



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

MIN/GA10/06

Antalya, 24 November 2006

**TENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**MINUTES**

Antalya - TURKEY

Friday 24 November 2006, at 09:00 hrs

**FIRST SESSION**

**I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

*Mr. Ilir Mataj*, the President of the BSEC-URTA, the President of the ANALTIR, in his opening speech welcomed participants of the meeting in Antalya, Turkey and thanked UND 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.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA10/AG1/06) was adopted unanimously.*

**II. ADOPTION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

*The Chairman* briefed on the Order of Business.

*The Order of Business of the Meeting (DOC/GA10/OB/06) was adopted unanimously.*

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NINTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*The Chairman* invited to consider the Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

*Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA09/06) were adopted unanimously.*

**IV. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

*The Chairman* invited the BSEC-URTA Secretary General Mr. Ozkan to report about the meeting of the Management Council.

Secretary General reported that at its Meeting held on 23 November 2006, the MC evaluated the main conclusions and resolutions of the Meeting of the BSEC WG on Transport held in Antalya on 23 November 2006. The MC considered also the new membership request by UNTRR in a favorable manner and agreed to propose to the General Assembly to grant Observer status to UNTRR for 2007 and 2008 with an annual Observer's fee of € 3000.

At this stage, *the Chairman* asked approval of the General Assembly for granting of Observer status to the UNTRR. The proposal was adopted, unanimously. The Chairman invited UNTRR representatives to join the meeting. UNTRR representative expressed his pleasure and gratitude for approval of their request and expressed a strong commitment to work together with the BSEC-URTA and its Member Associations for promoting interests of the road transport industry.

The General Assembly welcomed intervention of the UNTRR representative by applauds.

*The Chairman* gave the floor to the Secretary General to continue the Report.

*Mr. Ozkan* showed that the MC endorsed the Draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2007 and the Contribution Table for 2007 as well as working documents of the 10th Meeting of the General Assembly.

Secretary General also informed that the MC evaluated the recent developments regarding the sustainability of TIR System and recommended to the General Assembly to adopt a special BSEC-URTA Resolution on the TIR System in support of reinforcing the public-private partnership at the multilateral level within the framework of the UNECE TIR related bodies.

Finally, Mr. Ozkan informed also about the invitation extended by the Medjunarodni Transport Association in Serbia to host 11th Meeting of the General Assembly in Belgrade in Spring 2007, which was considered in a favorable way the the MC with the recommendation of its adoption by the General Assembly. General Assembly thanked the MT for its invitation and decided to hold its next meeting in Belgrade in Spring 2007.

**V. BSEC-URTA OUTLOOK REPORT**

*Mr. Adrian Albu*, Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC-URTA, presented the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook report for the first half of 2006 (REP/OUTLOOK/GA10/06).

**VI. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT**

*Mr. Haydar Özkan* briefly presented his report about activities of the International Secretariat since the last meeting of the General Assembly in May 2006 (DOC/GA10/ACTIV/06).



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**VII. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA WORKING PARTY ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECMT QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE BSEC REGION**

*Mr. Adrian Albu* presented the relevant report (DOC/GA10/ECMT.1-2/06).

*Mrs. Martine-Sophie Fouvez*, Principal Administrator of the ECMT, gave the latest information about the future of the existing ECMT Quota System.

*Mr. Vladimir Florea*, Vice President of the BSEC-URTA and President of AITA, expressed his and Moldovan industry's concerns about the neo-protectionist policies followed by various developed economies in Europe, which produce an overall negative impact on the ECMT Quota System and future liberalisation of the Pan-European road transport market. He stated that national associations should reinforce cooperation with their national authorities in order to permit development of a Regional Quota System in the BSEC region among the interested BSEC Member States.

*Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu*, Honorary President of the BSEC-URTA and President of UND asked the International Secretariat to present the BSEC Working Group on Transport and the Steering Committee for Implementation of the Memorandum of Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, the request for developing such a regional quota system.

*Mr. Yevgeny Kozyi*, the Executive Manager for Transport of the BSEC Organization, delivered a statement, informing about readiness of the BSEC PERMIS to work together with the BSEC-URTA in bringing its useful ideas regarding the development of the ECMT multilateral quota system to the consideration of the Member Countries and to start active cooperation with the ECMT Secretariat subject to approval of the competent BSEC organs.

**VIII. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2007**

*Mr. Haydar Özkan* presented the vision and the strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA for 2007 and proposed a Working Programme for 2007. Under the Strategic Objective "Facilitation" the Working Program for 2007 mentions about implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate as part of new Annex 8 to the UNECE Harmonization Convention.

*Mr. Vladimir Florea* proposed the International Secretariat to study the experiences in the CIS region within the framework of the introduction of an international vehicle weight certificate in the CIS region, which could be useful also for the BSEC region once the new Annex 8 to the 1982 Harmonization Convention will enter into force in 2007. In this regard he stated that in the next BSEC-URTA General Assembly in spring 2007, the delegation of AITA will make a presentation on the IVWC in the framework of the CIS states.

*The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2007 (DOC/GA10/WP/06) was adopted unanimously.*

**IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

*Mr. Haydar Özkan* presented the draft Budget for 2007 informing that it is based on the same amount of membership fees, observer fees and IRU contribution according to the previous year (DOC/GA10/BUDG/06).

*Mr. Peter Krausz* informed that the IRU's contribution is approved by the competent IRU organs already.

*The Chairman* expressed his gratitude to the IRU for its substantial financial support to the BSEC-URTA.

*The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2007 (DOC/GA10/BUDG/06) was adopted, unanimously.*

**X. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2007 - First Half**

*Mr. Adrian Albu* presented the calendar of BSEC-URTA's activities, as prepared by the Secretariat, which included Serbia as venue of the next meetings of both the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and the Management Council (DOC/GA10/CAL/06).

**XI. ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA PRESIDENT FOR 2007-2008 AND VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR 2007**

*The Chairman* informed about the nomination of Mr. Vladimir Florea from AITA for the position of the BSEC-URTA President for 2007-2008 and Messrs Dimitrios Dotsios (OFAE) and Gia Tshipuria (GIRCA) for the positions of two BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents for 2007.

On this occasion he expressed his gratitude to all the Member Associations and the Secretariat for their continued support and cooperation with himself in his capacity as the BSEC-URTA President in the last two years. He noted that it was an honor for him to serve the BSEC-URTA Member Associations as their President.

He also thanked his Vice-Presidents during last two years, with whom his work was successful.

Taking note of the number of nominations, he proposed to elect new President and two Vice-Presidents by applause.

*The General Assembly elected Mr. Florea as the BSEC-URTA President for 2007-2008, and Mr. Dotsios and Mr. Tshipuria as two BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents for 2007, with applause, unanimously.*

*Mr. Florea* thanked the General Assembly for its trust in him and promised to do his utmost during his term of office for continuity of successful activities and various BSEC-URTA projects. In this context, he also expressed his hope and request that Mr. Mataj continues his support to the new President.

*The Chairman* assured Mr. Florea that he will have his full support at all times and once more thanked the General Assembly for its full cooperation with the Chair that always was the case in the last two years.



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*The Secretary General* informed the General Assembly about the Special Session of the General Assembly, which will be held on the same day with participation of the representatives of the Ministries of Transport of the BSEC Member States as well as the Minister of Transport and Communications of Turkey.

*Mr. Özkan* added that the Secretariat, as usual, would prepare the decisions of the General Assembly in written during the day, which would be signed by each delegation later.

*The Chairman* thanked the Secretary General for the information and emphasized importance of the Special Session for the BSEC-URTA and closed the meeting with the request from the delegations to take their places in the next room as planned.

### SPECIAL SESSION

*The Secretary General*, on behalf of BSEC-URTA Member Associations, welcomed representatives of the Ministries of Transport of the BSEC countries and Special Guests from various regional and international organizations active in the field of road transport. He informed that H.E. Minister of Transport of Turkey will join the Meeting. He also informed that during the Meeting two important documents will be signed, one of them is the Memorandum of Understanding between BSEC Organization and the International Road Federation (IRF) and invited their representatives to the stage.

*The First Deputy Secretary General of the BSEC H.E. Ambassador Murat Sungar, and Deputy Director of the IRF Mrs. Sibylle Rupprecht* have signed the said MoU.

*Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht* expressed the pleasure for signing the said MoU, stressed the importance of the Black Sea Ring Highway project and assured the full support of the IRF to this project.

*H.E. Ambassador Murat Sungar* expressed his pleasure to sign the said MoU, too. He stressed the importance of the transport for successful economic cooperation, as well as the implementation of decisions taken with regard to this matter.

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* thanked two organizations for their efforts to develop road infrastructure and promote road transportation in the region. He informed that the second MoU to be signed is the MoU between the BSEC-URTA and other transport related BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners. He invited the Secretary General of the BINSIA Mr. Sergey Melaschenko and the President of the BSEC-URTA Mr. Ilir Mataj to the stage.

*Representatives of the BSEC-URTA and the BINSIA* have signed the said MoU.

*Mr. Sergey Melaschenko* expressed his pleasure to sign the MoU between transport related NGOs, sectoral dialogue partners in BSEC. He underlined that cooperation between these organizations has been taken place for some years but with signing the MoU it will rise to a higher level. He congratulated the BSEC-URTA for its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Mr. Ilir Mataj* expressed his honor to sign the said MoU, and thanked everyone involved in realization of this document. Using the opportunity he thanked BSEC ministries of transport for their cooperation with the Associations, and stressed the importance of public-private partnership.

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* stressed that those documents show the dynamism of the BSEC Organization. He invited the BSEC-URTA Founding President and the President of the UND Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu to give his welcome speech.

*Mr. Cetin Nuhoglu* welcomed all participants and expressed his pleasure to host the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He informed about growth of transport and trade volume predicted for 2020, and stressed the dependence between transport and trade, as well as the growing importance and development dynamics of the Black Sea region. He informed about the project of UND and TOBB to revitalize Silk Road, which will bring new opportunities to the region. He also invited all the participants to support the IRU World Congress in Istanbul in 2008, which will also focus on re-vitalisation of the Silk Road. He stressed the importance of founding the BSEC-URTA for facilitation of transport in the region, underlined necessity of its projects such as BSEC Regional Quota System and International Vehicle Weigh Certificate. *Mr. Nuhoglu* stressed the need for BSEC countries to join the UNECE Transport Conventions. Finally, he thanked the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat for the work done during last 5 years.

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* thanked Mr. Nuhoglu and invited Mr. Ilir Mataj, the BSEC-URTA President to give his welcome speech.

*Mr. Ilir Mataj* welcomed all the participants to this special session of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He expressed his pleasure to see that the meeting room is a true example of a successful public-private partnership, where the associations and the government representatives sit together to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSEC-URTA, which is a dynamic regional private sector platform that is committed to promote road transport assisting the BSEC Organisation to facilitate road transport in this important region as a key to the successful economic growth and closer ties between the member states. He stressed that, however, the BSEC-URTA is still waiting the BSEC Organisation to bring lasting solutions to major problems of the industry such as driver visas, weight certificate and regional quota. He hoped that long efforts of public and private partners so far will lead to expected results as soon as possible so that the road transport, hence the BSEC trade is not penalized any more.

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* opened the floor to the participants, who would like to speak.



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*Mr. Mikhail Matsnev*, ASMAP, expressed his gratitude to the BSEC-URTA for its efforts to facilitate transport in the region. He mentioned that during past 5 years it became an important authority and wished further success in protecting the interests of the industry, and presented a jubilee token to the Secretary General.

*Mr. Izzet Salah*, the Vice-President of the UND, talked about various restrictions directly or non-directly applied by EU countries to non-EU countries, such as limitations on the ECMT quota, implementation of digital tachograph and retro reflective marking etc., which lead to higher cost for non-EU hauliers to work in the European road transport market. He stressed that in order to confront this situation, a good cooperation and solidarity is needed, such that exists in the framework of the BSEC-URTA.

*Mr. Vladimir Florea*, the President of the AITA, congratulated the BSEC-URTA for its 5<sup>th</sup> jubilee and expressed special gratitude to the UND, which initiated the creation of the BSEC-URTA and extended its utmost support to its activities during 5 years. Using the opportunity, he also appealed to the BSEC Governments to support the BSEC-URTA initiatives regarding the BSEC Regional Quota System and to finalise the draft BSEC Visa Agreement as soon as possible, which will bring clear solutions to two major problems faced by the industry in the BSEC region.

*Mr. Dimitrios Dotsios*, the Secretary General of the OFAE, expressed his pleasure to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSEC-URTA. The BSEC-URTA foundation was an important step for the industry, which always received the support of governments and the IRU. He wished success to the BSEC-URTA in its difficult but important work.

*Mr. Tamer Dincsaahin*, the Secretary General of the UND, mentioned that the transportation of goods is a complex procedure and without simplification it cannot help enough to the growth of economic ties and wealth in the BSEC region. Therefore the BSEC Organisation and its Member States have the responsibility to facilitate movement of goods and people across the borders and eliminate all the non-physical barriers. He congratulated all the participants with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSEC-URTA.

*Mr. Orkhan Afandiyev*, the Secretary General of the ABADA, recalled 5 years ago when the BSEC-URTA was founded in Antalya, and he expressed his gladness to witness its 5<sup>th</sup> jubilee. He told that among all achievements mentioned already, another important achievement is that, thanks to the BSEC-URTA, everybody has made many friends from Associations of the region, which is very important and helps solving problems. He noted the great role of Mr. Nuhoglu in the work of the BSEC-URTA, and of Mr. Ozkan, for this successful result. He presented a jubilee token to the Secretary General on behalf of its Association, ABADA.

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* presented various regional statistics to the participants about the road transport and trade in the BSEC region, including the number of transport operations made by BSEC hauliers, foreign trade statistics of the BSEC countries and waiting times at the BSEC borders. Mr. Ozkan also talked about the BSEC-URTA strategic objectives. He particularly emphasized the problem of visas for professional drivers and requested the BSEC Member States to sign the BSEC Visa Agreement as soon as possible. He also mentioned about introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate and need for the governments to be ready to implement it.

*Mr. Peter Krausz*, the Head of CTM IRU, expressed his pleasure to make his speech on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> birthday of the BSEC-URTA. He introduced his organization and stressed its will to work with the BSEC Governments to develop jointly policies for the road transport, which is the principle vector to achieve good economic development. He informed that IRU always supported the BSEC-URTA and there is a very good cooperation between two organizations. He also expressed the IRU's full support to the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Transport of Goods, the BSEC Visa Agreements, and creation of a regional BSEC quota system. He highlighted the particular role of the BSEC region in revitalizing the historic Silk Road. He congratulated the BSEC-URTA with its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*H.E. Ambassador Murat Sungar* expressed his honor to address to the participants of this remarkable event. He recalled that the BSEC Organization was the one, which supported the creation of the BSEC-URTA in 2001, which, in a relatively short time, united road transport associations in the region and became an effective and fruitful platform for cooperation. He stressed that the transport is a priority area in the BSEC activities, and they aim to create efficient regional transport systems, improve infrastructure network to facilitate transport and transit of goods and people. Main projects in this direction, are development of transnational axes and extension of main trans-European axes to neighboring countries and regions – development of motorways of the sea, the Black Sea ring highway. He talked about the recently signed MoU on Facilitation of transport of goods and invited BSEC-URTA to contribute to its implementation as much as possible. He expressed his gratitude to the BSEC-URTA for their support in preparation of the last meeting of WG on Transport. He stressed that without adequate transport connections east-west trade cannot develop efficiently and sufficiently.

*Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht* congratulated BSEC-URTA for its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She introduced her organization IRF whose aim is to develop economically sound, ecologically friendly and safe road infrastructure. She also informed about the forthcoming big IRF Conference to be held in Istanbul in May 2007 on the main theme of the Silk Road. She stated that the Conference is supported by the BSEC Organisation and invited all the participants to attend this 1st Black Sea and 4th Silk Road Conference.

*Mrs. Martine-Sophie Fouvez*, Principal Administrator of the ECMT, expressed its pleasure to participate in celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the BSEC-URTA. She informed about latest developments in the ECMT, which was transformed into International Transport Forum, but didn't forget its European specifics, too. She informed about the reform of the multilateral quota system, and expressed the interest of the ECMT to develop this system for the BSEC region. She stressed that the BSEC-URTA showed itself as an excellent initiator and stimulator for transport development in the region, and wished success in the future.



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*H.E. Mr. Binali Yildirim, Minister of Transport of Turkey, thanked the presidents of all BSEC-URTA Associations for their work done during 5 years. He stressed that road transportation takes an important place in economies of countries and provides about 15 % of typical national income. He underlined that transportation is not a business but an instrument for development of bilateral or multilateral cooperation. Mr. Yildirim touched upon various non-physical barriers before the road transportation, which have negative impact to economies as a whole, and stressed the need to eliminate these barriers, which is one of the substantial goals of the BSEC-URTA as well. He also highly appreciated the presence of representatives of the Ministries of Transport in the meeting hall together with the private sector representatives. He stressed the urgent need to eliminate all barriers and establish a fully liberalized transport market both in the region and globally. To this end, the joint work of Associations is needed. He expressed his belief that the work of unions such as the BSEC-URTA brings us one step closer to this goal. He congratulated the BSEC-URTA for its jubilee and assured his full support to its future work and activities.*

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan warmly thanked H.E. Mr. Binali Yildirim for his speech and invited all the participants to close the Special Session of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly with a family photo.*

*The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially, by the family photo.*

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