



BS/TR/WG/R(94)2

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

Athens, 1-2 November 1994

1. The Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Transport of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held in Athens on 1-2 November 1994.

2. The Meeting was attended by the following Participating States of the BSEC:

Republic of Albania
Republic of Armenia
Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Georgia
Hellenic Republic
Romania
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine

3. The representatives of Israel and the BSEC Council attended the Meeting as Observers.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

4. H.E. George Kandalepas, Secretary General for International Economic Relations, Ministry of National Economy of the Hellenic Republic, addressed an inaugural speech to the Meeting. The text of the speech is attached as Annex II.

5. The Meeting was co-chaired by Christos Papageorgakis, Head of the Division for International Organizations, Merchant Marine Ministry of the Hellenic Republic, and by

Christos Dionelis, Transport Engineer, Department of International Affairs, Hellenic Railways Organization.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted by the WG, is attached as Annex III.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE WG ON TRANSPORT (Istanbul, 2-3 June 1994)

7. Under this item, the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat presented a background paper which is attached as Annex IV.

a) Data bank for the collection of information on transport issues

b) Freight and passenger travel demand and traffic flows in the BSEC countries

8. The WG took note of the questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to the Participating States.

9. After having a detailed and thorough exchange of views, the WG agreed that the Participating States which have not yet sent their replies to the Secretariat may do so by the end of December 1994.

10. Taking into account the statistical facilities and other relevant infrastructures in the Participating States, the WG also agreed that those Participating States which have not yet responded may do so, with the help of the Secretariat, to the extent possible and where available. This information will then be distributed to the Participating States.

11. Furthermore, the WG instructed the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of cooperation between the WG on Transport and the Working Group on Exchange of Statistical Data and Economic Information with the aim of benefiting from the latter's expertise and examining at a later stage the necessity for the creation of a computerized transportation data bank for the BSEC countries.

HARMONIZATION OF THE BORDER CROSSING FORMALITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES

12. Under this item, the WG held an extensive exchange of views. It reiterated the value of this item as a substantial method of promoting economic and commercial relations within the BSEC region and called upon the Participating States to send to the Secretariat, on the basis of the questionnaire circulated at the first meeting of the WG on Transport (Istanbul, 2-3 June 1994), updated data on their existing border crossing formalities.

13. The WG agreed upon the importance of the simplification of the procedures and the harmonization of the formalities concerning border crossings. The WG would also welcome the Participating States which have not yet become signatories to relevant international agreements on this subject to do so.

14. The WG instructed the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the answers received, a study explaining the methodology to be followed for the further elaboration of this issue.

15. The WG also instructed the Secretariat to prepare and circulate a report on the basis of the information received from the Participating States regarding the implementation of the relevant international conventions.

PROBLEMS FACED IN LAND TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC COUNTRIES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

16. Under this item, the delegations exchanged information. The WG concluded that all necessary measures should be taken for the alleviation of existing problems and decided to recommend to the MMFA the endorsement of a resolution calling upon all the Participating States to cooperate more closely on this subject.

17. The WG agreed for the Participating States to send to the Secretariat a list of specific problems encountered among BSEC countries in land transport.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE INLAND WATERWAYS POLICIES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES TOWARDS A MARKET ORIENTED ENVIRONMENT

18. Under this item, the delegations provided information on this subject including the inland waterways legislation of the Participating States.

The WG also emphasized that special attention should be given to sea-river transportation.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

a) Recent developments in the shipping policies of the Participating States

19. The Participating States agreed to complete the questionnaire distributed by the Greek Delegation and the proposals of the Secretariat (BS/INFO.94.37) and, in addition, to forward to the Secretariat a list of specific difficulties they face in regard to the legislation of other BSEC countries according to this questionnaire.

20. Furthermore, the Participating States acknowledged that they should take part in the GATT negotiating group on the liberalization of maritime transport services and agreed to apply the principles contained in the memorandum of understanding concluded between the OECD and the NIS-CEEC (Newly Independent States-Central Eastern European Countries) countries.

b) Promotion of bilateral shipping agreements

21. The WG took note of the draft guidelines prepared and presented by the Greek Delegation. Taking into account that authorities other than shipping authorities are also involved in the overall maritime transportation policies, they agreed, in principle, to these guidelines. They undertook to finalize the adoption of these guidelines in the next meeting of the WG.

c) Cooperation in the shipbuilding/ship repairing sectors

22. The Participating States provided further information on this subject. The BSEC Council reiterated its readiness to provide assistance on this issue.

The WG agreed for the Participating States to send relevant information to the BSEC Council through the Secretariat.

The WG took note of the information given by the Chairman of the Meeting on the recent OECD agreement on shipbuilding regarding the disciplines to be applied in connection with overcapacity and unfair pricing.

d) Technical cooperation in the fields of shipbuilding/ship repairing

23. The WG emphasized the importance of the mechanism recommended by the Fourth MMFA which provides for cooperation among the authorities in charge of technical assistance to establish contacts as frequently as the WG convenes, and invited the private sector to contribute in this regard.

e) Practical problems faced by the ships of the Participating States in each other's ports

24. According to the resolution of the Fourth MMFA, the WG agreed to examine specific existing practical problems with the aim of alleviating such problems in subsequent meetings of the WG. The Participating States took note of the problems described in this Meeting and undertook to examine solutions and present them at the next WG meeting.

The Participating States may forward to the BSEC Secretariat a list of these problems faced by their vessels in each other's ports in order to be sent to the concerned Participating States.

- f) Exchange of information on existing and planned ferry lines in the Black Sea
25. The delegations provided further information on this issue.
- g) Cooperation of the private sector for the materialization of maritime prospects

26. The WG further elaborated on the ways and means of stimulating the interest of the private sector for the implementation of some projects in the field of maritime transportation.

The WG called upon the BSEC Council to continue its study reflecting the opportunities existing in the private sectors of the BSEC countries in this field.

The WG agreed for the Participating States to send relevant information to the BSEC Council through the Secretariat.

27. The WG took note of the proposals of the Delegation of the Russian Federation on the concrete projects which were distributed at the Meeting and invited any other Participating State to send its own proposals to the Secretariat for circulation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. The WG decided to include in the agenda of the next meeting of the WG on Transport an item regarding the study of the planning of an overall BSEC transport network. Under this item, Ukraine and any other Participating State may present at the next meeting of the WG relevant studies elaborated in this field. The WG agreed that the material presented by Ukraine be sent for examination to the ad hoc Group of Experts and proposed Ukraine to continue its work taking into consideration the proposals of the other countries of the BSEC and the proposals of the Group of Experts.

29. The WG agreed, in principle, that their meetings should be convened once a year although, if needed, they could be convened more often.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

30. The delegations expressed their sincere gratitude to the Government of the Hellenic Republic for hosting the Meeting and for the excellent arrangements as well as the warm hospitality extended to them.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

31. The Russian Federation expressed its readiness to host the next meeting of the WG on Transport in Anapa in the Krasnodar region of the Russian Federation in 1995.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

32. The WG adopted the present report for submission to the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

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