



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

MIN/GA08/05

Chisinau, 24 October 2005

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES

Chisinau - MOLDOVA

Monday 24 October 2005, at 10:00 hrs

I. OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. Ilir Mataj, the President of the BSEC-URTA, the President of the ANALTIR, in his opening speech welcomed participants of the meeting in Chisinau, Moldova and thanked AITA for the organization and hospitality. He welcomed the guests of honor and appreciated their participation. Mr. Mataj briefed about the BSEC-URTA activities and the latest developments about the delays in finalizing the Draft BSEC Visa Agreement, encouraging developments under International Vehicle Weight Certificate with endorsement of the new Annex 8 to Harmonization Convention 1982, difficulties to move towards mutual recognition of CPC diplomas for drivers, successful completion of the AITA-ARTRI-UND Distance Learning Project, excellent work of the BSEC-URTA WP3 during their mission to Serbia and Montenegro. He stressed the importance of the cooperation between NGO's in the BSEC family and expressed his hope that the BSEC Organization will be more active and eager to work together with all regional NGOs. On the other hand, he underlined that the BSEC-URTA has to be more active in cooperation with the BSEC Country Coordinator of Working Group on Transport, and other NGOs have to have the same approach. He also informed about the IRU contribution to the work of the BSEC-URTA and about possible signing of the IRU-BSEC Cooperation Agreement in 2006. He congratulated the BSEC-URTA family with the fourth anniversary of the Organization and expressed his strong intention to continue working together for the big achievements.

FIRST SESSION

The Chairman opened the first session.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA08/AG/05) was adopted unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman briefed on the Order of Business.

The Order of Business of the Meeting (DOC/GA08/OB/05) was adopted unanimously.

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

The Chairman invited to consider the Minutes of the 7th General Assembly.

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA07/04) were adopted unanimously.

V. HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

The Chairman recalled that the basic objective of the BSEC-URTA is to strengthen the collaboration between Member Associations, in particular, by sharing experiences. He invited Mr. Florea to present his Association and its activities.

Mr. Vladimir Florea, President of AITA, presented his Association. He informed that AITA has 397 member companies which transport more than 80% of the total volume of goods transported in Moldova in the international traffic. He listed international organizations where AITA is a member, and told about initiatives of AITA regarding international vehicle weight certificate, modifying the national legislation, distribution and utilization of the ECMT licenses, organizing meetings and round tables related to the every day problems of the road transport, regional cooperation. Mr. Florea informed about AITA's partners: expedition companies and insurance companies, which provide services to the AITA's members. He also presented the Training Center CIPTI, which provides training for majority of Moldavian transporters. He invited to visit AITA Headquarters.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Florea for the fruitful presentation and invited participants to express their comments.

Mr. Haydar Özkan, the Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA, thanked Mr. Florea for the excellent presentation. He mentioned that other Associations may wish to learn from AITA's best practices, and in this regard he asked for permission to publish the AITA's presentation on the BSEC-URTA Web Portal.

Mr. Vladimir Florea thanked for appreciation and welcomed the proposal of Mr. Özkan to publish the presentation.

Mr. Florinel Andrei, the Secretary General of ARTRI, welcomed the initiative of the BSEC-URTA Secretariat to introduce this item into Agenda. He stressed that the goal is to create the best conditions for transporters at all levels – administrative, financial. He suggested to have this item as a permanent item in the BSEC-URTA's Agenda, as well as requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of activities of the each Member Association, so that it will be centralized and can be discussed what can be done at a global level.

Mr. Haydar Özkan thanked Mr. Andrei and promised to gather the information on services provided by each Association, to prepare a matrix table, to disseminate and publish it as a "food" for further thoughts.

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Mr. Peter Krausz, Head of the IRU CTM, asked a question to *Mr. Florea* about AITA's successes and failures in lobbying interests of its members during the last months.

Mr. Vladimir Florea told that the main concept in that direction is preparing and presenting to the Ministries and governmental bodies of various initiatives like joining of Moldova to the UNECE Conventions. He informed that a special commission was established to accelerate and facilitate that process. Another direction is related to the decisions that are taken on the level of the government, in particular, the law for expeditors regarding crime activities, which is included in the agenda of the parliament and expected to be adopted soon. In connection with the vehicle weight certificate, *Mr. Florea* as the president of the committee in this area told that the document was approved by 12 CIS countries and they try to find procedures, initiate financial issues in order to introduce this certificate.

Mr. Valentin Dragan, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Transport of Moldova, confirmed that there exists a close collaboration, Ministry prepares and presents drafts to AITA for their opinion and approval.

The Chairman thanked for the comments and passed to the next presentation of the Moldavian transport company Balcantir.

Mr. Valeriu Sterea, the Director of the Balcantir Company, thanked for the possibility to present their company. He introduced his company which is, for 10 years, active in international road transportation of goods to Europe, CIS. Company has more than 160 trucks mostly of EURO 2 standard and continuously renews its fleet. All trucks are equipped with mobile connection equipment and some have navigation systems. Company uses actively combined transportation which makes it possible to deliver goods to any place of the world by sea, air and rail transport, and actively participates in projects of expanding Ro-La services. *Mr. Sterea* gave some figures that reflect the growth of the company. He explained the policy of the Company regarding training of the personnel at the CIPTI training center, and regarding social policy for employers. Company was honored with various awards in 2000, 2003 and 2004, and the specialists of the Company successfully look for various solutions to reduce the consumption of petroleum. Company has a special system of replaceable personnel for continuous high quality services and special premiums for drivers for high quality, accident free services. *Mr. Sterea* expressed his readiness for cooperation.

The Chairman thanked for the presentation and invited participants to make comments.

Mr. Haydar Özkan pointed out that the road transport industry has a problem of social image. Road transport industry should perform better in competition with various modes of transport; it is the right industry that can contribute to the intermodality, better and more efficient services for the society. He stressed that the duty and the responsibility of Member Associations is to bring to the first line such successes of the companies, which will motivate them to perform better and create healthy competition between companies so that they would like to implement good practices in their countries and Associations would show to the society that they are interested in quality and successful transport operators. He thanked the representative of the Balcantir company for the interesting presentation and mentioned that in particular it was interesting to know about social premiums for no accidents. He congratulated the company for the proven success and reminded that the BSEC-URTA is at disposal for requests for inclusion in the IRU Best Practices.

Mr. Vladimir Florea told that the Balcantir company is of the first rank, and AITA stimulates the intention of the companies to become best by different means such as compensation stimulation system for drivers suggested by Balcantir. AITA gives guarantees to the IRU for TIR system, also for companies with small number of trucks, which includes only two procedures – registration for the truck and the registration by the Association.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for the excellent presentations, which were very useful for all participants. He passed to the next agenda item.

VI. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Chairman informed the participants about the 10th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA Management Council (MC) held on 23 October. He informed that the MC considered the outcome of the BSEC-URTA Working Party mission in Serbia and Montenegro, and all the working documents of the General Assembly, in particular, some technical changes in the Staff and Financial regulations related to the introduction of the position of the Deputy Secretary General. Another subject was the consideration of the Draft Budget 2006 and proposals for the position of Vice Presidents for 2006 from AEBTRI and AITA. The Chairman informed about the proposal to hold next meeting in Istanbul in Spring 2006. Finally, the MC discussed few opinions on increasing the efficiency of the organization by increasing cooperation with other BSEC NGOs and the IRU for successful attainment of our goals.

VII. BSEC-URTA REGIONAL OUTLOOK REPORT

The Chairman opened the next item of the Agenda. He stressed that the following report is an interesting one, which will help to understand the region and detect the crucial problems. He recalled that, in Athens, these statistics had guided the General Assembly to the problems at the Serbian borders.

Mrs. Evgeniya Camurcu, Administrative Officer of the BSEC-URTA, presented the relevant report (REP/OUTLOOK/GA08/05).

Mr. Çetin Nuhoğlu, Honorary President of the BSEC-URTA, President of UND, thanked the Secretariat for the valuable and important information which will contribute greatly to the development of trade among the BSEC countries. *Mr. Nuhoğlu* called upon better collaboration between associations for better future of the organization

Mr. Peter Krausz told that the presentation indicates in a clear way the situation in the region and gives certain ideas. He commented on some figures from the report, noting that the industry grows not quick enough as required by the trade development. He expressed his pleasure to see the practical use of the IRU BWTO and informed that the IRU presently works



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on this system in order to have more reliable reporting and also to cover more borders. He said that many associations had expressed their interests in updating the system.

Mr. Haydar Özkan made some comments on the report, stressing the importance of considering the comparison of trade and transport statistics. He stressed that trade cannot be developed further if there exists bad competition between transport modes. Growth of trade means more growth of demand for the transport services in our region than elsewhere. When government is not flexible enough to develop infrastructure, it results in long waiting times and extra cost to consumers of goods. He suggested the Member Associations to present this report to various governments so that they can use it for benchmarking. *Mr. Özkan* informed that the Secretariat intends to publish the statistics on the border waiting times on the Web Portal, monthly. He also asked associations to recommend any sources of the useful statistical information.

Mr. Izzet Salah, the Vice President of the UND, expressed his opinion that the Agenda of the BSEC-URTA is for the benefit of the countries from the region. Regarding the statistics, he informed that the UND has a lot of possibilities to provide to the BSEC-URTA all data needed.

The Chairman proposed to Associations to work harder to facilitate gathering of data.

VIII. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT

The Chairman announced the next item of the agenda and invited Secretary General to report about activities of the International Secretariat since the last General Assembly meeting.

Mr. Haydar Özkan briefly presented his report about activities of the International Secretariat since the last meeting of the General Assembly in June 2005 (DOC/GA08/ACTIV/05) under certain groups according to the BSEC-URTA working program. Regarding the issue of visa for professional drivers he recalled that the text of the relevant Agreement was finalized but the Ukrainian ministry froze the process of its opening to signature. He called upon the Romanian Association to follow up closely this issue during the end of BSEC Chairmanship of Romania until spring 2006. He also addressed the issue of creation of the IVWC under the UN umbrella as well as other issues highlighted in the Report. Under the issue of Project Development and Information he informed about the completion of the AITA-ARTRI-UND Distance Learning Project and invited Mrs. Evgeniya Camurcu to present the relevant Web Portal.

Mrs. Evgeniya Camurcu presented the Web Portal for the Distance Learning for CPC for drivers.

Mr. Haydar Özkan stressed that the portal is easy to use and simple tool which can be duplicated in various languages for the benefit of associations, for more efficient training and competitiveness of the training centers. He emphasized that the software behind the portal is important, and in details he explained the importance of the portal for students, teachers and Associations.

Mr. Reha Uran, the Vice Chairman of the UND Executive Committee, made some comments on visa project. He called upon Member Associations to actively cooperate with governments and inform the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat about developments so that Agreement can be opened to signatures in Bucharest during the Romanian Chairmanship in the BSEC. Regarding the IVWC, he informed that in the framework of SECI project in this regard they managed to follow well the UN and other competent authorities. He stressed that the goal is to have one single certificate in SECI, BSEC and CIS regions.

Mr. Çetin Nuhoglu on behalf of UND thanked the International Secretariat for the work done. He stressed the utmost importance of opening to signatures of the BSEC Agreement on visas and addressed the Secretary General and the ARTRI's Secretary General Mr. Florinel Andrei the request for final efforts in this issue and for close collaboration between the IRU and the BSEC-URTA. As regards the issue of combined transportation, he stressed the importance of activities in that area where the main goal is to decrease the costs and promote competitiveness. He said that we have to go further on and increase the number of Ro-Ro services in the Black Sea. There exist services between Turkey, Russia and Ukraine and there is a need to extend them to Bulgaria and Romania. He asked the Secretariat to focus more activities on this issue. He expressed his gladness for the completion of the DLP and the presentation of the Web Portal. He invited Member Associations to prove the fruitfulness of the collaboration as it was done in the issue of problems at the Serbian borders. He requested Member Associations to present information on activities done regarding issues discussed under the BSEC-URTA framework.

Mr. Manuel Triffanciuc, PR Specialist of the Transport Department of the ARTRI gave some comments about Romanian initiative on creation of Green Lanes which was appreciated by many countries. He informed that Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece are going to implement the same practice. He expressed readiness to cooperate in this area with interested associations.

Mr. Vladimir Florea on behalf of AITA thanked its partners on the DLP project for the results reached. He expressed his readiness to continue efforts in future and spread around the region the developed project. He mentioned that for this the financing of the higher level may be needed. Regarding the issue of the IVWC he mentioned that the CIS countries implement this procedure and this experience can be suggested as a preparation of the procedure to be implemented under the UN Convention. For this to happen, Associations have to make efforts also towards the Ministries of internal and external affairs and report to the International Secretariat about results.

Mr. Gia Tsipuria, the Secretary General of GIRCA, stated the active collaboration of the International Secretariat with associations in obtaining statistical information enables us to see the fact that the transport industry grows proportionally to the trade growth. This is a positive news despite there are a lot of barriers before road transport. He also informed that single-window practice was started in Georgia for 3 months already and reported about its positive results in reducing waiting times. Regarding the IVWC, *Mr. Tsipuria* gave examples of problems that happen in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in relation with multiple weight controls of the vehicles. He expressed the hope that the new IVWC will enter into force as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked for the comments, closed the first session and announced the lunch break.

SECOND SESSION

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**IX. REPORT OF BSEC-URTA WORKING PARTY ON COOPERATION FOR FACILITATION OF RADIOACTIVITY
CONTROLS AT THE BORDERS OF SERBIA MONTENEGRO**

The video of the mission of the Working Party to Serbia and Montenegro was demonstrated.

The Chairman reminded that at the 7th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly it was identified that the high waiting times at border crossing points of Serbia are caused by the radioactivity controls applied by Serbian Authorities. He informed about his decision to set up a Working Party with the task to visit the relevant border crossing points and hold official meetings with the competent Serbian authorities. He invited Mr. Albu to present the relevant report.

Mr. Adrian Albu, the Executive Manager of the BSEC-URTA, presented the relevant report (REP/WP3/GA08/05). He particularly mentioned that the success of the mission was thanks to the colleagues from Serbian Association "Medjunarodni Transport" who arranged meetings with the Serbian Authorities and site visits to the border crossing points. He expressed his deepest thanks to the AEBTRI for providing transportation facilities to the members of the WP3.

Mr. Manuel Trifanciuc also expressed gratitude to the Bulgarian association for its endeavors. He mentioned that there were many questions about procedures in Serbia which will hopefully be resolved. He informed that Serbian customs authorities expressed their interest about the Green Lane practice, and the ARTRI provided them the relevant information.

Mr. Haydar Özkan thanked speakers for their contributions. He mentioned about the interest of the IRU in the mission of the WP3, which was carried out in coordination with the BSEC Member Associations. He informed that the IRU would like to distribute a document or a paper on this issue to all the IRU Members. Also he stressed that the mission can be considered complete only if there are less waiting times observed. For this purpose the Secretariat will follow the issue and will provide any related information. Also he requested the related Associations to inform the Secretariat if problems still exist. He stressed that the work of the WP3 constitutes the example of how the BSEC-URTA should work. He invited associations to express their problems that can be solved by such cooperation.

Mr. Çetin Nuhoğlu agreed that the activity of the WP3 was an important one. He requested all associations with to inform the Secretariat about outstanding issues and difficulties as such. He proposed that at least two ad hoc working parties should be established in a year according to proposals, needs of BSEC-URTA Member Associations. He also thanked the IRU for their support and coordination.

The Chairman thanked for all contributions and proposals and passed to the next item of the Agenda.

X. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAM FOR 2006

Mr. Adrian Albu presented the vision and the strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA for 2006.

Mr. Haydar Özkan inserted some comments. He stressed the importance of the vision statement and the careful analysis of the strategic objectives since the whole work of the secretariat is based on them. He also suggested revision of the strategic objectives for 2006 according to DOC/GA08/WP/05.

Mr. Adrian Albu continued with presentation of the BSEC-URTA Working Program for 2006.

Mr. Manuel Trifanciuc made some remarks regarding the issue on visa for professional drivers. He informed that the ARTRI lobbied for signing of the Agreement at Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also informed that in compliance with the rules for the accession of Romania to the EU, Romania had to introduce visas for Turkish citizens, which was followed by the same action from the Turkish side. He also addressed the issue on harmonization of charges, informing that in Romania it is a big problem and even each local administration imposes different taxes for transporters. Regarding the issue on combined transportation, he informed that according to the information, a new line between Constantza port and Batumi started to operate.

Mr. Reha Uran confirmed that during its accession period, Romania had to introduce visas for Turkish citizens, but visa is decided on the reciprocal basis between Ministries. However, Turkey made it possible to obtain visas for Romanian citizens at the Turkish borders. He asked Romanian colleagues to consider the implementation of the same procedure for Turkish citizens, too.

Mr. Izzet Salah declared that the cooperation should be created for exchanging information and ideas, also regarding the training of professional drivers. He informed that in 2001 UN established a training center which was accredited by the IRU Academy. He expressed his admiration of the AITA's activities in this regard and congratulated Mr. Florea for this success. He also stressed that it is necessary not only to work hard but also to inform the governments about problems together with the ways for resolving them.

The Chairman expressed his opinion that the work on the visa agreement has to be continued constructively.

Mr. Çetin Nuhoğlu expressed some opinions regarding the BSEC-URTA Working Program for 2006. He stressed that the utmost important task is to make the certificate for professional drivers to be accepted on the level of governments. Also he stressed that for the working program it is necessary to outline the goal as well as ways to gain the goal. He recalled that under the vision and 7 strategic objectives of the Working Program 2005 a lot of projects came into life. In 2006, he proposed to create 8th strategic objective, namely, Relations between the Members. Mr. Nuhoğlu also proposed to have a new vision: "Solidarity is our strength".

Mr. Mikhail Matsnev, Deputy Head of Department of Information Systems, Technical Policy and Services of ASMAP, expressed his support to Mr. Nuhoğlu. He stressed that the strength of the BSEC-URTA is that we are trying to find solution all together and we have to reflect this among our common goals. He made some comments regarding the statistical indicators mentioned in the outlook report. He also stressed the importance of the issue of visas for professional drivers. He informed

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that members of ASMAP complain about difficulties in obtaining visa. He proposed that next year the BSEC-URTA would give special attention to that matter, can try to bring the issue to the certain bodies in charge so that the real progress could be seen. Mr. Matsnev also mentioned about the Annex 8 on facilitation of border crossing and told that the mechanism for obtaining this goal is not clear. He informed also that Russia has signed an agreement with France and Italy regarding procedures of issuing visa. However, in practice no facilitation is observed.

Mr. Haydar Özkan commented on the contribution by Mr. Nuhoğlu; expressing his agreement with the appropriate proposal to create a mission: "Solidarity is our strength". However, regarding the addition of a strategic objective on inter-member relations, he said that in fact all work of the Secretariat is based on inter-member relations. Mr. Özkan also referred to Mr. Matsnev's comments, and highlighted that after Romania the BSEC Chairmanship goes to Russia and on that occasion ASMAP may give its support and approach to the Russian Ministry of Transport to accelerate and achieve opening of the BSEC's visa agreement to signature of Member States. He ensured that the BSEC-URTA is ready to support any activity in this regard and expressed his hope that under Russian Chairmanship this issue will be finalized.

Mr. Peter Krausz informed that Russian Federation has signed an Agreement with the EU on visa facilitation on reciprocal basis for certain categories of citizens including professional drivers, and the text can be obtained by ASMAP from their Ministry of Transport. Regarding the Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention, he informed that it has been endorsed and will come into force in 15 months if there will be no objections. However, he said that there is a danger to have several weight certificates in operation: SECI, CIS, BSEC and the general certificate according to Annex 8. He stressed that there has to be a single document and urgent efforts of Associations are required to argue in competent Authorities for the proper implementation of the Annex 8 as well as all regional efforts have to be done under this Annex 8.

Mr. Haydar Özkan asked ASMAP to provide to the Secretariat the text of the mentioned Agreement.

Mr. Mikhail Matsnev confirmed that after some efforts professional drivers were included in Russian–EU visa agreement, and now they are waiting for other steps forward since it is a hard process. He promised to provide the text of the Agreement to the Secretariat.

The Chairman proposed to pass to the third session without a break.

THIRD SESSION

XI. FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The Chairman invited the Secretary General to explain about the proposed amendments to Staff and Financial Regulations.

Mr. Haydar Özkan informed that the proposed amendments are related to the creation of new position of the Deputy Secretary General upon instructions of the General Assembly on its Meeting in Athens and they are, therefore, all of technical character.

Amendments to the BSEC-URTA Staff Regulations and the BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations were endorsed unanimously.

The Chairman asked the Secretary General to explain the proposed Budget for 2006.

Mr. Haydar Özkan informed that the table of income includes the same amount of membership fees and IRU's contribution and the Budget for 2006 is as proposed in the document (DOC/GA08/BUDG/05).

Mr. Peter Krausz informed that the IRU's contribution is approved but the final official approval will be done at the IRU General Assembly.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the IRU for their financial support.

The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2006 was adopted, unanimously.

XII. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman informed about the proposal of the Management Council to have the next meeting of the General Assembly in Istanbul in May 2006.

Proposal to have the next Meeting of the General Assembly in Istanbul in May 2006 was approved, unanimously.

XIII. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2006 - First Half

Mrs. Evgeniya Camurcu presented the calendar of BSEC-URTA's activities, as prepared by the Secretariat (DOC/GA08/CAL/05).

Mr. Haydar Özkan informed that the IRU will organize an Inauguration Cocktail in Istanbul with the participation of all BSEC-URTA Member Associations. The date and the place would be informed later.

XIV. ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA VICE PRESIDENTS FOR 2006

The Chairman informed about the nomination of Mr. Georgi Petrov from AEBTRI and Mr. Vladimir Florea from AITA for the position of the BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents for 2006.

The General Assembly congratulated Mr. Petrov and Mr. Florea on the occasion of their election as BSEC-URTA Vice-Presidents for 2006, with applause.

XV. APPOINTMENT OF BSEC-URTA SECRETARY GENERAL FOR 2006-2009

The Chairman informed that according to the recommendations of the 9th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA Management Council held in Athens, it is proposed to renew the term of office of the current Secretary General Mr. Özkan for another 4 year.



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The General Assembly approved the appointment of Mr. Haydar Özkan for the position of Secretary General of BSEC-URTA for 2006-2009, with applause.

XIV. DECISIONS OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman informed that the Secretariat will prepare summary of decisions of the meeting, which will be submitted to signature of the participants, later.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Halim Mete, the Vice President of TOBB, expressed his pleasure to take part in the BSEC-URTA General Assembly Meeting. He briefed about TOBB, which is an active member of the IRU and is a national guarantor organization for the TIR System. TOBB, together with UND, works for modernization of customs facilities at Turkish border crossings. Mr. Mete stressed that problems of the road transport industry are common problems and have to be solved via close cooperation. He stated that road transport sector has to cover needs of the growing trade, and for this reason the regional cooperation is very important. He expressed his gladness to see successes of the common efforts of the BSEC-URTA Member Associations regarding very important and useful projects for the road transport sector in the region. He wished to the BSEC-URTA further success and continuity in its cooperation activities.

Mr. Haydar Özkan as a newly re-appointed Secretary General thanked each of the participants for the continuity of their trust and support and emphasized that any success belongs to the BSEC-URTA Member Associations and the very efficient small team of the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat with no dependency on names or persons.

XVI. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman, concluding the 8th Meeting of the General Assembly, thanked the AITA President Mr. Vladimir Florea and AITA's staff for their hospitality and organization of the event. He noted that the Agenda was a very tight but an interesting one, and important decisions were taken. He appreciated the contribution of guests from the International Organizations, and stressed that the exchange of experience is very important and substantial for our common future. He thanked all participants for their strong help and support. The Chairman presented a token of thanks to Mr. Florea.

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

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