



**UNION OF ROAD TRANSPORT ASSOCIATIONS IN THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION REGION  
(BSEC-URTA)**

**MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT OF THE  
BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC) MEMBER-STATES**

**15 April 2010, Sofia - Bulgaria**

**Statement by Adrian Albu, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC-URTA**

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address you on behalf of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC region (BSEC-URTA) on the occasion of this very important Ministerial Meeting, which aims to highlight important aspects of the cooperation between BSEC countries in the field of transport.

In the opinion of BSEC-URTA, development of efficient and safe transport routes in the BSEC region will provide new opportunities for the international trade in the region bridging Europe to Asia and increasing the share of our national economies in the world economy.

Under Your Excellencies' leadership a legal framework for development of transport is being created in the BSEC region and the cooperation processes between our countries in the field of transport is turning from declarations and statements to concrete projects.

In this regard, the great achievement for the BSEC Organization is the initiation by the Member States of the common projects on the development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC Region. The road transport industry will have the great benefits from these projects, such as:

- an appropriate road network for transportation of passengers and goods
- efficient and adequate combined transport infrastructure.

We will move quickly, by good roads and maritime lines, but we will still lose important time and money waiting in the borders because of the lack of appropriate infrastructure and procedures and low quality services.

In this regard, the Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region signed by your Excellencies in your desire to facilitate transport and trade and entered into force nearly four years ago (20 July 2006), is essential for removal of physical and non-physical barriers to transport and trade.

Its provisions on gradual liberalization of international road transport of goods, on accession and implementation of the international conventions established under the auspices of the UNECE and on facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers are utmost important for our industry.

In spite of the good cooperation in the framework of the BSEC Organization, in spite of several meetings of the Working Group on Transport and the Steering Committee of the MoU, we have to agree that there are not very concrete results and there is still a lot to be done.

As far the gradual liberalization is concerned, on 16 February 2010, under the Pilot Project, the BSEC Transit Permit entered into force for 7 BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Turkey.

It is a first step towards gradual opening of the road transport market, and we are confident that the project will be a successful one which will be developed in the short future by joining of other BSEC Member States and enlarging its actual scope by admitting loading and unloading operations and extending the usage from 1 journey to multiple journeys over 1 calendar year.

As Your Excellencies stated in the MoU, the accession to and implementation of the International UNECE Conventions is essential for facilitation of road transport. We would like to draw your attention just to one which we consider to be very important in the light of the latest developments: the 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods and its new Annex 8 on Facilitation of Road Transport, which entered into force two years ago, on 20 May 2008. This new Annex 8, among other facilitation instruments, contains the International Vehicle Weight Certificate, which could improve very much the border crossing, shortening the waiting times and simplifying the procedures.

Your Excellencies,

The road transport sector considers this Convention and its annexes as a milestone in facilitating border crossing. We appeal to Your Excellencies to call upon the national authorities from your respectful countries in charge with issues related to the above mentioned Convention, to take all necessary measures for a speedy implementation of the provisions of Annex 8.

As the MoU states, another top priority for governments and private sector is simplification of visa procedures for professional drivers. Experts from your respectful countries concluded an appropriate framework for issuing a long term visa with low cost and in a short period of time, but being in accordance with national laws and international treaties. A BSEC Multilateral Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Driver was opened for signature during the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tirana on 24 October 2008. What we need now is the political will of our governments to become parties to and implement the mentioned Agreement. As of today only 4 BSEC Member States, namely Albania, Armenia, Moldova and Turkey are signatories of the above mentioned agreement.

Concluding my intervention, we would like to thank Your Excellencies and your representatives in the BSEC Working Group on Transport, and Steering Committees, for commitment, support, professional understanding and approach to all activities and initiatives of the BSEC-URTA.

Thank you.