



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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**REPORT OF THE
MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON TRANSPORT**

Istanbul, 26-27 November 2013

1. The Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Transport was held in Istanbul, 26-27 November 2013.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mikhayil VARDANIAN, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to BSEC.
3. The following BSEC Member States participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Republic of Moldova
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of the BSEC Business Council participated in the Meeting as BSEC Related Body.
5. The representatives of the Black and Azov Seas Ports Association (BASPA), Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs), Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers (BRASS) and Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC Region (BSEC-URTA) participated in the Meeting in the capacity of Sectoral Dialogue Partners.
6. The representatives of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the Black Sea Ring Highway (BSRH JPTS) and the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Motorways of the Sea (JTS MoS) participated in the Meeting as Guests.

The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

7. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed. The Agenda Item on consideration of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the International Union of Railways was postponed to the next meeting. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Implementation of the resolutions, decisions, recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and follow-up of the Odessa Joint Declaration on the Development of Cooperation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region: "Opportunities and Challenges for intermodal transport in the BSEC Region" (29 May 2013, Odessa, Ukraine)

8. The WG took note of information provided by the BSEC PERMIS regarding decisions of the 28th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Odessa, 21 June 2013) related to transport activities during the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-office and, in particular, to the implementation of the Odessa Joint Declaration on the Development of Cooperation in the field of Transport in the BSEC Region: "Opportunities and Challenges for intermodal transport in the BSEC Region" (29 May 2013, Odessa, Ukraine).

9. In line with the resolution "Assessment of the work deployed in the BSEC Working Groups" adopted by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States in Belgrade on 19 April 2007, the WG considered the list of representatives to the Working Groups and invited the Member States to update, if it is necessary, information regarding their representatives by 20 January 2013. The list of representatives to the Working Groups is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Facilitation of Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region:

a. Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region

10. The Working Group took note of information of the BSEC PERMIS about the outcome of the 9th Meeting (informal) of the Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region (Istanbul, 26 November 2013) and particularized on further developments with regard to the "BSEC Permit system" and to the elaboration of a Road Map for the BSEC Pilot Project on the Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate. The Report of the Meeting is attached as **Annex IV**.

11. The Delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine welcomed complementarity of the BSEC work to the UNECE activities on the implementation of the Annex 8 to the UN International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) and encouraged the BSEC participation in the UNECE meetings of the WP.30 (Geneva, 4-7 February 2014) and the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (Geneva, 12 June 2014).

12. The Delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its interest to participate in the BSEC Pilot Project on Introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate noting that the participation will require a transition period for accomplishment of all necessary procedures by 2016. The official announcement on participation will be made in due time.

13. Taking into account that the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine notified about their readiness to participate in the BSEC Pilot Project on introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Region the Working Group proposed a draft decision for approval by the Council of

Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as it is attached as **Annex V**, and requested the BSEC PERMIS to submit it for consideration of the CMFA.

b. Development of intermodal transportation

14. With reference to the Odessa Joint Declaration as well as to its presentation made at the Meeting of the Working Group in Izmir on 26-27 November 2012, the Delegation of Ukraine further elaborated on the advantages of intermodal cooperation on the BSEC Member States and presented a Concept framework of activities of the newly established BSEC Task Force on Intermodal Transportation in the Black sea Region, which is attached as **Annex VI**.

15. The Working Group invited the Member States to make their proposals to the proposed Concept framework as well as to nominate their representatives to the Task Force by 31 January 2014 in order to facilitate the necessary arrangements for the first meeting of the Task Force.

16. Furthermore, with reference to the draft Action Plan of the Working Group on Transport for 2013-2015 the Delegation of Ukraine proposed to convene a meeting of the Task Force during the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-office in order to elaborate on concrete steps for development the intermodal transportation and possibilities to start Fast Track Cooperation.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Integrated road and sea transport infrastructure network in the BSEC Region. State of affairs with regard to:

a. Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway

17. The Representative of the BSRH JPTS informed that consultations among the parties concerned on the alignment of the BSRH main route are currently going on. It was noted that the progress was registered within the consultations.

18. Furthermore, the Representative of the BSRH JPTS informed regarding contacts with relevant EU bodies concerning possible funding of general studies (feasibility, safety, etc) of the entire alignment.

19. The Delegation of the Russian Federation stated that funding of the BSRH should be realized only by financial institutions of the BSEC region and /or the Member States.

20. The Delegation of the Republic of Armenia reiterated the importance of extending the BSRH main route from Yerevan to the borders with Iran.

21. The Representative of BASPA drew attention to the fact the main route in some countries goes on a long distance from the Black Sea ports in their territories. In this regard, he recommended the BSRH Steering Committee to foresee the relevant alignments connecting the main route with the sea ports.

22. The Representative of the BSRH JPTS proposed to convene a Meeting of the BSRH Steering Committee under Ukraine's presidency during the first quarter of 2014 in order to approve the final alignment, to confirm the Member States' representatives and to discuss the possible funds of financing.

b. Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region

23. The Representative of the MoS JTS informed that the JTS Headquarters was established in the Istanbul Harbour Master's Office on 1 May 2013 for a period of two years. The Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey assigned four persons to carry out the relevant duties. The contact details of the JTS are attached as **Annex VII**.

24. Furthermore, the JTS is working on the construction of a secure web-site for the MoS AHWG and on the following 3 projects proposed to the AHWG:

- a) BSEC MARLINK – related to maritime links in the BSEC Region,
- b) BSEC PORTS – related to collection of all port data in a single web site,
- c) BSEC MoS HOTLINE - related to introduction of activities of private stakeholders.

25. The Representative of the JTS informed that a website and a secure online information sharing platform for easy communication of the Experts Correspondence Network will be presented before the next meeting, noting that the questionnaire on the project BSEC PORTS was presented at the last meeting of the AHWG in March 2013 and the drafts MoS Logo were proposed to the Parties.

26. The next meeting is scheduled before April 2014, subject to the consultations with the Chairmanship of AHWG and PERMIS.

27. The Delegation of the Republic of Armenia proposed to foresee usage of “dry ports” in the MoS Concept to be elaborated by the AHWG. The proposal was supported by the Delegation of the Russian Delegation which referred to the UNESCAP Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

28. Furthermore, the MoS JTS Representative proposed to convey the dry ports issue for the consideration by the Task Force on the Development of Intermodal Transport as the dry ports require intermodal transportation using various modes of transport.

29. It was noted that no proposals or objections were received with regard to the Draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea Region presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation. The Delegation of the Russian Federation suggested to continue on further elaboration of the draft with the aim to sign it.

30. The BSEC PERMIS informed about the recent consultations with the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the development of cooperation between BSEC and IMO, in particular undertaking joint projects. With this regard, the IMO made a proposal which is attached as **Annex VIII**.

31. The Working Group took note of this information and decided to consider the proposal at the next meeting of the Working Group on Transport.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Considering the development of cooperation in the civil aviation sector

32. The Working Group considered the state of affairs with regard to cooperation in the civil aviation sector. No consensus was reached among the Member States with respect to the prospects of cooperation in field.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Consideration of the issue on elaboration of the Integrated Maritime Policy in the field of maritime transport, ports, shipbuilding and shiprepairing in the region

33. The Working Group took note of the presentation made by the representative of BRASS regarding the state of affairs to elaboration of the Integrated Maritime Policy in the field of maritime transport, ports, shipbuilding and shiprepairing in the Region and, in particular, to the BRASS' proposal contained in the relevant background paper presented in 2010.

34. The participants exchanged views on the issue, noting that the BRASS's background paper needs more practical initiatives supplemented by concrete action plans and proposals, including those by the Member States.

35. The Member States agreed to consider the possibility to establish a new ad hoc working group in the future in order to elaborate on the Integrated Maritime Policy.

36. The Member States also agreed to return to consideration of the issue after concrete action plans and proposals will be provided.

37. The Delegation of Romania informed that the Black Sea Stakeholders Conference on "Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy of the Black Sea", organized by the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, is scheduled to be held in Bucharest on 30 January 2014. A formal invitation with additional information will be sent shortly.

AGENDA ITEM 7. BSEC transport cooperation with international organizations and the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners.

38. The WG took note of the BSEC PERMIS information regarding cooperation in the concrete fields of transport between BSEC and UNECE, IRU, BSEC-URTA, BASPA, BRASS and BINSIA since its last meeting in 28 May 2013 Odessa.

39. The WG welcomed invitation of the UNECE to BSEC to take part in the forthcoming meetings of the WP.30 (Geneva, 4-7 February 2014) and in the session of the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (Geneva, 12 June 2014) and expressed its readiness to further contribute to the UNECE efforts on implementation and development of legal instruments facilitating transport.

40. The Delegation of Ukraine proposed to apply the BSEC efforts to the UNECE process on developing Annex on seaports to the UNECE Harmonization Convention, 1982.

41. The Working Group expressed sincere congratulations to the Black Sea Region Association of Shipbuilders and Shiprepairers on occasion of its 20th Anniversary since establishment and expressed its appreciation for the BRASS valuable contribution to the BSEC activities.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015, presented by Ukraine as a Country-Coordinator

42. The Working Group considered, amended and approved the Draft Action Plan of the BSEC Working Group on Transport for the period of 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2015, presented by Ukraine as a Country Coordinator. The Draft Action Plan is attached as **Annex IX**.

43. The Russian Delegation stated that the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission

TRACECA (13 December 2007)” does not bear any responsibility for the Russian Federation. In this regard the Delegation of the Russian Federation does not accept provisions of the sub-item d of paragraph 16 of the Action Plan.

44. With reference to the Article 6, Objective 9 (Facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers) of the Time Table for the Implementation of the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, the Delegation of the Russian Federation informed that this issue is in the competency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

45. The Working Group welcomed the willingness of the forthcoming Bulgarian Chairmanship to organize a Meeting of the Working Group on Transport as well as a Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of transport in the Republic of Bulgaria.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Reporting on the implementation of the resolution “The Way forward for an Action Plan on the Implementation of Economic Agenda Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership”

46. The Working Group considered, amended and adopted the Annual Report on the activities of the Working Group on the implementation of the BSEC Economic Agenda and decided to forward it to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials. The Annual Report is attached as **Annex X**.

47. In order to facilitate the future deliberations on the experiences among the Member States in applying the legal mechanism in the sphere of passenger and freight carriages in the BSEC Region, the WG proposed the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly to kindly consider the possibility to elaborate a research on the existing legal mechanism in the sphere of international passenger and freight carriages in the BSEC Region.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy

48. Following its discussions at the meetings in Izmir on 26-27 November 2012 and in Odessa on 27 May 2013, the Working Group further elaborated on the implementation of the BSEC Public Communication Strategy and approved the key messages of the BSEC transport cooperation prepared by the PERMIS. The key messages of the BSEC transport cooperation are attached as **Annex XI**.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Strengthening communications between BSEC PERMIS and Member States

49. The Working Group discussed the PERMIS proposals regarding the improvement of the communications between the BSEC PERMIS and BSEC Member States, and agreed, in parallel with the official correspondence, to use the existing e-mail network to facilitate communication between the BSEC Secretariat and representatives assigned by the Member States to the Working Group on Transport.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Any other business

50. No issues were raised under this Agenda item.

Date and venue of the next Meeting

51. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group on Transport will be communicated at a later stage.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

52. The Working Group adopted the present Report to be submitted to the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States and the Meeting of the BSEC Committee of Senior Officials.