



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

REP/GA16/BVPD/09

Istanbul, 6 October 2009

SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Conference Centre Varembe (CCV)
Geneva – Switzerland
Wednesday, 04 November 2009, at 15:00 hrs

**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**

(Information Paper prepared by the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat)

During the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in Tirana on 23 October 2008, the BSEC Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers was opened to the signature of interested BSEC Member States. On that occasion, four BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Armenia, Moldova and Turkey signed the Agreement.

On 23 April 2009, the Republic of Turkey deposited with the BSEC PERMIS its instrument of ratification of the agreement. In accordance with Article 9, paragraph 1(ii), the Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which four BSEC Member States have signed and ratified or approved the Agreement and deposited the instrument of ratification or approval with the BSEC PERMIS. Until, 1 October 2009 only the Republic of Turkey has deposited its instrument of ratification to the BSEC PERMIS.

The 3rd Meeting of the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport in Istanbul on 11 February 2009 requested the BSEC PERMIS to address the Member States, which have not yet signed the Agreement, with a Note about their interest to access the Agreement and readiness to apply Annex 8 to the mentioned Convention related to the visa issue. On The 13 February 2009, the BSEC Working Group on Transport also invited the Member States, which have not yet signed the Agreement, to inform officially about their interest to access the Agreement.

Since the opening for signature of the Agreement, the BSEC-URTA Member Associations in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia and Ukraine, have addressed, by a letter campaign and direct visits, their national authorities competent for visa, with the request of a positive political decision of their national authorities to become signatory to this BSEC Agreement.

The table below shows the State of Affaires related with the Signing and Ratification of the Agreement by the interested BSEC Member States as of 1 October 2009.

Country	Signature	Deposit of Instr. of Ratification/Appr./Accession	Entry in force	Reservations/ Statements/Objections
Albania	23.10.2008	-	-	-
Armenia	23.10.2008	-	-	-
Azerbaijan		-	-	-
Bulgaria		-	-	-
Georgia		-	-	-
Greece		-	-	-
Moldova	23.10.2008	-	-	-
Romania		-	-	-
Russia			-	-
Serbia		-	-	-
Turkey	23.10.2008	23.04.2009	-	-
Ukraine		-	-	-

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