



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

RES/GA15/MoU-F/09

Yerevan, 12 May 2009

## **Draft BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION\***

### **on implementation of the BSEC Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods**

**The General Assembly** of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA), which represents national road transport associations from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine:

**Recalling** that the BSEC Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region (MoU-F) undersigned in Kyiv on 6 March 2002 entered into force on 20 July 2006 and a Steering Committee (SC.F) was established by its Contracting Parties in 2007, as its implementing body;

**Emphasizing** that the BSEC road transport industry, which is severely hit by the ongoing global economic crisis, has not only big expectations but also a growing vital need for actual facilitation of road transport industry in the BSEC region by implementing the MoU-F through concrete steps and projects between its Contracting Parties as soon as possible;

**Welcoming**, in this context, organisation by the BSEC PERMIS, of a BSEC Public-Private Roundtable meeting in Istanbul on 10 February 2009 where the BSEC-URTA Members, representatives of the Contracting Parties as well as UNECE and IRU considered results of a scientific study and expert proposals for alternative ways and methods to implement the MoU-F;

**Being satisfied and hopeful** that the SC.F endorsed the conclusions of the BSEC Roundtable at its meeting in Istanbul on 11 February 2009, which was also supported by the Ministers of Transport at their meeting in Yerevan on 27 March 2009;

**Stressing** that the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in Yerevan on 16 April 2009, after welcoming the outcome of the BSEC Public-Private Roundtable, instructed the SC.F to take further steps for practical implementation of the MoU-F;

**Also stressing** that the BSEC Council invited the interested Member States to sign the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers Nationals of the BSEC Member States (Driver Visa Agreement), which was opened to signature in Tirana on 26 October 2008 but has been signed so far by only 4 BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Armenia, Moldova and Turkey;

**Noting** that UNECE and BSEC will organise a special joint seminar in Geneva on 18 June 2009 with respect to practical implementation of the new Annex 8 to the UN Convention on Harmonisation of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982), which includes substantial components such as introduction of an international vehicle weight certificate and facilitation of visas for professional drivers;

**Welcoming** that the SC.F will be convened by the BSEC PERMIS in Istanbul in June 2009 in order to consider and hopefully approve creation of a "BSEC Permit" among the interested Member States, which will be printed and distributed by the BSEC PERMIS to those interested countries, which would exchange such permits under their bilateral road transport protocols with other interested BSEC Member States in order to allow fleet operators to drive across the BSEC Member States with a single document good for transit transport only;

**Also welcoming** that the SC.F at its planned meeting as above, is expected to form a special *ad hoc* Project Group among representatives of interested Contracting Parties to formulate and create in the longer future a regional license system similar in nature to the ECMT multilateral licenses in Europe, which would be good for only bilateral and transit road transport in the BSEC region;

1. **Thanks** the BSEC Council for its support and instructions for project based and actual implementation of the MoU-F by the SC.F as soon as possible,
2. **Thanks** the BSEC Ministers of Transport for extending their continuous support to the implementation of the MoU-F by their Yerevan Declaration,

\* Adopted unanimously unless otherwise stated

3. Commends the invaluable cooperation between IRU and BSEC PERMIS, which contributes significantly to project based implementation of the MoU-F,
4. Reiterates its commitment as a Sectoral Dialog Partner with the BSEC Organization, to work together with the SC.F with a view to reducing visible and invisible barriers to the road transport in the BSEC region, which, first and foremost, harms the trade of BSEC Member States and diminishes competitiveness of the BSEC economies in the globalising markets,
5. Calls on the BSEC Ministers of Transport to give their invaluable personal attention and attach a high priority within their Ministry, to implementation of the MoU-F as the long endeavours of the BSEC Member States to this direction, together with the support of the BSEC-URTA and BSEC PERMIS, have reached to an important level of maturity thanks to emerging concrete project ideas such as the BSEC Permit, BSEC License, Driver Visa Agreement and international vehicle weight certificate,
6. Requests kindly to the BSEC Ministers of Transport, in the above connection, to:-
  - mandate high level and unchanged representatives to the meetings of the SC-F in the future,
  - instruct their representatives to support BSEC PERMIS for creation of the "BSEC Permit" by 2010,
  - support the interested Member States to set up an *ad hoc* Project Group under the SC.F with the objective of creating a regional license system similar in nature to the ECMT License,
  - participate or send high level representatives in the planned UNECE-BSEC Joint Seminar in Geneva on 18 June 2009, which is expected to intensify efforts of the SC.F to put in place an international vehicle weight certificate in the BSEC region under the related UN Convention,
  - communicate with their colleagues, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in order to support signing of the Driver Visa Agreement by their respectful country if it is not done, yet,
  - follow up at the Cabinet or Parliament, the ratification of the Driver Visa Agreement if it is already signed by their respectful countries,
7. Expresses its readiness together with its Member Associations, to assume any responsibility and undertake any necessary projects in cooperation with competent national authorities, the BSEC Organisation and the IRU, which would facilitate true and immediate implementation of this very important MoU-F around the Black Sea basin.

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