



20 September 2017

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**CONCLUSIONS OF THE  
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP  
ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

**BSEC Headquarters, 20 September 2017**

1. The Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 20 September 2017.
2. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:  
  
Republic of Armenia  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine
3. The following BSEC Related Body also participated in the Meeting:  
  
Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC)
4. The following BSEC Observers attended the Meeting:  
  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
United States of America  
European Commission
5. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner also participated in the Meeting:  
  
Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA)
6. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and International Road Transport Union (IRU) participated in the Meeting as Guests.
7. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

8. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO, Consul in charge of BSEC, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul, and Mrs. Didem DİRLİK SONGÜR, Head of Department for Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO CUSTOMS MATTERS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES**

10. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and of the Declarations adopted by the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States.

11. The participants of the Meeting exchanged views on the issue and agreed that there was no need to discuss updating the list of representatives to the Working Group on a long term basis during the meetings of the Working Group. Instead, it was agreed that the BSEC PERMIS, in consultation with the Country-Coordinator will update the list before each Meeting of the Working Group. The current list of representatives of the Member States to the Working Group on Customs Matters is attached as **Annex III**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: HARMONIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES**

12. The Delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed on recent measures taken at national level for the harmonization and simplification of customs procedures. It was emphasized that the Customs Authorities of the Republic of Turkey are modernizing their tools and technology focusing on developing IT systems.

13. The representative of Turkey, in his presentation, provided detailed information on e-TIR Pilot Projects with Iran and Georgia on Customs to Business/Business to Customs (C2B2C) e-data exchange and Customs to Customs (C2C) data exchange, as well as on Single Window system in Turkey, launched on 26 January 2017, on works done so far in accordance with the requirements of the WTO TFA, which entered into force on 22 February 2017, and on Compulsory Pre-Declaration Submission (TIRCUS), the implementation of which has become compulsory as of April 2017.

14. The participants took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS that so far only three BSEC Member States provided the links of their websites with available information to be used for elaboration of the draft “*Manual on import, export and transit procedures in the BSEC Member States*” and invited the interested Member States to provide the necessary information as soon as possible.

15. The participants invited the BSEC PERMIS, in cooperation with the Country-Coordinator, to elaborate the above mentioned draft *Manual* based on information provided by the BSEC Member States and submit it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

16. The representatives of the BSEC-URTA touched upon the obstacles existing in the Region and elaborated on the possible ways out from this situation. In this respect, information also was provided on *IRU-BSEC-URTA-TOBB Seminar on Computerization of TIR Procedures and other Road Transport Related Documents* (Istanbul, 15 June 2017) and on 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference *International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects* (Odessa, 6-7 September 2017), outcome documents of which are attached as **Annexes IV and V.**

17. A presentation was made by the representative of the IRU, Mr. Raphael HIRT, Head eTIR, on Digitalisation of TIR procedures, concerning the initiatives taken at various levels to modernize the TIR Convention through digitalisation of its procedures. During the presentation the representative of the IRU confirmed the IRU's continuous support to the modernisation of the TIR procedure, through: Signing of a long term cooperation agreement with UNECE targeting the full digitalisation of the TIR procedure; Announcement at next session of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) that the IRU will propose to finance the cost of the establishment at UNECE of the Customs to Customs data exchange platform, the so-called eTIR international system, within a balanced Private-Public partnership; and Continued support to Customs Authorities to implement data exchange mechanisms between Customs, Transport operators and IRU. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI.**

18. The participants invited the Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States to continue to share their experience in harmonization and simplification of customs procedures at the next meetings of the Working Group.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE ON METHODOLOGY OF TIME RELEASE STUDY**

19. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed the participants on the latest developments on the issue which took place in Turkey.

20. The participants agreed to the usefulness of exchange of information.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: STRATEGIES AND POLICIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN ENHANCING INTEGRITY OF OFFICIALS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE BSEC REGION**

21. The initiative to coordinate with neighbours as well as to consider the establishment of a network between neighbouring countries in the BSEC Region to combat the phenomena was put forward by the BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC Member States were invited to consider this issue at the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPROVING CUSTOMS OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMS CONTROL IN RESPECT OF GOODS FOR PERSONAL USE MOVED IN INTERNATIONAL E-COMMERCE**

22. The participants agreed to continue consideration of this issue at the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

- 23. The BSEC PERMIS provided information on the issue.
- 24. The List of International Conventions on Customs Matters to which the Member States are parties, as updated, is attached as **Annex VII**.
- 25. The Member States were invited to continue to inform the BSEC PERMIS on changes of their status of participation in the International Conventions on Customs Matters.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: COOPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)**

26. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the issue and invited the Latter to continue its efforts to conclude a MoU between BSEC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

27. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

28. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Matters will be communicated to the Member States through the diplomatic channels.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING**

29. The participants adopted the Conclusions of the Informal Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

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