



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

REP/WP3/GA08/05

Istanbul, 13 October 2005

**REPORT OF THE BSEC-URTA WORKING PARTY ON COOPERATION FOR
FACILITATION OF RADIOACTIVITY CONTROLS AT THE BORDERS OF
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

Belgrade, 6-7 October 2005

1. The Ad Hoc Working Party on Cooperation for Facilitation of Radioactivity Controls at the Borders of Serbia and Montenegro (WP.3) carried out a mission to Serbia and Montenegro on 6-7 October 2005.
2. The following representatives of BSEC-URTA Member Associations participated in the mission:
 - Mr. Jordan Velichkov (AEBTRI, Bulgaria)
 - Mr. Athanasios Kakkos (OFAE, Greece)
 - Mr. Dimitrios Dotsios (OFAE, Greece)
 - Ms. Cornelia Asandei (OFAE, Greece)
 - Ms. Mirela Ciuta (ARTRI, Romania)
 - Mr. Lucian Hahaianu (ARTRI, Romania)
 - Mr. Alper Ozel (UND, Turkey)
3. The BSEC-URTA Executive Manager Mr. Adrian Albu also participated in the mission.
4. Upon the invitation of the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat, the representative of the Association of International Road Hauliers of Serbia and Montenegro «Medjunarodni Transport» (MT), Ms. Tatiana Iovanovici, also joined the mission of the BSEC-URTA Working Party on Cooperation for Facilitation of Radioactivity Controls at the Borders of Serbia and Montenegro.
5. The program of the mission is attached as Annex 1.
6. The aims of the mission were to conduct site visits to the Serbian border crossing points with Bulgaria and Romania, to meet the related authorities in Serbia and Montenegro with a view to expressing the concerns of industry regarding discriminatory, long and costly practice of radioactivity controls at their borders, which does not benefit from risk management, to learn the opinions, future plans, if any, of the distinguished Serbian authorities in order to improve the situation in relation with the concerns of industry, to start a cooperation, if possible, between the BSEC-URTA and the Serbian authorities aiming to achieve together the utmost progress in the shortest time possible on this subject.
7. During its mission, the WP.3 paid site visits to Kalotina–Gradina (BG-SCG) and Stamora Moravica–Vatin (RO-SCG) border gates, observed the border crossing processes. It was observed that there was not a heavy traffic at the time of site visits at both the above border crossing points. However, it was seen that, even when there is only a short queue of less than 10 trucks in Kalotina to pass to Gradina, the border crossing waiting time was very high (above 4 hours).

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

8. The WP.3 visited the SCG Customs Administration and met with Mrs. Dijana Djindjic, Head of the Group for Transport and Custom Formalities and Mr. Slobodan Nikolic, Consultant to Assistant Director.
9. At the meeting, the WP.3 listed main problems of the hauliers faced at the Serbian Border Crossing Points as follows:
 - Long waiting times at SCG border crossing points;
 - As one of the main reasons for such long waiting times, the radioactivity controls, which are applied without risk management, to all trucks in transit or with destination to SCG, to all kinds of goods and even to empty trucks;
 - The working times of appointed controllers are not around the clock (7x24hrs), which cause to additional high costs due to obligatory parking fee and forced waiting in the terminal area;
 - Discriminatory control fees charged by different intermediaries in the control chain;
 - Lack of staff of the Ministry of Environment involved in the control procedures.
10. At the meeting the WP.3 members highlighted the followings after an initial presentation by the BSEC-URTA Executive Manager:
 - Serbia and Montenegro is an important transit country for the international road transport industry, however, where the transit conditions need to be facilitated.
 - Fundamental transport policy of the Serbian government also aims to make Serbia and Montenegro a major transit country in its region.
 - The total number of transit permits given by the Serbian authorities to only 4 countries in its region (i.e. Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey) is above 160.000 permits. In addition, the hauliers of the region are using the ECMT licences heavily to transit through SCG.
 - The existing transit traffic could increase more if the Serbian authorities will lessen the existing long border waiting times and minimize the costs of control procedures without discrimination.
11. As an industry proposal for less waiting times, the WP.3 informed about «green lane practice and single window procedures» that were introduced in Romania, which proved to shorten the waiting times for the trucks at the Romanian border crossing points. It was mentioned that other BSEC countries are developing measures to implement the same practices with a view to facilitating the road transport of goods.
12. Mrs. Dijana Djindjic thanked the WP.3 members and informed the followings:
 - Currently, the radioactivity controls are made by the SCG Ministry of Environment. However, according to the “Project of Integrated Management of the Border Crossings”, these controls will be put under competence of the SCG Customs Administration soon (the shift is expected to happen in November 2005).
 - In preparation for the new situation, the SCG customs officers are being trained in cooperation with the Directorate for the Environment Protection, now.
 - Once the said change will have taken place, the radioactivity controls will be made by the SCG customs officers on 24hrs basis. In the meantime, radioactivity controls are made on 24hrs basis at three SCG border gates only, namely Horgoš, Batrovci and Gradina.

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

13. Mrs. Dijana Djindjic also informed on the followings:

- SCG Customs Administration initiated suspension of the Government Order to check all goods that are coming from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Russian Federation (as defined affected areas after the Chernobyl nuclear accident).
- SCG Ministry of Science and Environment Protection has been conducting a study to limit the kinds of goods, which will be subject to radioactivity controls.
- Very soon, the transit goods will be exempted from the radioactivity controls.
- An SCG feasibility study is underway to implement single window, too. They are interested to have detailed information regarding the Romanian "green lane" practice.
- SCG Customs Administration applies the Risk Assessment Method for its controls.
- SCG Custom Administration participates in the TTFSE Project.

14. The WP.3 also visited the SCG Directorate for the Environment Protection to meet with Mrs. Ljiljana Stanojević, Assistant Director for Division of Inspection, Mr. Slaviša Simić, Head of Section for Ionizing and Non-Ionizing Radiation and Mr. Starčević Luka, Head of the Border Inspection.

15. Mrs. Ljiljana Stanojević confirmed that the custom officers would be in charge of the radioactivity controls at SCG border crossings points, soon. She informed that they can conduct such controls on 24hrs basis, currently, only at three border crossing points due to the lack of staff of the Directorate for the Environment Protection. However, she promised to do her best to extend the service to 24 hrs at Preševo border crossing point, too, upon request of the OFAE representatives in the WP.3.

16. Mrs. Ljiljana Stanojević also confirmed that a previous Government Order asking radioactivity controls for all kinds of goods coming from a list of countries affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident, will be suspended soon, and a revised list of goods, which will still be subjected to the radioactivity controls, is elaborated currently.

17. Mr. Slaviša Simić informed that the Directorate for the Environment Protection does not charge any administrative tax for its controls and services. However, he explained that there are 12 institutions (mostly private), which are authorized to measure the level of radioactivity, which are charging fees. But, he admitted that the Directorate was not aware of the fact that those institutions have differing charges for their services. He promised to check this matter and take the appropriate measures as soon as possible. Also, Mr. Slaviša Simić raised the fact that SCG Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection and its Directorate for the Environment Protection are in process of harmonizing the national regulations under their competence with the EU rules and regulations.

18. This Report was prepared and adopted by the BSEC-URTA Ad Hoc Working Party on Cooperation for Facilitation of Radioactivity Controls at the Borders of Serbia and Montenegro in order to be submitted to the consideration of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly at its next meeting in Chisinau (Moldova) on 24 October 2005.

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