



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

## **EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Jolly Alon Hotel, Chisinau – MOLDOVA  
Monday, 24 October 2005

### **OPENING SPEECH OF THE BSEC-URTA PRESIDENT MR. ILIR MATAJ**

Your Excellency,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguish Participants and Guests.

I would like to welcome you to the Eighth Meeting of BSEC-URTA General Assembly, here, in the historic town Chisinau, the beautiful capital of the Republic of Moldova.

Please allow me to thank from the bottom of my heart to the President of AITA, Mr. Vladimir Florea, for his invitation to organize our meeting here, for his warm hospitality as host of our general assembly. Dear Vladimir, I look forward to working with you as one of the two BSEC-URTA Vice Presidents in the next year.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to AITA's staff, our colleagues, who have done their utmost for welcoming us and offering us the best conditions for our works.

I thank, in the name of my colleagues from the national associations, the distinguished guests, who honored us with their participation, which, I am sure, will contribute to the meeting, will enrich our experience and will open new opportunities for cooperation, bringing new benefits to our industry.

Dear guests, dear friends,

Four years ago, we started to work together.

Day by day, meeting after meeting, we have strengthened our cooperation.

Under this healthy environment we have found solutions and answers to the difficulties faced by our industry.

From the competition point of view, step by step our position changed, today we are seeing each other as partners, going together, working together for our interest and common future.

We have identified our priorities and engaged our efforts under several projects such as: visa for professional drivers, international vehicle weight certificate, combined transport, recognition of professional competence certificates, professional training and so on.

Like nothing is perfect in life not always the result of our work was crowned by success.

Under the Visa Project we suffer for the delays in having the BSEC to finalize the Draft BSEC Agreement. We fear that there is not enough political will, yet, to more further towards long term visa for drivers with multiple entries at a reasonable cost and in a short issuance time.

On the other hand there are encouraging developments under the International Vehicle Weight Certificate.



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The Administrative Committee of the 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of the Frontier Controls of Goods, endorsed at its last meeting in Geneva on 6-7 October 2005 the new Annex 8 to the Convention. The new Annex 8 among other things also stipulates introduction of an International Vehicle Weight Certificate for facilitation of border crossing of international road goods transport vehicles.

We should be happy and cautious at the same time now because this is just a first step on the way to implementation of this very important tool for facilitation of our job.

Now there is a need for lobby vis-à-vis national competent authorities in each contracting party to highlight the importance of the certificate for the road transport industry and its quick implementation.

As regards the Mutual Recognition by BSEC Member States of the Certificates of Professional Competence we are facing difficulties, too: we are obliged to approach the European Commission and search their support for such an agreement to be signed also by Greece, Bulgaria and Romania.

If it is not going to be possible, we should ask the BSEC to consider the possibility of having the agreement between the non EU countries from the region only.

We all know about the cooperation between our member associations ARTRI, AITA and UND to develop a Professional Distant Learning Software for the road transport industry.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge that this project which was selected and funded by BSEC Project Development Fund as the first project supported ever since its creation is ready with a successful result: a web portal for distant learning.

Talking about our fruitful cooperation I have to mention to you about the excellent work done by a Working Party which I decided to setup following the information provided by the International Secretariat on the procedures and consequences of the radioactivity controls at the Serbia and Montenegro borders.

If you will recall, the last general assembly in Athens identified these controls as one of the main reasons of long border crossing waiting times for crossing in Serbia and Montenegro, which are not around the clock and subjected to discriminatory tariffs.

The Working Party composed of representatives from AEBTRI, OFAE, ARTRI, UND and the Serbian Association for International Road Transport, Medjunarodni Transport carried out a visit to the border crossing points between Bulgaria and SCG and Romania and SCG.

They made observations on site and conveyed concerns of our hauliers to the Serbian authorities during two official meetings held in Belgrade.

Our General Assembly will hear a detailed report about these contacts and the mission outcome, later today.

Dear Colleagues and Friends, Your Excellency,

Today we have the representatives of two very active NGOs in the BSEC family of NGOs as guests among us: BASPA and BINSa.

This fact highlights the good cooperation between the non-governmental organizations in the Black Sea region.

The private sector in the region is strong and well represented by such NGOs.

We would like to trust that the BSEC Organization is and will be more active, interested and open to work with such active and hardworking NGOs.



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I am very glad that the presence of friends from BASPA and BINSIA will make it possible to exchange further views on these issues today.

As representatives of the private sector we are enjoying a good cooperation a good cooperation with the BSEC Business Council, too. I am sure that we can develop our cooperation with this important Related Body further and enrich our relationship with new dimensions.

The Secretary General of BSEC Business Council will join us later today and sure he will contribute to our meeting, too.

Talking about the cooperation with the BSEC, as BSEC-URTA we should be more active in helping the BSEC Country Coordinator of Working Group on Transport, which actually is undertaken by Romania.

We already started to do so by my Vice President and distinguished ARTRI Secretary General, Mr. Florinel Andrei who visited the representative of the Romanian Ministry of Transport recently.

We suggest the other BSEC NGOs related to transport to have the same approach to the Country Coordinator.

The Moldavian Chairmanship of BSEC was important and a very successful one. However we were disappointed a little, that the Chairmanship did not convene the BSEC Working Group on Transport during this term. We hope that this important Working Group will be the main catalyser of economic cooperation in our region, which must be convened at all terms and more often.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We worked together and we have good results for most of our work done.

Needless to say, support of the IRU played a crucial role to obtain such results.

From the relocation of the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat premises together with the Headquarters of the IRU Permanent Delegation to the Middle East Region the beginning of June to the realization of recent BSEC-URTA Mission to Serbia and Montenegro, the IRU always offered to us its support.

We are sure that this help and support will continue in the future, too.

At this moment, I would like to inform that the IRU-BSEC Cooperation Agreement which was initiated by the BSEC-URTA, is in the pipeline and it could be signed in spring 2006.

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Guests,

On this date of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006, we are celebrating the fourth year of the birth of our Organization.

We have worked together and we have good results and achievements in spite of disappointments sometimes.

But the biggest achievement of these four years is the friendship between us and the feeling that we are a family.

This family meets today in Chisinau on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly hosted by our friends from AITA, to whom I thank warmly for their hospitality and excellent organization, and I greet you all with my best wishes.

Thank you for your kind attention.