



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

MIN/GA15/09

Istanbul, 12 August 2009

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

**MINUTES**

Yerevan-Armenia  
Tuesday, 12 May 2009, at 10:00 hrs

**I. OPENING CEREMONY**

*Mr. Herbert Hambardzumyan*, Secretary General of the Association of International Road Carriers of Armenia (AIRCA), welcomed the participants and guests of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and thanked H.E. Gurgen Sargsayn, Minister of Transport of Armenia, Mr. Michael Vardanian, Head of Multilateral Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia for their participation in the meeting.

*H.E. Gurgen Sargsayn*, Minister of Transport of Armenia, extended his greetings to the participants of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. Noting that Armenia signed the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Lorry Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States (Visa Agreement) in Tirana on 23 October 2008, *Mr. Sargsyan* expressed high hopes that non-signatory BSEC Member States will also join this important regional Agreement.

*Mr. Michael Vardanian*, Head of Multilateral Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, extended his greetings to the participants of the meeting and expressed his pleasure that AIRCA is hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. In his speech *Mr. Vardanian* underlined that under the guidance of the Armenian Chairmanship-in-office of the BSEC Organization, positive developments took place in the process of taking into effect the Memoranda of Understanding on "Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway" and on "Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region".

*Mr. Haydar Özkan*, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, read the message by *H.E. Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos*, BSEC Secretary General, addressed to the participants of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

**COFFEE BREAK**

**FIRST SESSION**

*The Chairman* opened the first session.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA15/AG/09)* 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/GA15/OB/09)* was adopted, unanimously.

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

*The Chairman* invited participants to consider the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

*Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA14/08)* were adopted, unanimously.

## V. REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

*The Chairman* briefed on the main outcomes of the Management Council meeting held prior to the General Assembly meeting. In this context, he emphasized that the BSEC-URTA is a family of national associations, which come together with the common objective of cooperation at regional level.

## VI. ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN ARMENIA

*Mr. Herbert Hambardzumyan*, AIRCA Secretary General made a comprehensive presentation on the road transport system in Armenia, organizational structure of the AIRCA, main barriers to development of the road transport sector, financial crisis and its consequences.

After the fruitful discussions among the participants, *Mr. Haydar Özkan*, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, expressed readiness, if and when necessary, to help training of the Armenian professional drivers for the carriage of dangerous goods until Armenia joins the ADR Agreement, based on the experiences of other Member Associations.

## VII. BSEC-URTA REGIONAL OUTLOOK REPORT

*Mr. Adrian Albu*, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, presented the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report for 2008 (REP/GA15/OUTLOOK/09).

## VIII. IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN ON THE ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY IN THE BSEC REGION

*Mr. Adrian Albu*, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, presented the information paper on Impact of Global Economic Downturn on the Road Transport Industry in the BSEC Region (REP/GA15/CRISIS/09).

After the exchange of ideas on how markets should be protected from neo-protectionist measures introduced, emotionally, and the irrational price competition and damping environment that destroys the existence of true transport operators in the market, the General Assembly called for governments to implement IRU's 6-R rescue strategy as a priority.

## IX. IMPLEMENTATION OF BSEC MOU ON FACILITATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF GOODS IN THE BSEC REGION

*Mr. Adrian Albu*, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, briefly informed about the conclusions of the BSEC Public-Private Round Table on Implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods (MoU-F) and Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MoU-F (SC.F), which met in Istanbul on 10 and 11 February 2009, respectively.

After very substantial deliberations and detailed exchange of ideas on this agenda item, *the Chairman* thanked the participants for their active participation and contributions and invited the General Assembly to adopt a special Resolution on this subject.

*The BSEC-URTA Resolution on Implementation of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods (RES/GA15/MoU-F/09) was adopted by the General Assembly, unanimously.*

## X. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT

*Mr. Haydar Ozkan*, BSEC-URTA Secretary General presented a brief report about activities of the International Secretariat since the last meeting of the General Assembly in Geneva on 28 October 2008 (DOC/GA15/ACTIV/09). He informed the General Assembly that UNECE and BSEC agreed to organise a special joint seminar in Geneva on 18 June 2009 in the sidelines of the 122<sup>nd</sup> session of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), which will be held on 16-19 June 2009 and urged the related Member Associations to make their best efforts in order to ensure their participation in this important event. *Mr. Ozkan* underlined that this Seminar will lead to important conclusions by both UNECE and BSEC for implementation of the new Annex 8 to the UN Convention on Harmonisation of Frontier Controls of Goods.

**XI. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

*The Chairman* recalled that in February 2009 two elected auditors performed an internal audit of the BSEC-URTA accounts. He invited Mr. Eduart Kasa to brief about their main conclusions.

*Mr. Eduart Kasa* briefed on main conclusions of the audit report (REP/AUDIT/GA15/09).

*The Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2008 and the BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2008 were adopted, unanimously.*

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

Mr. Chairman informed that next meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly will be held in Geneva on 4 November 2009 in connection with autumn meetings of the statutory organs of the IRU.

**XIII. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2009 – SECOND HALF**

*The BSEC-URTA Calendar (DOC/GA15/CAL/09) was adopted, unanimously.*

**XIV. DECISIONS OF THE FIFTEENTH 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.

**XV. MISCELLANEOUS**

*Mr. Selçuk Yılmaz*, TIR & ATA Carnets Manager of The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), showed a special video on the modernisation of customs and border gates of Turkey.

*Mr. Chairman* thanked *Mr. Yılmaz* for the special video and expressed the BSEC-URTA's and his personal support to promoting this exciting project.

**XVI. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

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

*The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.*

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