



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

MIN/GA14/08

Istanbul, 13 April 2009

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

**MINUTES**

Geneva-Switzerland  
Tuesday, 28 October 2008, at 12:30 hrs

**JOINT SESSION ON AETR: BSEC-URTA / IRU LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH CIS**

**SECOND SESSION: First Sitting**

**I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

*Mr. Vladimir Florea*, BSEC-URTA President, welcomed the participants and guests of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and thanked Mrs. Martine Sophie Fouvez, Regional Advisor of the UNECE Transport Division, Mr. Evgen Koziy, Executive Manger of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Mr. Peter Krausz, Head CTM of International Road Transport Union (IRU), Mrs. Padideh Gutzkow, NEA Senior Consultant and Mr. Halim Mete, Vice President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) for their participation in the meeting.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA14/AG/08) 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/GA14/OB/08) was adopted, unanimously.*

**IV. INFORMATION BY THE IRU GENERAL SECRETARIAT ON DRAFT AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL REGULAR BUS AND COACH LINES**

*Mr. Oleg Kamberski*, Head CTP, IRU Permanent Delegation to the EU, informed about the main objectives of the IRU Proposal for a Global Multilateral Agreement on the International Regular Transport of Passenger by Coach and Bus, and underlined that this Proposal will be considered at the next session of the UNECE/SC.1 Working Party to be held on 31 October 2008.

**V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*The Chairman invited to consider the Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.*

*Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA13/08) were adopted, unanimously.*

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

*The Chairman* reported that the BSEC-URTA Management Council (MC) held its meeting prior to the General Assembly meeting. *The Chairman* informed that the Council pursued progress on key objectives of the BSEC-URTA objectives in 2008: (a) the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States; (b) implementation of the new Annex 8 to the UNECE International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982); (c) gradual liberalisation of bilateral and transit road transport; (d) implementation of the proposals made by the NEA Study on the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region.

*The Chairman* also noted with appreciation the official application for Honorary Membership made by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

**VII. NEA STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BSEC MoU ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS**

*The Chairman* gave the floor to *Mrs. Padideh Gutzkow*, NEA Senior Consultant, to make a presentation on the "NEA Study on the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region".

*Mrs. Padideh Gutzkow* focused her presentation on the aim of the study, articles of the MoU, recent trends in trade and transport, major constraints for road transport in the BSEC area and proposed alternative ways, methods and solutions for the implementation of the MoU.

*The Chairman* thanked *Mrs. Padideh Gutzkow* for the detailed presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions.

The Member Associations from Ukraine and Turkey expressed comments on the particular issue of fuel restrictions imposed by the countries in the BSEC region. AIRCU criticized that such measures should be lifted by the countries anywhere while UND emphasized that the fleet operators should not be blamed by any parties in order to justify such measures in any country, including Turkey.

After the fruitful discussions among the participants, *the Chairman* requested the Member Associations to evaluate the report and provide written comments to the International Secretariat within ten days, which then would be forwarded to the experts to be taken into account in the final and official version of their report, which should be delivered to the BSEC PERMIS soon.

*Mr. Evgen Koziy*, Executive Manger of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), thanked for the information provided and stated that BSEC PERMIS will convene a public-private BSEC Round Table Meeting in February 2009 in order to allow all stakeholders to consider the final version of the NEA report, thoroughly. He also expressed his gratitude to the BSEC-URTA and the IRU for realisation of this important technical work.

The General Assembly mandated the International Secretariat to compile feed back from the Member Associations on the NEA report and coordinate with the BSEC PERMIS, the preparations of the planned Public-Private Round Table Meeting in Istanbul in February 2009.

#### **VIII. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT**

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* summarised particularly those activities, which served short term priorities of the BSEC-URTA as approved by the BSEC-URTA Management Council, previously. He underlined that the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Lorry Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States (Visa Agreement) was opened to signatures and signed in Tirana on 23 October 2008 by only four countries: Albania, Armenia, Moldova and Turkey. *Mr. Ozkan* stressed the importance for coordinated action and support of the Member Associations to increase the number of signatory states to this very important agreement.

*The Chairman* thanked the BSEC-URTA Secretary General for his report and urged the related Member Associations to make their best efforts in order to ensure that their respectful country also signs this regional agreement.

#### **IX. BSEC-URTA WORKING PROGRAMME FOR 2009**

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan* presented the vision and the strategic objectives of the BSEC-URTA for 2009 and proposed a Working Programme for the next year.

*The BSEC-URTA Working Programme for 2009 (DOC/GA14/WP/08) was adopted, unanimously.*

#### **SECOND SESSION: Second Sitting**

#### **X. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

*The Chairman* informed that the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) made its official application to become a BSEC-URTA Honorary Member starting from 1 January 2009. *The Chairman* noted that the TOBB is a full member of the IRU and acknowledged that it is the largest business organisation in Turkey, whose Honorary Membership could contribute greatly to the realisation of the BSEC-URTA objectives.

*The General Assembly* granted Honorary Membership status to the TOBB for indefinite period and with the same duties and rights as the BSEC-URTA full members under the BSEC-URTA Statutes and agreed that the TOBB will contribute by EUR 35.000 to the BSEC-URTA annual budgets.

#### **XI. APPROVAL OF THE BSEC-URTA BUDGET FOR 2009**

*Mr. Adrian Albu*, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, presented the draft BSEC-URTA Budget for 2009 to consideration and approval of the General Assembly.

*The BSEC-URTA Budget for 2009 (DOC/GA14/BUDG/08) was adopted unanimously.*

**XII. ELECTION OF BSEC-URTA PRESIDENT FOR 2009-2010 AND VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR 2009**

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan*, BSEC-URTA General Assembly, informed about the nomination of Mr. Vladimir Florea from AITA for the position of the BSEC-URTA President for 2009-2010 and Messrs Gueorgui Petrov (AEBTRI) and Florinel Andrei (ARTRI) as Vice-Presidents for 2009. 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 2009-2010, and Mr. Petrov and Mr. Andrei as two BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents for 2009 by 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 realisation of various BSEC-URTA projects.

**XIII. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Mr. Chairman* acknowledged with gratitude the invitation of the AIRCA to host 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly in Yerevan in May 2009. He informed that, subject to approval of the General Assembly, the exact date of the next meeting should be communicated by the Secretariat in consultation with the AIRCA, officially.

*The invitation extended kindly by the AIRCA was adopted, unanimously.*

**XIV. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2009 – FIRST HALF**

*The BSEC-URTA Calendar (DOC/GA14/CAL/08) was adopted, unanimously.*

**XV. DECISIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH 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 after the meeting.

**XIX. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

*The Chairman*, in his closing remarks, thanked all the participants and Guests of Honour for their participation and active contributions to the work of the General Assembly.

*The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.*

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