



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Permanent International Secretariat

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STATEMENT BY
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BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC)
PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (PERMIS)

AT THE

74TH SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Geneva, 28 February-1 March 2012)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to brief the Committee about the latest BSEC transport developments which are related, in particular, to the development of road and maritime infrastructure, as well as to facilitation of road transport of goods.

The dynamics of work of the BSEC Member States in this field remains quite high. Allow me to start at the outset with the BSEC Meeting of the Ministers of Transport that was held in Moscow on 21 October 2011.

The Ministers considered the issues of transport cooperation and based on that consideration adopted the "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".

The Ministers also welcomed the Russian initiative regarding the development of modern competitive RO-Ro, ferry and cruise lines in the region. They decided to establish cross-sector cooperation between the BSEC Working Groups on Transport and Tourism in relation to passenger ferries and cruise shipping.

And now I would like to draw your attention to some aspects of practical cooperation of BSEC with UNECE and other international organizations on the topics raised by the Ministers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the 6th meeting in Rostov-on-Don, the Russian Federation, on 27 September 2011 the Steering Committee on the Development of the **Black Sea Ring Highway** agreed on most of the points of alignment of the Black Sea Ring Highway.

I should acknowledge that with the **Model Highway Initiative**, presented by IRU, the BSRH concept has received the additional positive development as the IRU's Initiative is directed at creation of modern highways and bringing ancillary road infrastructure to the highest European standards. In 2011 the IRU had two meetings of the Expert Group on the Development of Ancillary Road Infrastructure in Yalta, Ukraine, and in Batumi, Georgia, and presented their outcome to BSRH Steering Committee in Rostov-on-Don.

The Steering Committee decided to include the issue of creating the Model Highway along the Black Sea Ring Highway sections into the future project of the Master-Plan and to cooperate with the International Road Transport Union in preparing the Feasibility Study on the Model Highway Initiative project.

In Moscow on 16 December 2011 the BSEC Council of Foreign Ministers welcomed the initiative of IRU as contributing to the development of the Black Sea Ring Highway. It is my pleasure to inform you about the forthcoming **Workshop on investment, financial and technical issues of the Model Highway Initiative** and its implementation on the Black Sea Ring Highway sections.

The Workshop will be held on 6-8 March 2012 in Thessaloniki, Hellenic Republic and will be co-organized jointly by BSEC PERMIS, International Road transport Union and the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank.

The representatives of international financial institutions, governmental agencies, related providers of ancillary road transport services and other business communities will discuss the practical issues related to MHI multilateral investment facilities creation as well as the issues of technical and technological aspects of ancillary road infrastructure creation, development and management.

The Ad hoc WG on the Development of the **Motorways of the Sea** made the last organizational arrangements before starting work on the development of the MoS Master Plan at the meeting, held in Novorossiysk on 5-6 October 2011.

In the field of **facilitation of road transport of goods** a constructive pass continued towards implementation of the Pilot Project on the Issuing of the BSEC Transit Permit for Trucks. A positive decision has been taken by the Republic of Turkey concerning the usage of 200 BSEC Permits only for transit by Armenian hauliers until 31 January 2012 within the framework of the Pilot Project.

At the meeting held on 16 December 2011 in Moscow the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States decided to **extend the term of implementation of the Pilot Project** on the Issuing of the BSEC Transit Permit for Trucks for one more year as of 1 February 2012.

Integral part of this cooperation is accession by the BSEC Member States to the **UN international agreements on transport** what is essential for the achievement of the major objectives of the MoU. The issue is permanent on the Agenda of the BSEC Steering Committee on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods.

As you know, introduction of the **International Vehicle Weight Certificate** under Annex 8 to UN the Harmonization Convention¹ faces some obstacles of technical character. The BSEC joined the UN ECE efforts in promotion the Certificate. At the last meeting held in Rostov-on-Don on 28 September 2011, the Steering Committee decided to organize a Meeting of Experts for elaboration of concrete measures for starting the implementation of the Certificate UN the Harmonization Convention. The meeting will take place in Belgrade in April 2012 under the Serbian Chairmanship.

Back-to-back to this meeting a Joint BSEC – IRU meeting of experts on taxation will take place in Belgrade in order to start **reassessing the charging policies** as the issue of Harmonization of charging policies in the BSEC Region remains in a raw of major problems related to transportation.

Facilitation of **visa procedures for professional drivers** remains the issue of significant importance for transportation. The BSEC Member States have started the accession procedure to the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Drivers Nationals.

On 25 November 2011 in Istanbul the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat in partnership with the International Road Transport Union and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region organized the **BSEC Forum on Facilitation of Road Transport and Trade**.

¹ 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

Nearly 100 participants from the Ministries in charge for Transport, Customs and Trade, regional and international organizations, including UNECE, and other national organizations and entities were focused on the future design of the BSEC:

- road transport market for more trade and economic growth;
- the challenges and business opportunities facing trade and transport facilitation in the region;
- the role of the BSEC national parliaments for an efficient road transport and trade facilitation through the ratification of key UN trade and transport facilitation instruments;
- funding priorities for road transport projects for a better infrastructure and greener industry and the steps to be taken in the next decade.

The Forum provided the participants the opportunity to exchange information about the global and regional trends in trade and road transport and discuss activities and best practices developed for facilitating trade and transport in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These are only some of the most vivid examples of the potential value of the BSEC cooperation on transport. A lot has been done and is currently underway in this area for fostering the spirit of transport cooperation in the region. Today, I would like to assure you that BSEC will do its utmost in order provide modern infrastructures and effective procedures. This believe is based on the strong cooperation ground between BSEC and the BSEC Transport Partners, in particular, UNECE, IRU, IRF, as well as BSEC-URTA, BASPA, BINSAs and BRASS.

The BSEC transport cooperation is a good example how the efforts at the regional level can supplement the efforts, which are being done in the development of Euro-Asian transport links under the UN auspices.

To conclude, I would like once again to express gratitude to Ms. Eva MOLNAR, Mr. Michalis ADAMANTIADIS and the staff of the UNECE Transport Division for the high level of established cooperation.

Thanking you for your kind attention, I wish you fruitful deliberations with a concrete and successful outcome.
