



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

RES/GA12/BWT/07

Sofia, 2 November 2007

BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION *
on Border Crossing Difficulties at External Frontiers of the European Union

As an international organisation of road transport associations in twelve Countries around the Black Sea and in its immediate neighbourhood, the **BSEC-URTA**:

- is extremely concerned about the major border crossing difficulties at the external borders with the European Union (EU), which have increased more than five times since 2003 while the BSEC internal border waiting times increased only by 5 % in the same period;
- deplores the consequence of these difficulties, which result in these increasing waiting times at external borders of the EU (Annex 1);
- considers that these waiting times cause great losses to international trade and transport between the EU and third countries in spite of the declared constructive neighbourhood policy of the EU;
- concerned that the waiting times at the EU external border will even further increase if the new regulations concerning safety and security requirements, which will enter into force in 2009 are not implemented in partnership between the public and the private sector;
- observes with growing concern the increasing number of pre-notifications issued by Customs regarding transport operations under the coverage of TIR carnets in the territory of the EU (Annex 2);

To overcome these difficulties, the **BSEC URTA**:

- appeals to the European Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the national Governments concerned, that they should undertake all efforts and work together in a true renewed partnership with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and all its concerned National Associations to radically improve without delay this unsustainable situation by:
 - properly implementing all international agreements and conventions, in particular GATT Agreement and the UNECE conventions, which have proved since years to be the best multilateral facilitation instrument for the international road transport and by properly implementing also the EU acquis;

** Adopted in Sofia on 2nd November 2007, by the Twelfth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, unanimously.*



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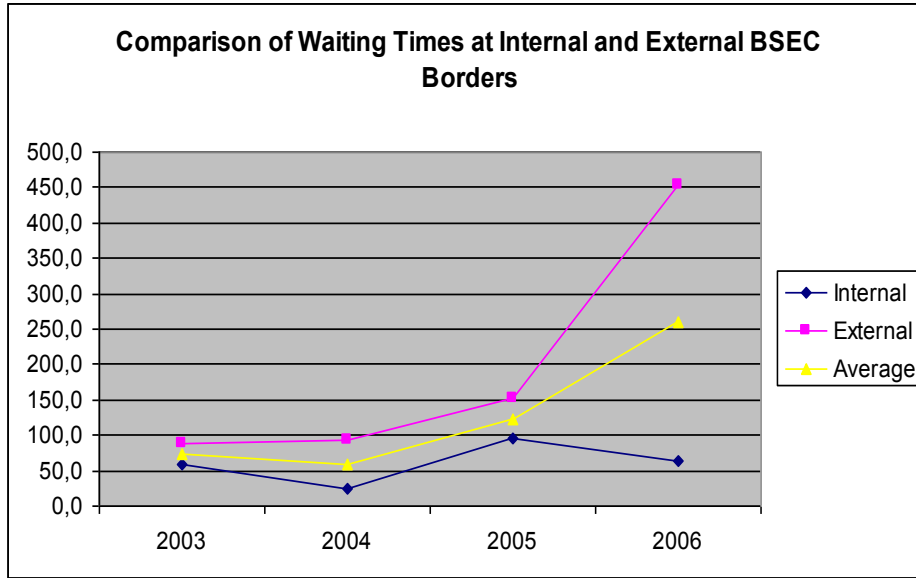
- concluding new bilateral agreements between the EU and the third countries if need be on the abolition of border crossing difficulties in the spirit of the international multilateral conventions;
- simplifying border crossing procedures by the application of modern risk assessment methods for selective controls, the introduction of common control services with neighbouring states, the application of the Single Window techniques, etc. (as foreseen in the new Annex 8 of 1982 Harmonisation Convention);
- immediately introducing the appropriate accompanying legal and administrative measures aimed at facilitating the application of the EU Common Customs Code and thus to eliminate the resulting huge number of pre-notifications, which imposes an enormous and unnecessary burden on the EU national customs and private sector and endangers the sustainability of the TIR system ;
- adapting as soon as possible the requirements of the EU regulations to the use of web based applications developed by the IRU by introducing an EU wide technical standard for electronic declarations and by actively supporting the use of such web based application;
- applying internationally developed risk management techniques rather than the systematic use of escorts applied to TIR transports particularly on the territory of Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine when the duties and taxes exceed USD 50,000;
- enlarging the physical border crossing capacities by additional traffic lanes and other service facilities, in particular civilised parking areas, etc.

BSEC URTA calls also the International Road Transport Union (IRU), on one hand, to undertake all what is in its power with the international organisations directly concerned with the border crossing difficulties such as the UNECE and the EU, and on the other hand, with its National Associations together with the National Governments, to implement the abovementioned measures as soon as possible in order to re-establish the free flow of goods as foreseen by the international agreements including the EU acquis and the GATT.

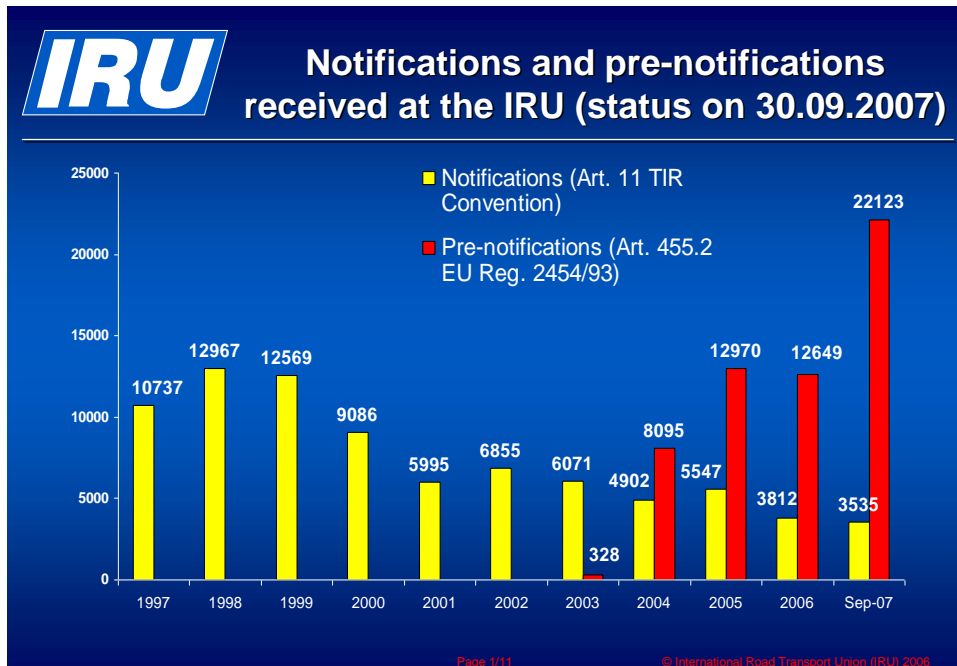
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BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION
ON BORDER CROSSING DIFFICULTIES AT EXTERNAL FRONTIERS OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (RES/GA12/BWT/07)

ANNEX 1



ANNEX 2



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