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Istanbul, 27 May 2019

35th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOBB Plaza
Istanbul, Turkey
Tuesday, 28 May 2019, at 14:00 hrs

BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION ON FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSINGS

We, representatives of BSEC-URTA Member Associations participants to the site visit organized by Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC region (BSEC-URTA) on 27 May 2019 of the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) Kapikule-Kaptan Andreevo between Turkey and Bulgaria after observing infrastructural and procedural developments reflected in the day by day increase of the number of trucks crossing these important border crossing points connecting Asia to Europe, emphasizing the importance of facilitation of border crossings for global trade, decided to adopt the following resolution to be submitted to the relevant authorities of the BSEC Member States, UNECE and the European Commission of EU:

As an international organization of road transport associations in twelve Countries around the Black Sea and in its immediate neighborhood, the **BSEC-URTA**:

- is extremely concerned about the major border crossing difficulties at the external and internal borders of Black Sea region along main road transport corridors connecting the region with the European Union, Middle East and Central Asia which have results in high waiting times of trucks for border crossing measurable not in hours but in days;
- stresses that main reasons of high waiting times at BCPs are: inappropriate infrastructure of BCPs which are not properly designed and connected, inefficient working procedures of authorities acting at BCPs which are not always synchronized with customs, non-synchronized work of neighboring borders, insufficient personnel which cannot answer the high demand for crossing of the commercial vehicles;
- deplores the consequence of these difficulties, which result in an increased cost of the intra and extra BSEC region traded goods carried by international road transport.

To overcome these difficulties, the **BSEC URTA**:

- appeals to the BSEC Member States to
 - properly implementing the UNECE transport related conventions such as TIR Convention and Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods Convention, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the BSEC MoU on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods and WCO agreements such as Kyoto Convention which highly proved to be facilitation tools for the international trade and road transport;

- simplifying border crossing procedures by the application of the best practices in border crossing procedures such as “Integrated Border Management”, “Single Window”, “Single Administrative Document”, digital documentation, “One-stop check” modern risk assessment methods for selective controls etc., which are only partially applied at the BSEC BCPs.
 - applying good examples and best practices in the border crossings infrastructure design and management,
 - respect provisions of the TIR Convention and make only random physical control of vehicles at border based on application of the risk assessment methods following the electronic preliminary declaration notification of Customs authorities before the arrival of the truck at the border.
 - implementing BSEC ePermit, eTIR, eCMR for the international road transport of goods in the BSEC region and eVisa online application for the professional drivers nationals of BSEC Member States.
- appeals to European Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, World Trade Organization, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Economic Union and concerned national Governments to work together in a renewed true partnership with the International Road Transport Union and all its concerned National Associations to radically improve without delay this unsustainable situation.

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