

REP/GA17/IVWC/10

Istanbul, 31 May 2010

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLYHotel Radisson BLU Iveria, Tbilisi – GEORGIA
Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at 10:00 hrs**INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE UNDER NEW ANNEX 8 OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER
CONTROLS OF GOODS, 1982***(Information Paper prepared by the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat)*

The International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 establishes commonly agreed requirements for coordinated border management and reduction of border formalities as well as the number and duration of all types of border controls of goods.

53 countries (including the 12 BSEC Member States) and the European Community are Contracting Parties to this Convention.

On 20 May 2008, the new Annex 8 (on road transport) to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982, entered into force creating a legal framework for the Contracting Parties to introduce simplified control procedures and replace actual inspections and physical controls at border crossing points by a simple verification of internationally standardized documentation and certificates.

New Annex 8 covers: facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers standardized weighing operations and vehicle weight certificate, minimum infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points and provisions to monitor the border crossing performance.

Its proper implementation can not only reduce border delays and transport/trade costs, but also minimize expenditures on the infrastructure and operation of border crossing points.

Given the fact that the Harmonization Convention provides for a flexible legislative framework, examples of best practices and/or guidelines are essential for its harmonized application at national level.

As far as the International Vehicle Weight Certificate as part of Annex 8 is concerned, the existing cooperation among some CIS countries namely Byelorussia, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova on this subject matter could be very useful for the BSEC countries in implementing the IVWC.

The rules of procedure and templates of the IVWC developed by the CIS Countries are similar with IVWC developed under the Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention. The BSEC countries could benefit from the experience of the above mentioned countries and simplify the implementation process of the IVWC.

During the Meeting of the Working Group on Transport on 24 March 2010, the International Secretariat stressed once again the importance of implementing the 1982 Harmonization Convention and its Annex 8 on Road Transport which includes standardized weighing procedures and documents and called on the Member States to work for the implementation of these facilitation tools without further delay.

The BSEC-URTA International Secretariat representatives carried out consultations with the high level UNECE representatives during the BSEC meetings and encouraged both the UNECE and the BSEC PERMIS to organize an expert meeting in Istanbul on 2010. The idea was supported by all parties concerned, in principle. However, the Parties still need to fix a date for such an event.

The subject was also brought to attention and action was requested by the BSEC-URTA in Sofia on 15 April 2010 on the occasion of the BSEC Meeting of Ministers of Transport.

Amid these efforts, calls for action and requests by the BSEC-URTA, it is observed that the National Authorities do not attach a clear priority in launching the IVWC on a hand and they are lacking a more active guidance and assistance from the concerned international organizations and the UNECE, in particular, on the other.

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