



Annex III to BS/TM/R(2007)1

**JOINT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF
TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 15TH
ANNIVERSARY OF BSEC (ISTANBUL, 5 JULY 2007)**

The Ministers of Transport of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) met in Istanbul on 5 July 2007, within the framework of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Turkey;

Bearing in mind that BSEC, throughout its fifteen years of existence, has endeavoured to bring its Members together around common ideas, goals and principles;

Taking into account that the BSEC region, with its unique geographical location, has a strategic importance in connecting Europe and Asia;

Believing that after fifteen years of experience, it is time for BSEC to take concrete steps and achieve tangible results in the area of transport with a view to living up to the potential of the region;

Being determined to make every effort for further progress in cooperation in all modes of transport and to create a favourable environment for a satisfactory level of progress by initiating new projects and ideas;

Emphasizing the need to conduct a target-oriented evaluation of various plans and studies pertaining to the BSEC region in the area of transport that are being carried out by several international and regional organisations and initiatives, within the framework of BSEC which is the most suitable forum for such initiatives;

Reiterating the importance to continue working closely for the development of reliable, efficient, safe, integrated and sustainable transport systems in the BSEC region which connect the BSEC Member States with the European and Asian markets;

Acknowledging the necessity to intensify efforts for the development of the transport operations in the BSEC region according to the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region as it is in force in the BSEC Member States and ease customs formalities and reducing waiting times at the border crossing points;

Taking into consideration that civil aviation has not been given the attention it deserves in BSEC transport agenda up to now and that fostering cooperation in this field holds great potential for the transport in the BSEC region, without prejudice to international obligations of the Member States;

Welcoming the successful completion of the Black Sea Ring Highway Caravan organised by BSEC PERMIS in partnership with the IRU and BSEC-URTA, with a view to promoting the future Black Sea Ring Highway;

Acknowledging the importance for the BSEC Member States of the UNECE contribution in developing internationally harmonized transport norms and standards and promoting development of Euro-Asian transport links;

Stressing the need and importance of the full and timely implementation of the Joint Declarations previously adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States;

Have agreed:

1. **To intensify** joint efforts to promote sustainable transport systems, including multimodal transport networks, in the countries of the BSEC Member States, in order to help reduce regional disparities and to connect the BSEC region's transport infrastructure to the European and the Asian transport networks;
2. **To promote** the organization of regional training seminars and conferences aimed at the exchange of experiences and best practices in the sphere of transport among experts of the BSEC Member States, other states and international organizations;
3. **To strengthen** cooperation with relevant international organizations and structures in order to coordinate the ongoing activities in the field of transport, while fully reflecting the interests of the Member States, through devising joint action plans and instituting appropriate coordination mechanisms with international organizations which would yield fruitful results for the region in the sphere of transport;
4. **To promote** the gradual liberalization of bilateral and transit road transport of goods in accordance with the MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region as in force within each BSEC Member States, which would help develop intermodal transport connections and transport services among BSEC Members States with a view to further improving the competitiveness of their national economies in the world trade system;
5. **To take** appropriate measures to improve the efficiency of BSEC PERMIS and its assisting role to the Chairmanship-in-Office, the Country Coordinator and the

- BSEC Member States, for better preparation of regular follow-up reports on the implementation of the BSEC transport agenda;
6. **To encourage** the BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partners to offer their contributions to the implementation of agreed measures and arrangements regarding the facilitation of transport in the region;
 7. **To ensure** the implementation of the provisions of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, the Development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region, as well as the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, without any delay;
 8. **To call upon** the Steering Committee established for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region to take the necessary measures for the proper implementation of the said MoU;
 9. **To encourage** the continuation and further strengthening of BSEC cooperation with the UNECE, IRF and IRU;
 10. **To support and promote** cross-border cooperation projects among the BSEC Member States wherever is possible to the benefit of the whole region;
 11. **To explore** the possibilities for cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for their warm hospitality and the outstanding organization of the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States.
