



**BS/MWS/WG/R(2008)1**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA**

**Piraeus, Greece, 29-30 January 2008**

1. The first Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Motorways of the Sea (MoS), established in accordance with Article 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region, was held in Piraeus, Greece, on 29-30 January 2008.

2. The Meeting was chaired by Captain H.C.G. Ioannis PROTOPAPAS, Director, General Secretariat of Ports and Port Policy, Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Aegean Sea and Island Policy of the Hellenic Republic. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Ioannis METAXAS, Director, B2 Directorate for Economic Relations with SE Europe, CIS and BSEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

3. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following BSEC Member States – Parties to the MoU:

Republic of Albania  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
Republic of Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Hellenic Republic  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Republic of Turkey  
Ukraine

4. The representatives of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank also participated in the Meeting.

5. The representatives of the Black Sea International Shipowners Association and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region attended the Meeting as Sectoral Dialogue Partners.

The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

6. At the beginning of the meeting, the participants expressed their condolences to the Hellenic Republic for the passing away of Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and All Greece. Due to this fact, the Conference on the Motorways of the Sea, which was to be held on 31 January 2008, was postponed.

7. The Ad Hoc Working Group was addressed by Mr. George S. Vlachos, Secretary General, General Secretariat of Ports and Port Policy of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Aegean and Island Policy, Mr. Evangelos ANGELAKOS, Mayor of Oinousses islands, as Guest and Ambassador Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS, Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS.

8. Mr. G. Vlachos drew attention to the Communication of the European Commission on the “Strengthening of the European Neighbourhood Policy”, directed at enhancing cooperation in the development of the Trans-European and Pan-European Transport Network, where the Motorways of the Sea should play an important role in the creation of a sustainable and viable transport system in the Wider Europe. Basing on the EU’s successful work in the development of the South East Mediterranean Motorway of the Sea, he underlined the necessity of prompt implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region.

9. Mr. E. Angelakos, wishing successful work to the participants, stressed the interest of his municipality to further develop cooperation with the ports of the BSEC Member States. Furthermore, he extended an invitation to the Group to hold a future Meeting in the Oinousses islands.

10. Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos emphasized, in particular, that the implementation of three BSEC Memoranda – on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods and Development of the Motorways of the Sea – will build up a strong and reliable transport system in the region. He also stressed that the Summit Declaration of June 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 anticipates the immediate implementation of the two transport MoUs.

11. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

## **STATUS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA AT THE BSEC REGION**

12. The Ad Hoc WG welcomed information of the delegations of the Republic of Albania and the Russian Federation about the completion of internal procedures necessary for the entry of the MoU into force. The delegation of Georgia informed that the MoU does not require internal procedure in Georgia. Earlier in 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia by its Note informed that “memoranda of understanding are not subject to the process of ratification and shall enter into force on the date they have been signed”. The Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul by its Note informed that the Ukrainian Government has ratified the MoU on 5 December 2007.

13. The Parties to the MoU, which have not done so yet, were invited to inform BSEC PERMIS officially about completion of the procedures.

14. The delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Republic of Turkey informed that their internal procedures are under way and that they will inform when the procedures will have been completed.

**INFORMATION OF THE PARTIES TO THE MoU ABOUT NOMINATION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3 OF THE MoU**

15. The Ad Hoc WG welcomed the appointment by the Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation and Republic of Turkey of their representatives in accordance with Article 3 of the MoU.

16. It was agreed that the Parties to the MoU, which have not done so yet, will inform BSEC PERMIS about their representatives to the Ad Hoc Working Group by the end of February 2008.

**DISCUSSION ON THE EU POLICIES ON MoS AND APPLICATION OF ITS BEST PRACTICES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MoS IN THE BSEC REGION**

17. Under this Agenda item, presentations on the “Motorways of the Sea: New concepts and Opportunities for Development in South East Mediterranean and Black Sea” and on the “Master Plan of the South East Mediterranean Motorway of the Sea” were made. The participants were informed about the EU policies on the development of the Motorways of the Sea and experience gained by the South East Mediterranean Motorway of the Sea on the issues of formulation tasks, establishment of organizational structure, establishment of the Master Plan, project management, financing etc. The presentations are attached as Annex III and IV, respectively.

18. Discussing on the topic, the Group noted that experience of the South East Mediterranean Motorway of the Sea should be taken into account in the implementation of the MoU.

19. It was agreed by all Parties that, in order to proceed with the implementation of the MoU, it is required to elaborate a Master Plan for the MoS at the BSEC Region. The Hellenic delegation undertook to seek financing for the elaboration of the above mentioned Master Plan.

20. In this respect, the Parties were also informed that BSEC PERMIS would forward a questionnaire to the Parties, requesting information regarding major candidate ports to be taken into consideration in the future Master Plan of the MoS at the BSEC Region.

21. The delegations visited the Port of Piraeus where they were informed about the latest developments of the Port, including within the implementation of the South East Mediterranean Motorway of the Sea.

**PRESENTATION BY THE BLACK SEA TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BANK OF PROPOSED CONCEPT FOR A “MOTORWAYS OF THE BLACK SEA PARTNERSHIP”**

22. The participants welcomed and took note of the presentation by BSTDB of a concept “Promoting Cooperation and Development in the Black Sea: The Motorways of the Black Sea Partnership and Overview of BSTDB”. The presentation is attached as Annex V.

23. Acknowledging the importance of the issues raised by BSTDB, the Ad Hoc WG agreed to continue their consideration at a future Meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AD HOC WG MoS**

24. The delegations considered the draft Rules of Procedure, presented by the Hellenic Delegation and proceeded to their amendment. The Chair stressed that this MoU, as well as the MoU on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, have to be implemented in a flexible way, in order to achieve substantial progress, as indicated by the Heads of State or Government at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit of the BSEC Organization (Istanbul, 25 June 2007). Consequently, both MoUs should be implemented by the Parties through the MoUs' own instances. The BSEC organs will be kept regularly informed. Participants shared these views.

25. Participants also decided to continue discussing the Draft at the next Meeting. The Draft as it was discussed is attached as Annex VI.

26. In order to facilitate the future discussion, the Parties were invited to present by 15 March 2008 their further comments and proposals to the Draft Rules of Procedure.

### **ELECTION OF A COORDINATOR OF THE AD HOC WG MoS**

27. The Hellenic delegation confirmed its wish to assume the duties of Coordinator.

28. The Hellenic delegation also proposed the "Hellenic Ports Development Center" (HPDC) as a candidate to perform the duties of a Joint Technical Secretariat, which the Ad Hoc WG may decide to establish. The delegations took note of the presentation on the HPDC made by Mr. A. Kamarinakis, Executive Director. He also confirmed that HPDC has the expertise and is ready to undertake such duty.

29. The Ad Hoc WG decided to consider both issues at its next Meeting, on the basis of the information to be provided by the Hellenic delegation.

### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

30. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Hellenic Republic for the excellent organization of the Meeting and warm hospitality extended to them. They also expressed their deep appreciation to the Mayor of Oinousses, Mr. E. Angelakos, for sponsoring the Meeting and for his kind invitation to host a Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group in Oinousses on 10-11 July 2008.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

31. The Ad Hoc WG agreed that the date and venue of its next meeting, which will be held in principle prior to the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Kyiv, 17 April 2008), tentatively around the end of March, would be communicated officially to the Parties

through the BSEC PERMIS, on the basis of a consultation with the Ukrainian BSEC Chairmanship. Delegations from all Parties to the MoU should be able to attend this Meeting.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

32. The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the present Report.

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