

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hotel Radisson BLU Iveria, Tbilisi – GEORGIA
Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at 10:00 hrs

MINUTES**I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Alexander Chkheidze, President of GIRCA, welcomed the participants and guests of the 17th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and thanked Mr. Martin Marmy, Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), Mr. Igor Rounov, Undersecretary General of the IRU Permanent Delegation to Eurasia, Mr. Genrikh Muradiani, Deputy Head of United Transport Administration of Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, Mr. George Gogvadze, Vice-Chairman of Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee of PABSEC, for their participation in the meeting.

Mr. Vladimir Florea, BSEC-URTA President, extended his cordial gratitude to the GIRCA, BSEC-URTA Member Association in Georgia, for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality. He expressed his honour to see Mr. Genrikh Muradiani, Deputy Head of United Transport Administration of Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, as a guest of the General Assembly meeting and underlined that his presence indicates the important readiness and strategic interest of the Government of Georgia to work together with the BSEC-URTA in developing road transport at regional level, which will also interlink Georgia, at its pivotal location, with the world markets more efficiently. *Mr. Florea* also expressed his thanks to the IRU Secretary General Mr. Martin Marmy for his kind attendance at the meeting, which is not only the symbol of the privileged cooperation with the IRU but also encouraging all for working together for a better future of the industry in the BSEC region.

Mr. George Gogvadze, Vice-Chairman of Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs Committee of PABSEC, expressed his pleasure to attend the 17th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and extended his greetings to the guests and participants of the meeting. In his speech he underlined that the improvement of the quality of services should be a priority for the business world and particularly the road transport industry and its sustainable development. He also stressed that the BSEC-URTA General Assembly gives participants the opportunity to put forward new initiatives for technological development of road transport industry. Finally, he wished everybody all success in the important work of the General Assembly.

Mr. Martin Marmy, IRU Secretary General, expressed his pleasure to attend the 17th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. He underlined that the mutual interaction between the IRU and the BSEC-URTA ensures that the global road transport policy is duly bridged to and efficiently followed up at the regional level. He also extended his heartfelt congratulations to the BSEC-URTA on the successful creation of the BSEC Permit as a new multilateral transit permit among seven Participating BSEC Member States. He emphasized his firm belief that BSEC Permit will be continued and further developed by the interested BSEC Member States in order to integrate the BSEC road transport market and liberalise the bilateral and transit road transport of goods, gradually. In conclusion, he wished everybody very successful and fruitful General Assembly meeting.

Mr. Genrikh Muradiani, Deputy Head of United Transport Administration of Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, warmly welcomed the participants of the meeting and expressed his pleasure that GIRCA is hosting the 17th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly. *Mr. Muradiani* noted that such meetings contribute a lot to the development of the road transport industry in the BSEC region. He also expressed his pleasure to host the 6th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference & Ministerial Meeting in Tbilisi on 16-17 June 2011. In this regard, he expressed the willingness of the Government of Georgia to provide every support in organizing this very important event.

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, read the message by *H.E. Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos*, BSEC Secretary General, addressed to the participants of the 17th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

COFFEE BREAK**FIRST SESSION**

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda of the Meeting (DOC/GA17/AG/10) 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/GA17/OB/10) was adopted, unanimously.

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

The Chairman invited to consider the Minutes of the 16th General Assembly.

Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly (MIN/GA16/09) were adopted, unanimously.

V. 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 briefed on the progress achieved regarding main BSEC-URTA objectives in 2010.

VI. ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN GEORGIA

The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Gia Tsipuria, Secretary General of GIRCA, to make a presentation on the "Road Transport System in Georgia".

Mr. Gia Tsipuria briefly informed about the main customs crossing points, Georgian road network condition and general statistics on inland and air transport in Georgia.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Tsipuria for his detailed presentation and passed to the next item of the Agenda.

VII. BSEC-URTA REGIONAL OUTLOOK REPORT

Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, presented the BSEC-URTA Regional Outlook Report for 2009 (REP/GA17/OUTLOOK/10).

The Chairman thanked Mr. Albu for his detailed presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions. After very substantial deliberations and detailed exchange of ideas on the problem of the waiting times at the BSEC borders, the TOBB showed a short video illustrating the long queue at the Georgian -Turkish border due to infrastructure modernisation works launched in the Georgian side.

In this regard, Mr. Haydar Özkan, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, urged all Member Associations to provide the BSEC-URTA with similar materials, permanently, which could be archived in the BSEC-URTA web portal and presented to the BSEC politicians and decision-makers, efficiently.

In conclusion, the Chairman requested all Member Associations once again to bring this very important issue of the waiting times to the attention of their competent authorities.

The Chairman thanked the participants for their active participation and contributions and passed to the next item of the Agenda.

VIII. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BSEC-URTA PRIORITIES IN 2010

The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Adrian Albu, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, to make a presentation on the progress achieved regarding the main BSEC-URTA priorities in 2010.

Mr. Albu briefly informed about:

- a) *State of Affaires related with the signing and ratification of the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of BSEC Member States (REP/GA17/BVPD/10);*
- b) *The Pilot Project of the BSEC Permit (REP/GA17/PERMIT/10);*

- c) Establishment of a Regional Licence System similar in nature to the ECMT Licence (REP/GA17/LICENCE/10);
- d) International Vehicle Weight Certificate under the New Annex 8 to the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (REP/GA17/IVWC/10).

In this connection, the General Assembly stressed the importance for concerned countries to sign the Visa agreement as soon as possible. In this connection, the Member Associations were urged to re-assess the value of this agreement for the industry and insist with the request to their authorities for its signing, if not yet.

The Member Associations from the participating BSEC Member States in the BSEC Permit project confirmed their full support in continuing and further developing the BSEC Permit in the future. It was voiced commonly that the BSEC Permit must at least allow bilateral road transport of goods in 2011.

The General Assembly noted that successful continuation of the BSEC Permit is the first pre-requisite for progress in creating a regional license system in the longer future.

The Chairman, last but not the least, emphasised that the good practice of International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the CIS region must be considered by the UNECE Member States and the BSEC and the IRU should continue their cooperation and follow up in order to achieve tangible progress towards the introduction of this Certificate in the BSEC region.

After substantial deliberations and detailed exchange of ideas on this agenda item, *the Chairman* thanked the participants for their active participation and contributions and passed to the next item of the Agenda.

IX. BSEC-URTA ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Haydar Özkan, BSEC-URTA Secretary General, presented a brief report about activities of the International Secretariat since the last meeting of the General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, on 04 November 2009 (DOC/GA17/ACTIV/10).

The Chairman thanked the BSEC-URTA Secretary General for his report and successful work of the International Secretariat.

X. ECO-IRU COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH BSEC-URTA

The Chairman gave the floor to *Mr. Adrian Albu*, BSEC-URTA Deputy Secretary General, to inform the General Assembly about the joint initiative of the IRU and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to co-organise the ECO-IRU Silk Road Truck Caravan project, which is planned to take start in Islamabad, Pakistan on 14 August 2010 and end in Istanbul, Turkey on 28 September 2010, tentatively. *Mr. Albu* also informed that the IRU has been cooperating with the ECO in order to create a regional permit or license for bilateral and transit transport of goods by road within the ECO region.

The Chairman thanked *Mr. Albu* for his detailed information and passed to the next item of the Agenda.

SECOND SESSION: Second Sitting

XI. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Chairman recalled that in February 2010 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/GA17/10) and noted that OFAE has not yet transferred its contribution fee for year 2010. In this connection, the General Assembly instructed the BSEC-URTA President to address to the President of OFAE with the request of transfer of its membership contribution for 2010 as soon as possible.

The Audit Report on Implementation of the BSEC-URTA Budget for 2009 and the BSEC-URTA Accounts for 2009 were adopted, unanimously.

The Chairman proposed to elect new auditors for 2010-2011.

Ms. Vilyana Ivanova (AEBTRI) and Mr. Aybek Abdrahman (UND) were elected as the BSEC-URTA Auditors for 2010-2011, unanimously.

XII. NEXT MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman acknowledged that the next meeting of the General Assembly will be held in Geneva on 3 November 2010 in connection with autumn meetings of the statutory organs of the IRU. The General Assembly also accepted the kind invitation of the ARTRI to hold the spring meeting of the General Assembly in Romania in 2011.

XIII. BSEC-URTA CALENDAR FOR 2010 – SECOND HALF

The BSEC-URTA Calendar (DOC/GA17/CAL/10) was adopted, unanimously.

In addition to this agenda item, the TOBB offered its facilities in Istanbul for the organisation of an UNECE-BSEC Expert Meeting on the international vehicle weight certificate, if such a meeting will be agreed upon by the UNECE and the BSEC secretariats.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

The Chairman recommended to the IRU presenting an IRU Award of Merit to *H.E. Ambassador Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos*, BSEC Secretary General, for his strong leadership, dedication and continuous support to the road transport industry in the BSEC region, which ensured creation of the historic BSEC Permit. Upon approval of this recommendation by the IRU, it should be arranged, if possible, that this award is presented to H.E. Chrysanthopoulos on the occasion of one of the future meetings of the IRU General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

XV. DECISIONS OF THE SEVENTEENTH 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.

XVI. 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 and expressed his gratitude to the GIRCA for hosting the 17th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly and providing with excellent arrangements and extending a very warm hospitality to all participants.

The 17th meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly was closed, officially.

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