



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

MIN/GA05/04

Bucharest, 24 June 2004

FIFTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES

Bucharest - ROMANIA

Thursday 24 June 2004, at 10:00 hrs

Before the beginning of the meeting all participants rose in memory of Mr. Rovshan Aghayev, BSEC-URTA's Executive Consultant for Information Technologies, who lost his life in a tragic traffic accident in Baky, Azerbaijan, on 11 April 2004.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu, President of BSEC-URTA, the Chairman of the Meeting, addressed the Director General of the Ministry of Transport of Romania, representatives of Ministries of Transport of BSEC Member States, representatives of IRU, ECMT, EC, SECI, BSEC Business Council as well as delegates from BSEC-URTA Member Associations and Serbian Association, greeting all of them in Bucharest on the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly hosted by ARTRI. In his opening speech the President noted that BSEC-URTA, established to search common solutions of common problems, now works to find extra areas of cooperation. In 2003 the cooperation with BSTDB has started, in the framework of which it was discussed the usage of high technology solutions for bigger competitive strength. Development of the Distance Learning Project, which received an appreciation of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, has been launched. BSEC-URTA established closer relations with IRU, which contributes much in elaboration of the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Diplomas. Mr. Nuhoglu mentioned the participation of the Secretary General of IRU, Mr. Martin Marmy in the IRU, BSEC-URTA and BSEC PERMIS informal meeting in Istanbul in May 2004, where it was agreed to make a cooperation agreement between BSEC PERMIS and IRU General Secretariat, which is going to be signed soon. The President also mentioned the important good developments in the issue on Visa for Professional Drivers. He expressed his respect and gratitude to Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin and Mr. Reha Uran, who defended BSEC-URTA's interests at the Meetings of Ad Hoc Group of Experts. He informed about difficult situation in Hungary, where transit taxes were increased since 1st of May 2004. He emphasized that road transport industry faced either to eliminate important alternative for the transit traffic or to use it with a high transport cost. President informed that at the Meeting of the Management Council this matter was discussed and it was decided to submit for consideration and adoption a new resolution on this issue. The President emphasized that BSEC-URTA turned into a dynamic organization which represents real dynamic industry, which became a model and a guide for politicians and is able to give immediate reaction to the unexpected developments in the market. Because of this all BSEC-URTA gives big expectations for the future. Mr. Nuhoglu highly appreciated the International Transport Forum held in Bucharest one day before the Meeting of the General Assembly, organized jointly with BSEC Business Council, hosted by ARTRI and supported by IRU. He expressed deepest gratitude to ARTRI who did excellent organization, especially to the ARTRI's Secretary General Mr. Florinel Andrei. He thanked representatives of Ministries of Transport of Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Turkey, respectful representative from ECMT, Mrs. Fouvez, and from EC, Mr. Pirkanniemi, whose participation contributed much to the success of the Forum. He thanked IRU, Mr. Peter Krausz, for their great support from the day of the foundation of BSEC-URTA, and expressed pride to be the member of it. In conclusion, President wished the General Assembly to be really successful.

Mr. Florinel Andrei, Secretary General of ARTRI, thanked Mr. Nuhoglu for the warm appreciation he addressed to ARTRI. He emphasized, that this success was not only for organization, but also for the entire road transport sector. Mr. Andrei told, that model of our organization BSEC-URTA, its dynamic and oriented actions could be an example for many other organization acting in the region, partners of our region.

Mr. Costas Masmanidis, Secretary General of the BSEC Business Council, noted that BSEC-URTA is running faster than other BSEC organization and BSEC is happy to cooperate with it. He welcomed the successfully organized International Transport Forum and expressed readiness to take this cooperation to a new level. Mr. Masmanidis wished good luck, leadership and active participation to all delegates.

Mr. Peter Krausz, the Head of the Goods Transport Council of IRU, told that he is pleased to be at this Meeting. He conveyed greetings to Mr. President from IRU management, first of all from Secretary General Mr. Martin Marmy. Mr. Krausz confirmed again that IRU continues giving its full support to BSEC-URTA, and it welcomes the outcome of the Forum on Distribution of Quota Permits. Joining other speakers he thanked ARTRI Secretary General Mr. Florinel Andrei for the excellent organization. He wished successful and fruitful Meeting.

Mr. Florinel Andrei thanked IRU for the continuous support and asked Mr. Krausz to convey his appreciation and sincere thanks to Mr. Marmy for his appreciations addressed to BSEC-URTA.

Mr. Lucian Sova, General Director of the General Directorate for Road Transport of the Ministry of Transport of Romania, expressed his high appreciation of the Forum, where a very important issue on quota permits was discussed. He highlighted that BSEC-URTA is a very dynamic organization and it manages very concrete problems in a sector. He appreciated its way of approaching as an international organization in finding solutions to these problems. Mr. Sova convinced that Ministry's Road Transport Department in cooperation with ARTRI is looking forward for solutions of the problems, identified by BSEC-URTA.



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FIRST SESSION

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA05/AG/04) was adopted unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business of the Meeting (DOC/GA05/OB/04) was adopted unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FOURTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA04/03) were adopted unanimously

V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Chairman informed that in the evening before the Meeting of the General Assembly, the Meeting of the Management Council has been held, and invited Mr. Ozkan to make a report.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, informed that on that Meeting BSEC-URTA activities were evaluated; certain draft decisions and recommendations for approval of the General Assembly were made. Situation in Hungary was considered, existing draft resolutions concerning Visa for Professional Drivers, International Weight Certificate and Distant Professional Learning were studied. Some changes were inserted in Russian version of the Draft Resolution on International Weight Certificate, and paragraph no.4 was inserted in the Draft Resolution on Visas. The Draft of Financial Regulations was considered and the Management Council recommended to consider revision of the Statutes allowing General Assembly to make decision regarding different categories of membership fees without time limiting. Mr. Ozkan reported that the Management Council received a letter from GIRCA inviting to held the next meeting of the General Assembly in Tbilisi in the end of October 2004. The Management Council recommended General Assembly to make a decision in favor of this invitation.

By the decision of the General Assembly, the Item on Resolution on New Transit Taxes in Hungary was added in the Agenda.

VI. RESOLUTION ON NEW TRANSIT TAXES IN HUNGARY

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that associations from Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey asked to consider this issue. Upon a discussion with representatives from the Ministries of Transport and Mr. Krausz the draft resolution was prepared. Mr. Ozkan invited AEBTRI, ARTRI and UND to give comments on this situation.

Mr. Florinel Andrei briefly mentioned the facts, starting from the 1st of May, when Hungarian authorities introduced these new taxes. He showed the impact of this new barrier for transport and trade and underlined the common actions, which have been taken by AEBTRI, ARTRI and UND in order to remove this barrier. Mr. Andrei concluded that the content of the mentioned resolution is an appropriate one, and the support of IRU can guarantee removal or at least reducing these new taxes.

Mr. Gueorgui Petrov, President of AEBTRI, told that these taxes led to big problems for Bulgarian hauliers and Bulgarian economy. He explained that if the lorry stays on the Hungarian territory more than 48 hours, the tax should be paid again, without taking into consideration the distance driven, which is very unfair. Mr. Petrov suggested to adopt the resolution, adding the paragraph, saying that in last 15 years trade exchange increased considerably but the quota of permits stayed the same.

Mr. Reha Uran, Vice-Chairman of UND Executive Committee, supported Bulgarian colleagues. He told that with the support of the IRU this subject can be brought to a higher level where it can be resolved more easily.

Mr. Peter Krausz confirmed that IRU can take on board the decision formulated in the Resolution and fulfill the request addressed to IRU. He expressed the opinion that the Resolution is a balanced one, and it may have chance to success. Responding to the AEBTRI's proposal, he suggested not to be mixed the issue of the high taxes with the issue of quotas.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan suggested adoption of the Resolution like it is without any change and asked the opinion of AEBTRI.

Mr. Gueorgui Petrov agreed to leave the text of Resolution as it was.

Mr. Peter Krausz proposed little change in the fifth paragraph of the first part of the Resolution.

BSEC-URTA Resolution in New Transit Taxes in Hungary was adopted unanimously with abstention of ASMAP and AIRCU.

VII. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Haydar Ozkan reported about activities of the International Secretariat since the last meeting of the General Assembly in October 2003 (DOC/GA05/ACTIV/04). He proposed to consider all relevant draft resolutions during consideration of his report.

1. Visa for Professional Drivers

Mr. Haydar Ozkan told that International Secretariat tried to consolidate and concentrate all its efforts and resources on archiving the concrete outcome on this issue. He expressed sincere gratitude to all of members for their support, especially to Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin and Mr. Reha Uran, who participated in expert meetings in Istanbul together with International Secretariat.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin, the Adviser of the President of ASMAP, told that the objective of the BSEC-URTA is to eliminate three main groups of barriers: delays on border crossing points, visa problems and high fees, taxes, charges. He stressed that BSEC-URTA was the first organization who elaborated the Draft Agreement on Visa Facilitation, but because it was the first

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experience, the agreement was achieved with tough compromises. Mr. Kurshin mentioned several important features of the Agreement: List of Professional Drivers was implemented, the number of necessary documents for visa issuing was decreased, and it is recommended to issue one year visas. Mr. Kurshin emphasized that this agreement is just the first step and the goal is to establish very simple visa issuing procedures for professional drivers or even to eliminate them. The Draft Agreement is expected to be approved in October 2004 at the Meeting of the Senior Officials of the BSEC Member States.

Mr. Reha Uran, being the BSEC-URTA Visa Project Coordinator, emphasized that according to the Draft Agreement visa will be issued in 48 hours without asking so much documents. The Draft Agreement was finalized at the last meeting of experts in Istanbul on 8-9 June 2004. Mr. Uran thanked again the Russian delegation for their leadership along the project. He emphasized that this will be the first concrete project of BSEC-URTA which will help to make faster and stronger steps in future.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin reminded that authorities from Bulgaria and Greece had some concerns about compatibility of the Draft Agreement with EU Shengen Agreement. He advised to associations of these countries to make additional efforts and to work under this question in their Ministries of Foreign Affairs to have the same opinion on this issue.

Mr. Reha Uran expressed assurance that Shengen Reservation could be met after the good lobbying. He told it is important to do it on the international level and for this purpose a Draft Resolution was prepared.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan explained the content of the Resolution and inserted paragraph no 4. He emphasized that in Resolution it is asked to get a written opinion from European Commission which will solve existing concern about compatibility.

The Chairman invited delegates to vote the Resolution.

BSEC-URTA Resolution on Visa for Professional Drivers (RES/GA05/BVPD/04) was adopted unanimously.

2. International Weight Certificate

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Executive Manager, briefed on this issue, mentioning the existing situation in the region.

Mr. Yanis Tsorbatzoglou, SECI-PRO Coordinator, congratulated BSEC-URTA and host association for the beautiful organization. He explained that in 1999 Memorandum on Understanding on weight certificate was signed, and in the same year SECI has created the Regional Road Transport Committee (RTC), composed of governmental experts and chaired by the UN ECE. However, as Mr. Tsorbatzoglou reported, in last 9 month UN ECE has disengaged from the process. He recommended BSEC-URTA to move this project under the UN ECE umbrella using the work that has been done in CIS and with the assistance of Turk-Pro as the link. He expressed the opinion that we are two minutes away from the completion of the overall process, and for this the work of SECI-PRO and BSEC-URTA should be combined. Also he mentioned that moving forward in this process the financial gains as well as better and more efficient operations on border crossing points will be achieved.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin emphasized that the sector needs the one common certificate, and there are 4 groups of countries working under that, and the task is to unite and coordinate this work. He called IRU to lead this work on coordination.

Mr. Oleg Muntean, Head of Legal Department of AITA, emphasized that more than a half of BSEC Member States, i.e. countries from CIS, signed the Agreement on having an IWC. In this case, Mr. Muntean continued, it can be useful to learn the position of other BSEC Member States on this issue, and their willingness to sign such an Agreement.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan underlined that there are similar efforts in more than one region, which are in different level of progress, and in terms of governmental level CIS has taken a leadership. He stressed that for the common weight certificate UNECE should be persuaded to restart engagement process and continue activity to create a global umbrella of a Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1992, and IRU should contribute to BSEC-URTA in this issue.

Mr. Yanis Tsorbatzoglou agreed that the goal is to have a unified document for everybody, and the only one body who can guarantee that is United Nations. He informed about the cooperation between SECI and EURO-PRO. Mr. Tsorbatzoglou also informed that at their last meeting in London the representative of UNECE Mr. Mario Apostolov has informed that Mr. Paul Hudson will be in charge with the whole process, from whom were received the guarantees that the process will move forward.

Mr. Peter Krausz informed that UNECE Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1992, Annex 8, is still in consideration. The Annex on Weight Certificate will be subject to the next Meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Convention in October 2004. Also Mr. Krausz informed that ECMT Ministers in their last meeting in Ljubljana approved a Recommendation on Border Crossing Difficulties in ECMT Region with a special provision inviting Members States to support the final adoption of the Annex 8 of the Convention. He emphasized that the task is to approach UNECE Secretariat, ECMT, CIS and SECI with the Resolution and lobby BSEC governments who will send their delegates to this crucial meeting this year.

The Chairman thanked all speakers and invited the General Assembly to vote on this Resolution.

BSEC-URTA Resolution on International Weight Certificate (RES/GA05/IWC/04) was adopted unanimously.

3. Distance Professional Training

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that International Secretariat did utmost to support and encourage Member Associations to cooperate regarding transport training. He told about the ongoing joint project of ARTRI, AITA and UND on Distance Professional Training. The project was approved by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States to be financed at its initial stage. Mr. Ozkan suggested adoption of a Resolution on this matter.

Mr. Petre Domenico, Responsible of the Department for Development and Coordination Strategies, briefly explained the history



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of the Project. He mentioned that on 10-11 December 2003 in Bucharest representatives of AITA, ARTRI, UND, under coordination of BSEC-URTA International Secretariat, had a meeting on this issue. Also he mentioned that the Project got the financial support from BSEC for the pre-feasible study, but also emphasized the necessity of the financial support from other institutions, such as the World Bank. Mr. Domenico underlined that the Project is open for all other interested Associations.

Mr. Oleg Muntean supported Mr. Domenico.

Mr. Yanis Tsorbatzoglou informed about existing products for distance learning, EU CPC and FIATA Diploma, developed with the support of the World Bank in the frame of Global Facilitation Partnership, Distance Learning Initiative. Mr. Tsorbatzoglou suggested to cooperate with the existing World Bank platform GFP/DLI for BSEC-URTA Project, and expressed assurance that it will be supported. He mentioned Mr. Gerald Ollivier for the GFP DLI, and to Mr. Marc Juhel in the overall GFP in the Bank and expressed readiness to provide all necessary contact information.

Mr. Peter Krausz expressed that IRU took on board requests and provisions of the BSEC-URTA Draft Resolution addressed to the IRU, and expressed readiness to do the necessary promotions in the World Bank.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan thanked Mr. Tsorbatzoglou for his speech, and expressed the hope that the IRU Academy will provide support for the Project. He explained the content of the Draft Resolution on Distance Professional Training and proposed its approval to the General Assembly.

The Chairman proposed to vote the Resolution.

BSEC-URTA Resolution on Distance Professional Training (RES/GA05/TRAIN/04) was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman closed the First Session and announced a Coffee Break.

SECOND SESSION

4. Combined Transport

Mr. Haydar Ozkan reminded that before BSEC-URTA has prepared a matrix table containing all fundamental data about Ro-Ro and Ro-La services available in the area or Caspian, Black and Mediterranean Seas. He emphasized the importance for BSEC-URTA Associations to use higher quality combined transport services and for this reason International Secretariat has been preparing a special questionnaire to get a feedback from drivers, transport companies about their opinions on the existing quality of services in their region, which will be circulated to the Member Associations. It will determine areas of improvement. He asked Member Association to support this idea.

Mr. Leonid Dokil, Vice-President of AIRCU, agreed that this issue is very important, especially in a sense of developing Silk Road route and it is necessary to gather such information. He supported the proposal of International Secretariat and expressed the readiness for cooperation.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan thanked AIRCU for their support. He emphasized the importance of such a survey, because asking real people in the market will make a real picture of combine transport services in the region, and will help us to improve it.

Mr. Florinel Andrei appreciated the idea to make such a survey. He proposed International Secretariat to prepare a draft questionnaire, to send it to all Associations for their possible remarks and then distribute the final version through Associations to the users of combine transport services. Also he told that the time for the feedback should be sufficiently long to collect the correct information.

Mr. Manuel Trifanciuc, Public Relations Assistant, Transport Department of ARTRI, told that transportation is a very dynamic field and to match this dynamics he called on using electronic media such as internet for this survey.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin, replying to Mr. Trifanciuc, expressed doubts that it will be possible to implement in Russia.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan explained that the draft of the form will be sent to all Associations and each of them will decide whether it would be electronic media or material support depending on the internal condition.

5. Harmonization of Charges

Mr. Adrian Albu reported about activities on this issue since the last General Assembly.

6. Simplification of Custom Formalities

Mr. Adrian Albu reported about activities on this issue since the last General Assembly, mentioning the participation in the First Meeting of Cross-Border Cooperation between South-Eastern European Customs Administration, held in Thessalonica on 25-26 February 2004.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan expressed his gratitude to Mr. Nicolaras Panagiotis and to OFAE for his personal initiative near by the relevant Hellenic authorities, to invite BSEC-URTA at this Meeting.

7. BSEC-URTA Publications

Mr. Haydar Ozkan reminded that at the Fourth General Assembly it was decided to publish a kind of reference book for our region. He informed that the content of the book is under preparation and an agreement with ARTRI was reached about publication support. He invited Mr. Ruchan Derici who is in charge with the design of the Guide, to take the floor.



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Mr. Ruchan Derici, Consultant for BSEC-URTA Guide publication, presented design and content of the Guide. He announced that the website of the Guide is ready and he called on support from the Associations on providing all necessary information.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan thanked Mr. Derici and invited Mr. Kurshin to speak about promotion support.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin suggested to be prepared an advertisement page which could be published in Association's magazines and web sites. He expressed readiness to publish advertisements for free, as a member of BSEC-URTA.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of such a prestige publication, but for the success of it, Member Associations should give their support. This Black Sea Transport and Logistics Guide will help companies to reach each other easier in the region. Mr. Nuhoglu told that the Secretariat will prepare the synopsis of the scope and context of the Guide and send to the member associations till the end of July. He emphasized that everybody should agree upon the common value added of having such a Guide, it will bring to us.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin told that he fully agrees with the President and emphasized that BSEC-URTA Member Associations should make efforts to provide as much advertisers for the Guide as possible.

Mr. Leonid Dokil confirmed that AIRCU supports the publication of the Guide. He proposed not to include all haulier companies but only those who want. Also Mr. Dokil assured that AIRCU will provide all necessary materials.

The Chairman thanked for support and passed to the next item of Agenda.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM ON DISTRIBUTION OF QUOTA PERMITS

Mr. Florinel Andrei reported about conclusions of the Forum (DOC/GA05/ITF2/04)

The Chairman thanked Mr. Andrei. He instructed the Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the declaration of the Forum and asked the promotion of its outcome and the deliberations.

IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Approval of BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2003

The Chairman invited Mr. Albu to read the short report for the General assembly

Mr. Adrian Albu briefly told about the Budget and its execution (DOC/GA05/EBUDG/04, Annex 1).

The Chairman invited the General Assembly to vote the document.

BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2003 (DOC/GA05/EBUDG/04) was adopted unanimously.

2. Adoption of BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations

Mr. Haydar Ozkan, having a floor from the Chairman, explained that since 1 January, 2004, BSEC-URTA Budget is based on membership payments from Associations and IRU. Taking this into consideration, the International Secretariat felt the responsibility to establish Financial Regulations like a basic document which will control money spending. He mentioned about article 11 of the Statutes about equal contribution fees, and about proposal of Management Council to revise this article. He suggested delegates to express their opinions.

Mr. Oleg Muntean agreed on necessity to revise the mentioned Article 11 of the Statutes and give the power to General Assembly to make decisions on this matter. Also he expressed the opinion that there is no need to consider Financial Regulations at the General Assembly, this matter could be discussed by Management Council which should give the power to the Secretary General to decide on duties, obligations and salary conditions for the personnel.

The Chairman thanked AITA for their trust. But because BSEC-URTA obtained a strong legal position in Turkey it is obliged to present reports and documents to certain local authorities. He suggested to change the Statutes and give the power of the decision about membership payments to the General Assembly. He stressed that it will give flexibility to future decisions. He proposed amendment to article 11, paragraph 3, of the Statutes.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin expressed the opinion that changes in Statutes should be voted, and that Financial Regulations should be approved by President or by Management Council. Also he proposed to exclude the article about paying interests in the case of delayed payments.

Mr. Reha Uran confirmed that UND is for this changes. And he called on to take the decision on this General Assembly.

The Chairman told that although the decision can be made by majority, he thinks that it is not preferable when considering the Statutes. And he proposed to make a decision on the next General Assembly.

Mr. Oleg Muntean showed the necessity to amend the Statutes, and proposed not to postpone it for the next meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Muntean, but told that it would be better to discuss this item at the next General Assembly, to be sure that everybody has a consensus about this matter.

Mr. Kujtim Ismaili, Director of Department of Foreign Affairs, Finance, TIR, suggested to approve the proposal of the amendments as they are now, and adopt the Financial Regulations, too.



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Mr. Florinel Andrei agreed with *Mr. Muntean*.

The Chairman proposed not to discuss this item anymore, to postpone it for the next General Assembly, and to pass to the next item of Agenda. The meeting approved the proposal.

3. Election of BSEC-URTA Auditors for 2004

The Chairman announced that it is necessary to elect two Auditors to control BSEC-URTA accounts.

Mr. Nicolaras Panagiotis, the President of OFAE, in his intervention showed that it is utmost necessary to have Auditors. Also he agreed that the level of contribution fees should be different, and suggested for the next General Assembly to make a study among the Member Associations on levels of contribution fees as well as the deadline when contributions should be paid.

The Chairman thanked *Mr. Panagiotis* and suggested to make a proposed study, and again called on selecting the Auditors.

Mr. Florinel Andrei proposed *Mr. Manuel Trifanciuc*, ARTRI's staff member, for the position of BSEC-URTA Auditor.

Mr. Nicolaras Panagiotis proposed his candidature for the position of the BSEC-URTA Auditor.

General Assembly congratulated newly elected Auditors with applause.

X. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Haydar Ozkan, having a floor from the President, informed the General Assembly that official invitation from GIRCA was received, suggesting to hold the next Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Tbilisi, hosted by GIRCA, in the eve of the Ministerial Meeting in the end of October 2004. Since the Georgia is the current chairman in office in BSEC, Secretary General suggested to vote in favor of this invitation.

Invitation from GIRCA to host the next Meeting of the General Assembly in Tbilisi in the end of October 2004 was approved.

XI. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2004 - Second Half

Mr. Adrian Albu first proposed to have the next meeting of the General Assembly on 26th of October, and later he told about planned events to be held in the second half of the year 2004 (DOC/GA05/CAL/04).

Mr. Haydar Ozkan said that this information will be provided to all Associations by email.

XII. DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that the Decisions (DEC/GA05//04) will be prepared after the Meeting by the International Secretariat and will be submitted for the signatures later in the evening or by fax letters.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

The Chairman invited delegates to discuss other topics.

Mr. Kujtim Ismaili thanked ARTRI for the excellent organization of the Meeting.

Mr. Erdem Direkler, Head of Road Transport Department of the Ministry of Transport of Turkey, expressed happiness to participate in the Meeting and thanked ARTRI for organizing very fruitful two days meetings. On behalf of his Ministry, he expressed official support to BSEC-URTA in fulfilling its important tasks on eliminating barriers in the trade.

Mr. Oleg Muntean addressed his sincere thanks to the host association ARTRI for the warm hospitality and highly appreciated the work done by International Secretariat during the two days meetings.

Mr. Arkadiy Kurshin thanked translators for their good service.

XIV. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman appreciated very much that all the delegations expressed their gratitude to the host association ARTRI. He confirmed his sincere gratitude to *Mr. Andrei* and presented him a plaque as a token for excellent organization of Meetings.

The Chairman emphasized the good work and strong image that BSEC-URTA has achieved. He also underlined that the BSEC-URTA's main task is to bring transport operators to the right level in the society which they deserve with their major role in the trade in BSEC region, with their contribution to a better performance of the economy in BSEC countries, in spite of all difficulties which they severely face every day. BSEC-URTA shares big responsibilities to make all improvements real. BSEC-URTA is not an ordinary organization; it tries to develop its own solutions, proposals, and tries to follow up them with utmost efficiency. He was convinced that each line of the Resolutions adopted at this Meeting, will be followed up.

In conclusion, *Mr. President* emphasized the importance to think together, act together, and most important, to share together. He warmly greeted all participants for sharing their democratic views and discussions for the better for all, not only as a BSEC-URTA President, but also in his capacity as UND President, and on behalf of all the Turkish hauliers.

The Chairman thanked everyone and officially closed the Fifth Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

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