

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hotel Radisson BLU Iberia, Tbilisi – GEORGIA
Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at 10:00 hrs

**BSEC-ECO INTERACTION FOR CREATION OF THE
ECO LICENSE AS A REGIONAL, MULTIPLE USE DOCUMENT FOR
BILATERAL AND TRANSIT ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE ECO
REGION**

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

I. ABOUT THE ECO

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States. In 1992, the Organization was expanded to include seven new members, namely: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. ECO has embarked on several projects in priority sectors of its cooperation including energy, trade, transportation, agriculture and drug control.

The ECO and the IRU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Istanbul on 15 May 2008 on the occasion of the 31st IRU World Congress. This MoU draws a structured framework of cooperation between two organisations in order to promote the TIR system in the ECO region, develop and implement joint projects and activities to facilitate the road transport in this region.

Cooperation between the IRU and the ECO is coordinated by the IRU Permanent Delegation to the Middle East and Region in Istanbul, Turkey, where the premises of the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat are also located.

II. THE ECO AND THE BSEC-URTA COOPERATION

With the developing cooperation between the IRU and the ECO, the BSEC-URTA was requested to provide expertise support and share its experiences within the BSEC region with respect to creating the BSEC Permit with a view to establishing an ECO regional license similar in nature to the ECMT License in Europe.

The BSEC-URTA International Secretariat has been supporting the ECO, accordingly, in close partnership with the IRU.

III. FROM BSEC PERMIT TO ECO LICENSE

The transit road transport of goods in the ECO region is already liberalised.

As a result the ECO Secretariat requested the new ECO License to allow both bilateral and transit road transport of goods among the ECO Member States.

The BSEC-URTA, together with the IRU, suggested the ECO Secretariat to consider a License, which will be good for multiple usage.

In this connection, the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat prepared two alternative formats of a draft ECO License for single and multiple usages.

The issue will be considered by the ECO Road Transport Committee, which will meet in Tehran, Iran on 23 June 2010.

The ECO Secretariat plans to make a demonstration use of the ECO License on the occasion of the ECO-IRU Silk Road Truck Caravan, which will take start in Islamabad, Pakistan on 14 August 2010.

IV. FROM ECO LICENSE TO BSEC LICENSE?

On the other hand, the pilot usage of the BSEC Permit continues since 16 February 2010.

Representatives of the seven participating BSEC Member States have the interest and commitment to continue the BSEC Permit by further developing it in the future.

The BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods will consider the actual usage of the BSEC Permit during pilot project in the end of 2010.

Taking into account the interest and commitment of the participating States, it is possible that the BSEC Permit will be continued on a permanent basis in the future.

In this case it is likely that the ECO License as a bilateral and transit permit with the possibility to use multiple times, can constitute an important example for these BSEC Member States how to further develop the BSEC Permit.

In compliance with this perspective, the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat also elaborates an advance draft format for the BSEC License, which will be identical to what is being developed for the ECO.

Once completed, this work will be presented to the consideration of the Participating BSEC Member States together with the information whether the ECO License is already approved or not within the ECO region.

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