

MOSCOW JOINT DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION

Towards safe, secure, coherent and efficient transport system in the Black Sea region

(October 21, 2011; Moscow, Russian Federation)

WE, the Ministers of Transport of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Member States gathering in Moscow on October 21, 2011, under the Russian Chairmanship-in-office of BSEC to discuss progress and identify further steps, best ways and means of strengthening our co-operation in the field of transport of the Black Sea region;

Recognizing the key role of transport in sustainable economic and social development of the Black Sea countries, and as well as in ensuring cooperation in the sphere of commerce, economics and tourism within the BSEC Member States and with third countries;

Giving higher priority to the comprehensive approach to the transport development issues and capacity enhancement of transport links in the Black Sea region;

Affirming the necessity of consecutive implementation of measures for the development of co-operation in the field of transport, which is reflected in the Joint Declarations adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States in recent years;

Taking into account, that creation of innovative and high-quality transport, auxiliary and logistic infrastructure is an important tool for the integration of transport communications of the BSEC Member States into the European and global transport systems;

Realizing the key role of the Black Sea region in the development of Euro-Asian commercial, economic and transport links in the East-Western and North-Southern directions;

Supporting the coordination of efforts of the BSEC Countries towards enhancement of the legal and regulatory framework under existing international agreements and conventions in the field of transport and international transportation for the development of passenger and freight transport links as well as facilitation of border crossing in the BSEC region;

Taking note on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway (Belgrade, April 19, 2007), on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC region (Belgrade, April 19, 2007), on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region (Kiev, March 6, 2002), as well as the work of the relevant Steering Committees and the Ad-Hoc Working Group;

Considering that the cooperation among BSEC member states should be enhanced in the area of comprehensive interaction between modes of transport in the Black Sea region, which includes interaction in the field of passenger and freight ferry services, intermodal and combined transportation;

Taking into account the key role passenger, cruise and high-speed ferry links can play in the development of domestic and international tourism in the Black Sea region;

Highlighting the growing impact of sustainable development and climate change on transport activities in the Black Sea region;

Reaffirming the importance of implementing measures to reduce the number and decrease the gravity of road crashes in the BSEC region in the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64 / 255 of March 2, 2010 and the Ioannina Declaration of November, 2010;

Emphasizing the great importance of co-operation development in the field of transport between the BSEC and the European Union, international organizations of the UN system and other international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as organizations of regional economic cooperation and international financial institutions;

Welcoming the enhanced cooperation that exists between BSEC and UNECE, IRU, IRF as well as the Sectoral Dialogue Partners in Transport field BASPA, BINSA, BRASS and BSEC-URTA in developing road transport in the BSEC region;

Recognizing the necessity of more extensive involvement of the business community in the implementation of projects for the development of transport infrastructure and transport links, particularly on the basis of public-private partnership;

Have agreed to:

1. **Undertake** further joint steps to establish an integrated transport system in the Black Sea region and develop safe and efficient transport links in order to facilitate trade and tourism and enhance the overall welfare and employment of population of the BSEC member states.
2. **Promote** the development of modern competitive Ro-Ro, ferry and cruise lines in the Black Sea Region using the existing international experience, best practices, equipment and technologies on shipping safety.
3. **Continue** the progressive implementation of the three memoranda of understanding: for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, on the Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC region, and on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region.
4. **Highly appreciate** the initiative of the Russian Federation on the development of the Black Sea ferry lines and propose to start the work on the new Memorandum for its further discussion within the framework of the Working Group on Transport.
5. **Establish** cross-sector cooperation of the BSEC Working groups on transport and tourism in terms of passenger ferries and cruise shipping by organizing joint meetings and considering further steps of the Organization in this field.
6. **Continue** work, aimed at facilitation of border crossing procedures between the BSEC member states by means of successive bringing of the national legislation into compliance with the requirements reflected in Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982).
7. **Reiterate** the invitation to the BSEC Member States that have not done so to adhere to major UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport and effectively implement them.

8. **Assist to** the implementation of transport, auxiliary and logistic infrastructure development projects in the BSEC region in cooperation with other international organizations and financial institutions and by involvement of the business community, particularly on the basis of the public-private partnership, notably by inclusion of the IRU Model Highway Initiative (MHI) into the future project of the BSRH Master Plan and cooperation in preparation of required feasibility studies.
9. **Proceed with** the determination of joint priority projects on regional and international level, the implementation of which will promote trade and tourism in the BSEC region with the aim of their subsequent presentation to international financial institutions and development banks for consideration and raising funding.
10. **Focus on** the implementation of projects aimed at ensuring transport interconnectivity of the regions and transport interoperability, as well as on the introduction of intelligent transport systems (ITS).
11. **Intensify** efforts to improve road, navigation and flight safety in the BSEC region, as well as to modernize the fleet of vehicles, vessels and aircrafts in order to reduce harmful effects on the environment, including those which cause the climate change.
12. **Promote** the development and implementation of harmonized information support systems in the BSEC member states, including electronic data interchange, automatic issuance and electronic processing of transport and accompanying documents, electronic pre-declaration of cargo, development of telecommunication networks in transport sector.
13. **Continue** close co-operation with international transport organizations and international financial institutions to develop an integrated transport network in the Black Sea region.
14. **Congratulate** BSEC-URTA on 10th Anniversary from its establishment and appreciate its important contributions to the road transport sector of BSEC.
15. **Continue** the work on the organization of training seminars and international conferences to exchange experiences and best practices in the field of transport between the experts of the BSEC Member States, other countries and international organizations.

The Ministers expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Meeting in Moscow.
