



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

MIN/GA06/04 CORR

Tbilisi, 26 October 2004

SIXTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES

Tbilisi - GEORGIA

Tuesday 26 October 2004, at 10:00 hrs

I. OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu, President of BSEC-URTA, the Chairman of the Meeting, welcomed all participants of the Sixth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly hosted by Georgian Association GIRCA in Tbilisi. In his opening speech he told about particular importance of the road transport sector in the world trade and about efforts for its facilitation. Particularly, he emphasized the strategic location of the BSEC region for transport corridors between Europe and Asia, particularly the TRACECA and North/South, as well as the importance of transport facilitation by means of various agreements between neighboring countries. He stated that facilitation of transportation in a country makes it more preferable for hauliers and causes more transit traffic, which improves the national economy of the country and has a positive influence on exports and imports of goods. He mentioned about ECMT Multilateral Quota System which was created for transport facilitation purposes and appealed to participants to elaborate during the meetings a common position regarding restructuring of this system. He stressed that it is important to request Ministries of Transport to defend that position on ECMT meetings. He also mentioned about ongoing efforts on the introduction of International Vehicle Weight Certificate and about importance of cooperation between BSEC, SECI and CIS under the umbrella of UNECE and with coordination of IRU on this issue. The positive comments from all parties involved were already obtained on the idea of holding a special coordination meeting in Geneva in 2005 on this issue. Mr. Nuhoglu told about other priority issues of BSEC-URTA: Facilitation of visa for professional lorry drivers, citizens of BSEC Member States and Mutual recognition of CPCs. Certain work has been done during the meetings of BSEC working groups on those issues, and results will be submitted to the senior officials and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States for their consideration and possible adoption. Regarding the issue on high transit taxes in Hungary, Mr. Nuhoglu stressed that after the adoption of the BSEC-URTA Resolution on this matter IRU applied to EC, which started investigation of this issue. Concluding his speech, the President emphasized the active and fruitful work of BSEC-URTA in spirit of friendship and close cooperation between Associations, its professionalism and objectiveness. Completing his work as a Founding President of BSEC-URTA he expressed pride to pass the flag of presidency to a new president and vice presidents who will be elected at this meeting.

Mr. Igor Rounov, the Head of the IRU Permanent Delegation to CIS, told that he is very pleased to participate in the Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. Having the opportunity, he congratulated Mr. Chkheidze with his birthday. In his speech Mr. Rounov emphasized that IRU supports BSEC-URTA from its founding, and the issues of this meeting are very close to questions that are in the focus of IRU's attention in Geneva, Brussels and Moscow: future of the ECMT Multilateral Quota System, Visa for Professional Drivers, Harmonization of Training standards, International Vehicle Weight Certificate which are on IRU's agenda from year to year. But efforts of our countries and organizations should be united to solve those problems and reach those results, which match the existing tendencies toward the globalization of the world economy, creating the single market of goods, services, capitals and human resources. In conclusion he expressed the hope that the Meeting will contribute to these processes.

Mr. Tugay Ulucevik, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General, expressed great pleasure attending the inaugural session of the Sixth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He thanked Mr. Nuhoglu for invitation and GIRCA for offering hospitality. In his speech Mr. Ulucevik emphasized that BSEC appreciates the interest and valuable contribution of BSEC-URTA to the activities of BSEC in the field of transportation. Road transportation ranks high in the whole BSEC economic cooperation, and the first project under BSEC Project Development Fund relates to Road. He noticed that the close cooperation between BSEC related bodies and BSEC-URTA continues fruitfully. He thanked the International Secretariat for its great contribution in elaborating the Draft Agreement on Visa for Professional Drivers, which is of particular importance for the BSEC region. He wished all participants a successful work at this meeting.

Mr. Alexander Chkhikvadze, the Chairman of the Road Transport Administration of Georgia, told that it is very honorary to host the Sixth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA in Tbilisi, on the Georgian land. In his speech he described the positive changes in the area of road transportation in Georgia, which took place in a very short time period since 1994. The geographical location of Georgia makes it a very important transit country. High corruption, which was the reason that many hauliers avoided to transit through Georgia, is in past; now situation has changed. State Traffic Inspection was eliminated, Patrol Police was created. The situation at the border crossing has changed considerably. In Georgia an interdepartmental group was created, which is in charge to solve problems of transit etc. It holds its Meetings almost every week. Now, laws are being changed in order to liberalize financial matters. In conclusion, Mr. Chkhikvadze expressed his happiness to have such an inter-associational cooperation, and expressed his readiness as the representative of the government to help and to assist in related questions. He wished a fruitful meeting to all participants.

FIRST SESSION

The Chairman opened the first sitting of the Sixth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He thanked the President of GIRCA Mr. Chkheidze for the organization of this Meeting. And he briefed on the agenda of the Meeting.



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

With deepest regret he told about the death of Arkadiy Borisovich Kurshin, who was a dignified man and contributed very much to the work of BSEC-URTA and to the whole road transport sector. Mr. Nuhoglu invited all participants to rise for a moment of silence in memory of Arkadiy Borisovich Kurshin.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA06/AG/04) was adopted unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business of the Meeting (DOC/GA06/OB/04) was adopted unanimously.

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

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA05/03) were adopted unanimously

V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Chairman informed that in the evening before the Management Council met, where the BSEC-URTA activities were evaluated; certain draft decisions and recommendations for approval of the General Assembly were made. Management Council considered the issue on the follow-up of the Istanbul 2004 Conference in a favorable way. The issue on ECMT Multilateral Quota System was discussed, the report and the draft Resolution were examined and endorsed. Moreover, taking into consideration the difficult situation with the ECMT Quota System, a decision was taken to recommend to the General Assembly to create a special working party on this issue. Management Council considered the draft Resolution on International Vehicle Weight Certificate and decided to recommend the General Assembly to adopt it. The documents on BSEC-URTA 2005 Working Programme, on BSEC-URTA 2005 Budget and BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations were evaluated and put to the consideration of the General Assembly. Regarding the place of the next meeting of the General Assembly, the Management Council took note of the verbal invitation of the President of OFAE Mr. Nicolaras Panagiotis to hold the next meeting in Athens and decided to recommend to the General Assembly to accept it.

VI. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Haydar Ozkan presented the report about activities of the International Secretariat since the last meeting of the General Assembly in June 2004 (DOC/GA06/ACTIV/04) under certain groups according to the BSEC-URTA priorities.

1. Visa for Professional Drivers

Mr. Haydar Ozkan noted the active cooperation among BSEC-URTA, IRU and BSEC competent organs for simplification of visa procedures for lorry drivers-citizens of BSEC Member States. The elaborated draft Agreement has political and security aspects inside, and, when concluded and opened for signatures of BSEC Member States, will become first intergovernmental document which aims facilitating visa for professional lorry drivers. Mr. Ozkan expressed his hope that the draft Agreement will be considered favorably by the Council of Ministers. Taking into consideration the close cooperation between International Secretariat, ASMAP and UND on this issue, he invited Mr. Reha Uran, who participated in the meetings of the relevant Ad Hoc Expert Group, for verbal report.

Mr. Reha Uran, Vice-Chairman of UND Executive Committee, said that there has been a long journey since June 2002, when the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group started, and since then five meetings were held, the last was held on 9 June 2004. As a project coordinator, Mr. Uran appreciated the support of the International Secretariat in finalizing the draft agreement. He said that now the Agreement is at its crucial stage, there were some concerns of some Member States about its compatibility with the EU acquis. However, with the help of IRU, we applied to European Commission asking them to comment on this draft agreement, and it was confirmed that this Agreement has no problems with the compatibility with the existing EU regulations.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan emphasized that the work under this Agreement shows the good example of IRU, BSEC and BSEC-URTA cooperation. He thanked IRU, who brought this issue to consideration of the European Commission. He informed that the answer of European Commission was officially conveyed to BSEC PERMIS, who circulated it to all BSEC Member States. He expressed his hope that this answer would help a lot to remove concerns of Ministers for undersigning the Agreement, otherwise, they may decide to transfer the document back with new concerns. Mr. Ozkan informed that Mr. Albu will participate in the forthcoming BSEC Meetings.

2. Harmonization of Charges and Simplification of Custom Formalities

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that BSEC-URTA International Secretariat has been cooperating with BSEC Working Group on Trade and Development as a second frontier in addition to the BSEC Working Group on Transport. In the last 4 month time BSEC Working Group on Transport has a meeting regarding maritime transport only, so BSEC-URTA International Secretariat brought this issue to consideration of the Working Group on Trade and Development. He invited Mr. Albu, who participated in this meeting, to give a report.

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Executive Manager, told that the last meeting of the BSEC WG on Transport was held in February 2004, where the International Secretariat requested consideration of the issue on Harmonization of Charges be included in WG's working program to remove difference of charges between countries. Next meeting will be held in December 2004/January 2005. He told that International Secretariat will attend this meeting and try to achieve progress to this end. Regarding the issue on Simplification of Customs Formalities, Mr. Albu informed that the International Secretariat submitted its report under 4th BSEC-URTA General Assembly meeting to BSEC PERMIS to be discussed in the appropriate Working Group. International Secretariat took part in the Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Development on 5-6

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

September 2004 and presented its report. Working Group acknowledged the problem as a potential non tariff barrier and decided to consider this issue with our proposals on its meeting.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan emphasized two main things: first, the BSEC Working Group on Transport agreed to organize a special session devoted to road transport issues; second, BSEC-URTA International Secretariat participated in the Working Group on Trade and Development, where it stressed that Working Group should feel responsible in facilitation of the road transport.

3. International Weight Certificate

Mr. Haydar Ozkan reminded that the BSEC-URTA Resolution on this issue was adopted at the last Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, and shortly briefed on the content of the Resolution. He informed that International Secretariat had the opportunity to participate in the 23rd SECI PRO Meeting on 13 September 2004 in Istanbul, where on behalf of BSEC-URTA our concerns about the slow progress on this issue under the umbrella of the UNECE were openly expressed. On 22-23 September 2004 the Istanbul 2004 Conference on Globalization was organized by UND with the partnership of IRU. The Director of UNECE Inland Transport Committee Division Mr. Capel Ferrer participated there and it was a chance to exchange views with him. In the final declaration there has also been a special reference to UNECE to act actively according the requests and demands. At the moment there are positive comments from the BSEC, SECI, UNECE, however the direct contact with CIS was not established. Mr. Ozkan told that it is a chance that Head of the IRU PD to CIS Mr. Igor Rounov participates in the meeting. Also Mr. Ozkan proposed to consider and adopt the Resolution on International Vehicle Weight Certificate.

Mr. Igor Rounov, on behalf of IRU and IRU PD to CIS told that it has been given a high priority to the implementation of the CIS Agreement and the Certificate itself. He mentioned that the President of AITA Mr. Florea led this process in CIS, and it is the chance to check the efficiency of the work of CIS as the international organization, where one of the reasons of inefficiency of CIS is that it lacks the direct mechanisms of the implementation of the decisions.

He stressed that two parallel processes move nowadays: EU enlargement and integration on one hand, and efforts of creating a common economic space between Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan in the CIS region, including integration through the creation of a free market zone, customs union etc.. Till the end of the year the block of 29 regulations will be prepared in this regard, which would be adopted by mid 2005. He emphasized that two processes mentioned above should be synchronized. And the same should be done regarding the International Vehicle Weight Certificate issue. He informed that CIS agreement on IVWC was undersigned in Bishkek on 16 April 2004. He underlined the importance of its realization which, hopefully, will be done with the active contribution of the associations. He also informed that Russia was the first country who undersigned the implementation of the Agreement. The mechanism of implementation was elaborated by the Ministry of Transport of Republic of Moldova and Byelorussia and was circulated among the parties.

Mr. Rounov concluded his speech expressing the support of the synchronization of this process with other efforts on this issue.

3. Combined Transport

Mr. Haydar Ozkan reminded that at the last meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Bucharest, where it was decided to make a regional survey on combined transportation in order to understand the opinion of the hauliers about the combined transport services. Mr. Ozkan emphasized that the combined transportation is an important issue, which, if used well, can be very helpful for the competitive strength of the members of BSEC-URTA Associations - transport operators. He informed that the International Secretariat prepared the questionnaire forms and circulated among the Associations. He explained the content of the forms. Mr. Ozkan emphasized that the outcome of this survey will be presented at the next meeting but active cooperation of the Member Associations is necessary. He stressed that the survey is a regional one and it is necessary to provide as much information.

4. Distance Professional Training

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that the contract between AEBTRI, ARTRI and UND, and BSEC organization to develop the Distance Learning Software was undersigned and BSEC gave the financial support of 6000 USD. He emphasized that Associations took upon certain responsibilities and they have to regularly report on the progress on this issue.

5. Mutual Recognition of CPCs

Mr. Haydar Ozkan told about existing good example of CIS region, supported by the IRU, where an agreement was concluded on this issue. He informed that, upon the request of BSEC-URTA, a special BSEC Ad Hoc Expert Group was established and had its first meeting where they considered and worked on the draft agreement provided by the IRU, which is similar to the one adopted by CIS. Some minor amendments were done and BSEC organization asked for the comments of BSEC Member States on this draft agreement. A reply from Greece was received informing that this issue is beyond their legal capacity as an EU member and so they cannot discuss that matter. Mr. Ozkan suggested that IRU should intervene with the European Commission in order to facilitate further progress on this issue. He proposed that Mr. Dingemans would inform competent IRU organs in detail.

Mr. Igor Rounov stressed that the difference in training standards is one of the administrative barriers for integration of transport industry and it is also one of the professional rights to provide free movement and access to the profession. He informed that in CIS there was an expert group on this issue and the text of intergovernmental CIS agreement was elaborated together with the IRU, which is submitted for the initial consideration and some changes were made. In November this agreement will be considered and if it will be adopted it will be opened to the signatures of the Vice Premiers. Mr. Rounov agreed that this project should be coordinated to synchronize all efforts.



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

Mr. Haydar Ozkan emphasized two important things: agreement was sent to BSEC Member states, but only two countries – Turkey and Greece - sent their replies. He appealed to Associations to use their channels and ask for comments and obtain support letters from relevant national authorities.

6. Transit taxes in Hungary

Mr. Haydar Ozkan reminded that the BSEC-URTA Resolution was adopted in Bucharest on this issue and he shortly briefed on its content. He informed that IRU sent the official appeal to both the Hungarian government and European Commission on this issue and BSEC-URTA International Secretariat asked for the efforts and intervention of the Hungarian association on this issue. Hungarian government made an official answer to IRU defending its position but the European Commission informed that this may have some aspects which may contradict with EU rules and which need to be investigated. Investigation is underway and BSEC-URTA International Secretariat will continue following this issue.

The Chairman thanked Secretary General stressing that he is very pleased to see that so much work has been done in 4 month period. He expressed his disappointment as regards the low activity of member associations in obtaining the results of combined transportation survey and called on more active cooperation.

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

SECOND SESSION

7. BSEC-URTA Publications

Mr. Adrian Albu reported that upon the instructions of the General Assembly the International Secretariat has started the work on the preparation of the Black Sea Guide. He reminded the approved content of the Guide and mentioned that ARTRI agreed to print the catalogue. However, since there was a lack of interest and cooperation of Member Associations so far, Mr. Albu appealed to the participants to reconsider whether the work on the Guide should be continued.

Mr. Mikhail Nizov, the Vice-President of ASMAP, in expressing his position told that information resources are very important for associations as well as for associations' members – transport companies, however, when talking about publication of the list of members, ASMAP faces with the unwillingness of some members to provide such information for the publication and that is the reason why some of associations don't support to publish such a list. On the other hand, ASMAP itself is not interested in the list of members of any other national associations because we can directly apply to the association for the information of any particular member.

Mr. Oleg Muntean, Head of Legal Department of AITA, supported the idea of publishing such a Guide, and express disagreement with the position of ASMAP.

Mr. Plamen Tzalkov, Secretary General of AEBTRI, told that information service is the most important activity of AEBTRI which is helpful not only for transporters, but also traders in national and international levels. With the view that every association should do something to help their members, AEBTRI thinks that it will be useful to publish such a Guide.

Mr. Gia Tsipuria, Secretary General of GIRCA, told that GIRCA is still not sure about its position and about the ability to provide information on its members because about 30% of them do not want to publish their contact details.

Mr. Kujtim Ismaili, Head of TIR department of ANALTIR, supported the idea to publish such a Guide. He emphasized that it is necessary for ANALTIR members but asked on which language it will be published because not all transporters know English or Russian.

Mr. Manuel Triffanciuc, Public Relations Specialist of Transport Department of ARTRI, also supported the idea of publishing the Guide.

Mr. Reha Uran, Vice-Chairman of UND Executive Committee, informed that UND collects information from its members and it is published every year. He expressed the assurance that if such establishment in regional level could be made it will provide quite useful information such as contact details and it will reduce the amount of time to answer questions. On behalf of UND Mr. Uran supported the idea.

The Chairman summarized that there is a need for such a publication however there is a question on the level of sharing the information. He asked the Secretariat to send again all the information on the guide's content to the Associations which would give a reply in written form on supporting or not the publication of the Guide.

VII. CONCLUSIONS OF ISTANBUL 2004: INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION

The Chairman invited Mrs. Camurcu to report about the conclusions of the Istanbul 2004 Conference, mentioning that the conference was a successful one and Management Council decided to submit to the General Assembly the proposal to consider the idea to continue organizing such a follow up events in the future.

Mrs. Evgeniya Camurcu, Administrative Officer of the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat, briefed on the conclusions of the Istanbul 2004: International Road Transport Conference on Globalisation (DOC/GA06/IST2004/04).

Mr. Haydar Ozkan continued with the report. He informed about the opinions of the participants of the conference to organize such conferences regularly, bringing together industry and government. Mr. Ozkan suggested also to organize special follow up workshops every six months in order to exchange views and to ensure regular progress monitoring.

The Chairman supported the idea of the Secretary General.



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

Mr. Igor Rounov, informed that IRU holds a lot of conferences and supports any actions in this regard, especially involving the governments.

The Chairman supported Mr. Rounov's view on the importance of the information activities. He stressed that facilitation of the road transport is for the benefit for every country and all barriers to the road transportation of goods should be eliminated to help transporters to get their place in global economy. He also expressed the assurance that the presence of all stakeholders: academicians, hauliers, IRU, UN, and representatives of governments is the main advantage for repeating such meetings regularly.

Mr. Mikhail Nizov seconded to the position of Mr. Chairman and Mr. Rounov. He stressed that the organization of such global meetings has a big political meaning, promotes the image and shows the unity of transport industry, demonstrates high organization and coordination of professional associations. Secondly, he stressed that such events show to our members the civilized way of development by setting direct official contacts, showing high level of professional qualification of staff and members. In other words this adjusts our clocks of our activities in global world, media informs all population, especially citizens of the country where the conference takes place, and all political parties listen the opinion of the professional associations. Mr. Nizov concluded that such events are of utmost importance and it's a chance to show the strength of the road transporters.

The Chairman suggested to establish an Ad Hoc working party on systematic follow-up of ISTANBUL 2004 Conference conclusions, who will consider financial matters and other organization issues for the event in 2006. He asked for candidates to join the work of this group.

Mr. Georgi Petrov, the President of AEBTRI, nominated Mrs. Neli Salo.

Mr. Mikhail Nizov said that the ASMAP will join the work of this party but the name will be nominated later.

Mr. Manuel Triffanciuk supported the idea and told that ARTRI will inform Secretariat on the nominated person.

VIII. ECMT MULTILATERAL QUOTA SYSTEM - PERSPECTIVES FOR A MEANS OF FACILITATION AND REMOVAL OF BARRIERS FOR ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS

The Chairman stressed the importance of this issue, taking into consideration views on restructuring the quota system.

Mr. Adrian Albu made a presentation on this issue (DOC/GA06/ECMT/04).

Mr. Nizov suggested to make a study and propose the quota distribution according to the volume of trade between countries.

The Chairman said that at the Management council the text of the Resolution on ECMT Multilateral Quota System was considered and the Council decided to submit the text to the General Assembly for adoption.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan shortly explained the content of the Resolution.

The Chairman invited delegates to vote the Resolution.

BSEC-URTA Resolution on ECMT Multilateral Quota System (RES/GA06/ECMT/04) was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan mentioned that the text was a product of the exchanged views with the IRU and the ECMT. He informed that an ECMT Subgroup was established in order to prepare recommendations on the perspectives of the quota system. Newly established BSEC-URTA Working Party could try to prepare arguments to be considered by the Subgroup. Mr. Ozkan suggested ASMAP, ARTRI, AEBTRI and UND to join the Working Party, and expressed the hope that the IRU would also contribute to this work.

The suggestion of the Secretary General on composing of the Working Party was adopted by the General Assembly.

The Chairman announced a coffee break.

THIRD SESSION

X. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2005

Mr. Haydar Ozkan presented the vision and strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA (DOC/GA06/WP/04).

Strategic objectives of BSEC-URTA were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan presented the Working Programme for 2005 in accordance with the strategic objectives.

BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2005 (DOC/GA06/WP/04) was adopted unanimously.

XI. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. BSEC-URTA Budget for 2005

Mr. Haydar Ozkan explained how the budget was formed (DOC/GA06/BUDG/04).

The Chairman noted that the budget includes for the first time a 1.000 EUR of part time payment to the BSEC-URTA Secretary General.

BSEC-URTA Budget for 2005 (DOC/GA06/BUDG/04) was voted and adopted unanimously.



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

Mr Haydar Ozkan mentioned that according to Article 11 of BSEC-URTA Statutes membership fees should be equal. He drew the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that the adopted budget is based on a contribution table composed of 3 different levels of contribution fees.

The Chairman informed that the Management Council recommends to the General Assembly to amend the BSEC-URTA Statutes and obtain the right to decide on level of contribution fees anytime without restriction.

Accordingly, Article 11 of the BSEC-URTA Statutes was amended unanimously.

BSEC-URTA Contribution Table, as proposed in DOC/GA06/BUDG/04, was adopted unanimously.

2. Adoption of BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that the Management Council considered the draft financial regulation (REG/GA06/FIN/04) and made an amendment under Article 6. He proposed to consider the adoption of Financial Regulations taking into the account this amendment.

The Chairman explained that for the right implementation of the budget by the International Secretariat it was necessary to have financial regulations. He proposed to vote the document.

Mr. Kujtim Ismaili made a comment regarding Article 5, mentioning that a financial year is not closed at ANALTIR before 31 January. Therefore, it is not possible to pay membership fee, yet. He proposed to pay 50% of the membership fee up to 31 January, and pay the remaining part later, up to June.

Mr. Oleg Muntean stressed the necessity of such regulations because International secretariat is located in Turkey and should work in accordance to the Turkish laws. He mentioned some mistakes in the translation into Russian language, also said that there is no need to mention about the prolongation of the financial year in the Article 1. He proposed to delete a word "draft" related to the budget, in Article 2, and remove repetition in Article 1 and Article 3 in Section II. He also proposed to remove words "private or public" regarding to banking institutions, in Section III, Article 1. And he said that it is not correct to use words "As a rule" in Section VI, Article 1.

Mr. Haydar Ozkan noted comments of Mr. Muntean and proposed necessary amendments to the Financial Regulations.

The Chairman proposed to vote the BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations, as amended.

BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations (REG/GA06/FIN/04) were adopted unanimously.

XII. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman informed that the BSEC chairmanship goes to Greece. As a result of this fact, OFAE conveyed a proposal to have the 7th meeting of the General Assembly in Athens in spring 2005. Due to their General Assembly, very recently, Mr. Panagiotis couldn't come.

Invitation from OFAE to host the next Meeting of the General Assembly in Athens (Greece) in Spring 2005 was approved by applause.

XIII. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2005 - First Half

Mr. Adrian Albu presented the BSEC-URTA Calendar for the first half of the year 2005.

XIV. ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA PRESIDENT FOR 2005-2006 AND VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR 2005

Mr. Haydar Ozkan explained the operative article of the Statutes regarding elections, according to which the presidency for 2005-2006 goes to Albania. The term of office of current Vice Presidents Mr. Sukhin and Mr. Hambardzumyan expires on 31.12.2004 and vice-presidency goes to ARTRI Secretary General Mr. Andrei and ABADA President Mr. Nurullayev. He informed that the International Secretariat has received official nomination of Mr. Andrei, and verbal nomination of Mr. Nurullayev. He declared that ANALTIR President Mr. Ilir Mataj becomes the BSEC-URTA President for the years 2005-2006.

The Chairman congratulated newly elected President and Vice-Presidents. After the elections, Chairman informed the General Assembly that the Management Council proposes an amendment to Statutes that future BSEC-URTA President are appointed by elections instead of rotation

Proposed amendments to the BSEC-URTA Statutes were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ilir Mataj gave a speech of thanks on occasion of his election as President of the BSEC-URTA. In his speech he underlined that at that time when BSEC-URTA was founded we had very little knowledge about each other, but now we are working together trying to find solutions to our common problems. He expressed his assurances that, the BSEC-URTA will be on the right track and it will contribute to the improvement of the transport in the region. He emphasized the important contribution and continuous support of IRU Directing Staff given in these three years. He mentioned the great contribution of the UND and gave special thanks to Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu. At the same time, he expressed special thanks to Mr. Haydar Ozkan and his staff for the very good work and competency shown during these three years. He expressed his gratitude to GIRCA for the very good conditions created for the Sixth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. Concluding his speech, Mr. Mataj assured that he will always be committed in fulfilling the duties of the Organization.

Taking into account the 3 year period and the great work done, Mr. Mataj proposed to elect Mr. Nuhoglu as lifetime Honorary President and the Member of the Management Council.



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

The General Assembly congratulated Mr. Mataj on the occasion of his election as a BSEC-URTA President, with applause. Mr. Mataj presented a special token of thanks to outgoing BSEC-URTA President, Mr. Nuhoglu.

XV. DECISIONS OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Haydar Ozkan informed that the Decisions (DEC/GA06/04) will be prepared after the Meeting by the International Secretariat and will be submitted for the signatures later in the evening.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

No comments were given under this item.

XIV. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman in his closing speech told that he is pleased with the work done during the Meeting. He also expressed his pride and happiness about the whole work done since 2001. He mentioned that the fast changes in the world and globalization affect transport sector and transporters, and problems of one transporter from any country become our common problems. And those common problems should be solved jointly. A lot of things has been done together and will be done more on issues such as visa for professional drivers, mutual recognition of diplomas, distance learning project, high taxes in Hungary, future of ECMT Multilateral Quota System, International Vehicle Weight Certificate...

He wished success to the newly elected President Ilir Mataj and expressed readiness to help on any occasion. He expressed sincere gratefulness to GIRCA President Mr. Alexander Chkheidze and GIRCA Secretary General Mr. Gia Tsipuria for their extraordinary hospitality extended to all participants of the Sixth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He gave a special token of thanks to the GIRCA President.

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

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