

**YEREVAN DECLARATION  
ON PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION**

**(YEREVAN, 27 MARCH, 2009)**

We, the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States having gathered in Yerevan on 27 March, 2009, within the framework of the Armenian Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC to discuss the prospects of cooperation in the field of transport and to define the ways and means of intensifying our cooperation,

**Recognizing** the necessity of following-up the implementation of the Joint Declarations previously adopted by the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States;

**Considering** the role of transport as a basis for economic development and one of the major means for enhancing the trade among the BSEC Member States;

**Stressing** that the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of the BSEC regional transport connections will stimulate further development of trade relations within the BSEC Region, as well as between Europe and Asia;

**Reiterating** the significance of the development of transport infrastructure, facilitation of transport procedures, development of multimodal transport flows, removing the physical and non-physical barriers in the region;

**Acknowledging** the entry into force of the Memorandum of Understanding on Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and the work of the relevant Steering Committee;

**Acknowledging** the entry into force of the Memorandum of Understanding on Development of the Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region and the work of the relevant Ad Hoc Working Group;

**Welcoming** the work of the BSEC Steering Committee for Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, and the fruitful results of the BSEC Public-Private Round Table Meeting;

**Acknowledging** the signing by some Member States the Agreements on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers and for the Businesspeople Nationals of the BSEC Member States;

**Taking into consideration** the need for developing further cooperation in the civil aviation sector and to explore the possibilities for cooperation in this field;

**Recognizing** the need to deepen the cooperative relations with the relevant international organizations and financial institutions, as well as other stakeholders of transport sector;

**Acknowledging** the importance for the BSEC Member States of the full and effective implementation of the UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport and the UNECE contribution in promoting coordinated development of Euro-Asian transport links and international transport facilitation;

**Emphasizing** the further development of sustainable interaction between BSEC and the EU, as well as international organizations and institutions, such as UN ECE, UN ESCAP, TRACECA, CIS, EurAsEC, IRF, IRU, with the aim to promote the BSEC operations on transport interconnections between Europe and Asia;

**Have agreed:**

**1. To further exert** joint efforts for promoting the sustainable and efficient transport operations based on mutually acceptable transport policies in the BSEC Member States;

**2. To elaborate** efficient transport connections facilitated procedures within the transport networks prioritized in the framework of BSEC, including the development of multimodal transport and further reinforcement of trade flows among the BSEC Member States, as well as between Europe and Asia;

**3. To realize** by the Member States the concrete projects on the coordinated development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, as identified by the objectives and provisions provided for in the respective MoU;

**4. To make efforts** for accelerating the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Motorways of the Sea at the BSEC Region resolving the main essential issues of conceptual nature and shaping a harmonized approach based on common interest in accordance with principles of feasibility, sustainable development, safety and security;

**5. To make further efforts** for the implementation of the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods;

**6. To call upon** the BSEC Member States to consider the possibility of entering the Agreements on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Professional Lorry Drivers and for the Businesspeople Nationals of the BSEC Member States into force;

**7. To identify and elaborate** joint priority projects of regional impact, and consider the possibility of their implementation through existing BSEC mechanisms, Public-Private Partnership and other funding schemes with the support of other international organizations and financial institutions;

**8. To continue** close cooperation with the international transport organizations aiming at the development of integrated transport networks;

**9. To invite** BSEC Member States that have not yet done so to adhere to all major UNECE International Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport and effectively implement them and encourage BSEC-UNECE enhanced cooperation in the fields of development of Euro-Asian transport links and international transport facilitation, including organization of joint events;

**10. To continue** the efforts for organizing training seminars and conferences aimed at the exchange of experiences and best practices in the transport sector among experts of the BSEC Member States, other countries and international organizations;

The Ministers expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Armenia for the hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the Meeting in Yerevan.

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