State participation to UNECE Road Transport related Conventions			23	8	12	29	14	29	15	32	24	32	19	17

6. BSEC-URTA FACILITATION PROGRAM

- a) *Support regional projects and activities involving three or more BSEC-URTA Member Associations or BSEC Member Countries, in principle, the BSEC, the IRU and interested leading international and regional organizations, which are aimed at promoting or supporting the abovementioned BSEC-URTA objectives as regards the facilitation of road transport in the BSEC region.*

During the 4th Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport in the BSEC region in Istanbul on 9 September 2009, 7 countries decided to start cooperation under of a pilot project for introduction of the BSEC Permit in 2010.

The International Secretariat gave and will continue to give support for necessary technical and preparatory works, which need to be undertaken by the BSEC PERMIS and the related Member Associations in the Participating Member States in order to ensure a successful launch of this Pilot Project on 1 January 2010.

IRU-BSEC INTERACTION:

1. IRU-BSEC COOPERATION

- a) *Continue contributing to implementation of the MoU between the BSEC Organization and the IRU.*

Bearing in mind the excellent level of cooperation between the BSEC and IRU, the International Secretariat did not feel the necessity to take any new action on this matter, specifically.

- b) *Coordinate participation of the BSEC Secretary General or his delegates to take part in the events organised by the IRU and BSEC-URTA and vice versa.*

The IRU and BSEC-URTA representatives are invited, regularly, and take part actively in the road transport related BSEC meetings and events as well as the meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials and the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Upon the invitation of the BSEC-URTA President, the Secretary General of the BSEC Organization, Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos will attend the 16th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Geneva on 4th November 2009.

2. IRU-BSEC BUSINESS COUNCIL COOPERATION

- a) *Coordinate participation of the Secretary General of BSEC Business Council in the IRU and BSEC-URTA events and on a reciprocal basis of the IRU and BSEC-URTA representatives in the BSEC BC events.*

The BSEC BC invites the IRU and the BSEC-URTA to attend its events, systematically.

The BSEC BC appointed a new Secretary General, who assumed her new function as of 1 May 2009. The International Secretariat hopes to continue the good cooperation between the BSEC-URTA and the BSEC BC under leadership of the new Secretary General, in 2010.

RE-OPENING OF THE SILK ROAD:

1. BSEC-URTA SILK ROAD PROGRAM

- a) *Support regional projects and activities involving three or more BSEC-URTA Member Associations or BSEC Member Countries, in principle, the BSEC, the IRU and interested leading*

international and regional organizations, which are aimed at promoting or supporting the re-opening of the historic Silk Road across the BSEC region.

This objective was introduced on the occasion of the 14th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Geneva on 28 October 2008 and the International Secretariat did not identify any specific project or activity nor received any requests for support, yet, which could be considered under this Program.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:

1. IMPROVEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

- a) *Assist interested Member Associations to develop or diversify professional training services according to experiences of other training institutes in the BSEC region, which are accredited by the IRU Academy.*

The International Secretariat has not received any formal application or request from the Member Associations on this subject since the last meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

2. COOPERATION AT THE BSEC LEVEL

- a) *Encourage the BSEC Member States to revitalize any efforts for mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates issued for professional training of drivers and transport managers in the BSEC region, which meet international standards set for such training products and services particularly in terms of quality and content.*

No new action has been taken under this matter.

COMBINED TRANSPORTATION:

1. IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- a) *Support entry into force and implementation of the BSEC MoU on Motorways of the Sea.*

The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (WG) on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) was held in Novorossiysk, Russian Federation, on 2-3 September 2009.

The WG approved the Russian Federation as Chairman of the WG for a two-year period; elaborated and agreed on the Plan-Concept of the MoS Master Plan; continued consideration of the draft regulatory documents of the WG and project proposals submitted by the Russian Federation.

- b) *Support specific cooperation with the sister BSEC NGOs BASPA, BINSAs and BRASS, for elaboration and implementation of joint activities, studies or projects, which are aimed at developing and improving ro-ro services from the user perspective, who are the BSEC transport operators, mainly.*

All BSEC NGOs are committed to cooperate and work together for developing and improving Ro-Ro services in the Black Sea.

No specific action has been taken under this matter since the last meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

On the other hand, the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat agreed to give a formal support to a joint request of these three sister NGOs from the BSEC PERMIS, which requested the BSEC Organisation to include a special place for maritime matters in a possible BSEC transport activity plan.

LOBBYING AND PROMOTION:

1. COOPERATION BETWEEN TRANSPORT RELATED BSEC NGOS

- a) *Subject to continued mutual interest and determination, implement the MoU signed in Antalya on the 24 November 2006 by the BSEC-URTA and the transport related BSEC NGOs: BINSAs, BRASS and BASPA.*

There is an open dialogue between the BSEC-URTA and subject sister NGOs whenever necessary.

However, it should be noted that there is a need on the part of these NGOs to re-confirm their will to undertake concrete joint projects with the BSEC-URTA within the framework of a comprehensive action plan with clearly set common objectives.

- b) *Support third parties, which would like to create new regional NGOs in the BSEC region according to similar format and experiences of the BSEC-URTA.*

The International Secretariat did not receive any specific request for information or assistance from interested parties since the last meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

2. COOPERATION WITH BSEC PERMIS AND BSEC BC

- a) *Organize mutual working visits whenever necessary and annual debriefings on activities and policy priorities of the BSEC-URTA.*

There is a very high and fruitful frequency of working visits and meetings held between the International Secretariat and the BSEC PERMIS, which ensures mutually satisfactory progress in the outcome of the transport related meetings and projects, particularly related with implementation of the BSEC MoU-F.

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 continues on the occasion of every meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in a BSEC Member State.

INFORMATION SHARING:

1. 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 International Secretariat publishes all its official documents on the internet and announces any new developments in the BSEC region or outcomes of the BSEC meetings, regularly.

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STATISTICS

- a) *Update the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report according to information provided by the Member Associations about industry performance and market developments as well as any other information obtained from various other sources particularly with respect to foreign trade and border crossing waiting times.*

The International Secretariat updated its Regional Outlook Report, which will be presented to the next meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Geneva on 4 November 2009.

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