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

PREAMBLE

Sharing the goals of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation which aims to transform the Black Sea region, through mutual cooperation, into a region of peace, freedom, stability and prosperity,

Acknowledging the intensive support given and remarkable interest shown by the BSEC Working Group on Transport, the BSEC Business Council and the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the global organisation for road transport, at the foundation stage,

Mindful of the leading role that national associations of international road transport play in the economic life and wishing to enhance this role within the institutional structure of the Black Sea cooperation process,

Expressing that road transport constitutes the basic form of international transport of goods and passengers in the BSEC region and in the neighbouring regions,

Convinced that by considering the main objective of new organization, BSEC-URTA will be able to give assistance to solve the practical road transport problems in the BSEC countries and in the neighbouring regions,

Reaffirming our commitment to the provisions of essential BSEC documents,

Taking into consideration relevant provisions of national legislation of the BSEC Participating States concerning the transport and the transport associations at national level,

Wishing to establish a close and permanent cooperation with the IRU so that its activities, in-depth global experience and extensive means and facilities can rightly be used in regional formulations,

The undersignatory founding Associations, members of the IRU, the global organisation for road transport, agreed to establish hereby the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC region.

Article 1 - Name

In accordance with the intention of the founding Associations, the open name of the Union shall be the Union of Road Transport Associations in the BSEC region (in the following BSEC-URTA).

Article 2 – Functions

BSEC-URTA shall act in all matters of transport policy, road transport policy in particular. The principal task of BSEC-URTA shall be, in particular, on its own initiative and independently, to promote actively the development of road transport in the BSEC countries and the region as well as the neighbouring regions to safeguard the interests of its Members vis-à-vis the Governments and international bodies and to undertake all the necessary action to reduce and progressively eliminate the barriers to the road transport and support road transport play its substantial role in the multi-modal supply chain.

* The final version amended at the 30th Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly in Istanbul on 22 November 2016
BSEC-URTA shall aim at developing cooperation and promoting exchange of information and experience among its members as well as facilitating multilateral cooperation projects in the field of transport on a regional or inter-regional basis.

BSEC-URTA shall carry out its activities in close co-operation with the IRU, the BSEC and its Related Bodies as well as transport related leading organisations, associations and entities in the neighbouring regions.

In order to generate revenues for the realisation of its abovementioned objectives, BSEC-URTA may establish economic, commercial, industrial enterprises or form partnerships, or participate in existing enterprises or partnerships.

**Article 3 – Seat**

BSEC-URTA shall have its seat in Istanbul (Turkey) in the form of an International Secretariat.

**Article 4 - Membership**

BSEC-URTA will consist of IRU active members from the BSEC Member States, which constitute the core Members.

Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, however, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly may also grant, by two-thirds majority of the core Members, Member status to:-
- an IRU active member from a BSEC Member State, which is not represented within the BSEC-URTA, yet, or
- a National Association, which is not affiliated with the IRU if the country of its registration is not represented within the BSEC-URTA, yet. Such Member cannot act against future membership of an IRU active member from the same country. Or
- an existing BSEC-URTA Observer, which completed 3 years within the BSEC-URTA and is active in a region neighbouring the BSEC region.

Management Council shall examine the requests for Member status based on written applications together with the:

- official letter of the IRU Secretariat General confirming the applicant's status of active membership; and/or
- a copy of its constitution and rules of procedure; and/or
- a report indicating the geographical scope of its activity, the number of members of the organization and the number of road vehicles operated by it or its members, and/or
- any other internal documents, together with any other material likely to assist in considering its application; and

will submit the file to the General Assembly for its final decision. There is no possibility of appeal to the General Assembly decision.

The admission or non-admission of an applicant shall be notified to it, in writing, by the BSEC-URTA Secretary General.

**Article 5 – Composition**

Each member representing the road transport industry in a BSEC State, shall appoint, by name, its delegation responsible for following the work of BSEC-URTA. Such delegations shall be limited with three seats, in principle. Provided that the number of seats allocated to it is not exceeded, a delegation may arrange to be accompanied by any other person from the Association, chosen by the Member.

In the event of any change in representation in BSEC-URTA, the Member shall inform the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat thereof in writing.
The appointment by an IRU active Member of its representatives to BSEC-URTA and its participation in the work of BSEC-URTA presupposes their effective exercise of leading functions and responsibilities within the Member Organisation, as well as their active and constant participation in the work of BSEC-URTA.

The Member and its representatives must be ready to accept any duty which is entrusted to them and declare that they are ready to devote the time required to carry it out.

The Members and their representatives shall attain the BSEC-URTA objectives in accordance with Article 2 above.

Above rules shall also apply to Observers and Honorary Members.

To make use of the competence and synergy existing within the IRU, the relevant experts from the IRU may be requested by BSEC-URTA to take part in the work of BSEC-URTA and its ad hoc Working Bodies.

On the proposal of its President, BSEC-URTA may invite other persons engaged in specific activities to participate in its meetings, but not on a regular basis.

**Article 6 – Observers**

Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly may grant, by two-thirds majority of the Members and simple majority of the core Members, the Observer status to:-

a) national and international non-profit-making organizations, participating directly or indirectly in road transport activities in the BSEC region or neighbouring regions,

b) national and international companies and other profit-making enterprises, participating directly or indirectly in road transport activities in the BSEC region or neighbouring regions.

Management Council shall examine the requests for Observer status based on written applications together with the:

- official documents attesting to the structure, type and importance of the activity engaged by the applicant; and/or
- a copy of its constitution and rules of procedure; and/or
- any other internal documents, together with any other material likely to assist in considering its application; and/or
- a report indicating the geographical scope of its activity, the number of members of the organization and the number of road vehicles operated by it or its members, and will decide on their submission to the General Assembly or not, without having to justify its decision to the applicant. There is no possibility of appeal to the Management Council.

In its decision to grant an Observer status, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly shall define the terms and conditions of the granted status including the period of such status and related observer’s fee applicable.

The admission or non-admission of an applicant shall be notified to it, in writing, by the BSEC-URTA Secretary General.

Observers shall not have the right to vote or to be elected but enjoy the following privileges and duties:

a) to take part in the BSEC-URTA General Assembly meetings as well as the BSEC-URTA conferences or seminars;

b) upon approval of the BSEC-URTA President, to participate in the work of BSEC-URTA Working Parties with the right to make proposals;
c) to implement the BSEC-URTA recommendations, decisions, resolutions and actions; to promote such to their society, customers, members, media and competent national authorities; and to ensure their follow-up;

d) to participate and reply within the given deadlines to the BSEC-URTA surveys, information requests and other inquiries;

e) to contribute to the BSEC-URTA's work by sharing any information, which may be of interest or importance for the BSEC-URTA Members.

Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly will decide to suspend, prolong, terminate or annul an existing Observer status, at any time, by two-thirds of the Members and simple majority of the core Members.

**Article 7 - Honorary Membership**

Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly, to take into account the interest of the BSEC-URTA, can grant, by simple majority vote of the Members and simple majority of the core Members, the Honorary Member status, with or without voting rights, to recognized organizations, which are ready to make a significant contribution to the activities of the BSEC-URTA.

An Honorary Member shall have the same obligations and duties as the BSEC-URTA Member Associations.

Upon proposal of the BSEC-URTA Management Council, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly will decide to suspend, prolong, terminate or annul an existing Honorary Member status, at any time, by simple majority vote of the BSEC-URTA Members and simple majority of the core Members.

**Article 8 – Meetings**

The dates of the regular meetings of BSEC-URTA shall be determined by the General Assembly. Normally, at least one meeting is held every year. Meetings shall, in principle, be held in Istanbul. They may also be held upon invitation, in one of the BSEC Member Countries or in the neighbouring regions.

BSEC-URTA may also organise an extraordinary meeting at the request of its President or at the written request of at least five Members.

The notice and agenda of meetings of BSEC-URTA shall be sent by its Secretary General in writing, in principle at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting, to all the Members of BSEC-URTA. This period may, in urgent cases, be reduced with the assent of the President. The agenda shall be established by the Secretary General, with the agreement of the President of BSEC-URTA.

At the beginning of the meeting, the President of BSEC-URTA shall obtain approval of the agenda by the General Assembly, on the basis of the provisional agenda.

To attain efficiently the objectives of BSEC-URTA:

a) the Secretariat, in agreement with the President, shall be responsible for the timely distribution, to the Members of BSEC-URTA, of the documents tabled on the agenda.

b) The items on the agenda of BSEC-URTA must highlight:

i) the subjects on which decisions must be taken

ii) the subjects for information only.
c) The documents concerning transport policy, as mentioned in Article 2 of these Statutes, submitted for decision, must be structured as follows:

i) Analysis of the political situation or of the proposal to be the subject of a decision, highlighting:
   - the development of this question,
   - the benefits/disadvantages and
   - the possible consequences for the industry.

ii) Definition, by the Secretariat, of the draft standpoint to be debated for decision by BSEC-URTA.

iii) Definition of the means to be employed in a coordinated manner at the national and international levels and in relation to BSEC.

During meetings of BSEC-URTA, its President shall declare each meeting open and closed, direct the debates, allow participants to address the meeting, put matters to the vote and announce decisions.

Each meeting of BSEC-URTA shall be chaired by its President or, in his absence, by its Deputy President, if any, or the Vice-President who is the longest standing and subsidiary, the eldest.

A minimum of fifty percent of all Members shall create the quorum at meetings.

The IRU President and the Secretary General of the IRU or his representative shall be entitled to attend all the meetings of BSEC-URTA and its Management Council, if any, without voting rights.

**Article 9 – Vote**

At meetings of BSEC-URTA, each Member has, at its disposal, six (6) votes, whatever the number of delegates present. In case, there is more than one Member per country, six votes per country will be divided among themselves by the members of BSEC-URTA.

Decisions by BSEC-URTA shall be taken by a show of hands and by a simple majority of Members present unless otherwise is required under these Statutes. However, at the prior request of the President or of at least three Members, voting on the decisions submitted to BSEC-URTA shall take place by secret ballot. In the event of a secret ballot, the decision shall be taken by a majority of votes of the Members taking part in the vote unless otherwise is required under these Statutes.

Any decisions, which require explicit approval of core Members under these Statutes, shall be announced before voting, in the Provisional Agenda of the BSEC-URTA in compliance with Article 8.

In the framework of the functions defined in Article 2 above, voting by correspondence is permitted in respect of written proposals transmitted to it by the BSEC-URTA President or the Secretary General. In other cases, neither voting by correspondence nor voting by proxy is permitted.

**Article 10 – Elections**

The term of office of the BSEC-URTA President is 4 years. The President will be elected by two-thirds majority of the Members and simple majority of the core Members. If this cannot be reached, a second round of elections will be held between the two candidates having the highest votes in the first round. In this case, the new President will be elected by simple majority of the Members and simple majority of the core Members in the second round of elections.

The President may nominate a BSEC-URTA Deputy President among any representatives of the Member Associations or Honorary Members, who is elected together with the President.
The term of office of the BSEC-URTA Deputy President, if any, is 2 years, which begins at the same date as the President. The election of the BSEC-URTA Deputy President is subject to the same rules as the President.

BSEC-URTA Founding President as well as any President, who served BSEC-URTA as President for at least 10 years, shall be the life-time BSEC-URTA Honorary President(s).

The term of office of the BSEC-URTA Vice-Presidents is 2 years each. The Vice-Presidents will be nominated by rotation in English alphabetical order of the names of the countries represented in BSEC-URTA. For selecting one Vice-President A-Z alphabetical order will be followed while Z-A for selecting the other Vice-President.

If due to this rotation, the President or the Deputy President and Vice-Presidents are foreseen to come from the same country at the same time, the Vice-President will be elected from the next country in the alphabetical order.

The nominations for the posts of President and of Vice-President must be addressed by the Members to the BSEC-URTA Secretary General 30 days prior to the elections, and be annexed to the agenda of the meeting, except in imperative and exceptional cases approved by BSEC-URTA.

Voting shall take place under the conditions set out in Article 9 above.

**Article 11 - Ad hoc Working Parties**

On the initiative of BSEC-URTA or of its President, ad hoc Working Parties only may be set up.

The opinions resulting from the work carried out by these ad hoc Working Parties shall be submitted, before publication, for approval by BSEC-URTA.

With the agreement of the President, any Member may invite outside persons to participate in the proceedings of the ad hoc Working Parties, but not on a regular basis.

**Article 12 – Management Council**

The Management Council is composed of the President, the Deputy President, if any, the two Vice-Presidents and the BSEC-URTA Secretary General. The Honorary Presidents and the Honorary Members may participate in the meetings of the Management Council as the Permanent Members with consultative status.

The meeting of the Management Council will be convoked by BSEC-URTA President at least once in between two plenary meetings of BSEC-URTA in order to give guidance to ongoing activities.

The President shall preside over the work of the Management Council.

In his absence, the Management Council shall be presided by the Deputy President, if any, or the Vice-President who is the longest standing and subsidiary, the eldest.

The Management Council has the following functions:

1) It shall be responsible for co-ordinating the work of BSEC-URTA with view to strengthening and increasing the efficiency of its internal and external activities.
2) It shall take note of the activities of BSEC-URTA and determine the priorities for work.
3) It shall institute a continuous dialogue and defend the unity of the BSEC-URTA and the profession, while respecting the responsibilities of BSEC-URTA.
4) Its Members, including those with consultative status, shall be ready to take active role in leading ad hoc BSEC-URTA Working Parties and participating in the BSEC-URTA delegations to the meetings of the BSEC Organization.
5) It shall entrust the Secretary General with applying and complying with all the transport policy decisions taken in accordance with Article 2 of these Statutes.
6) It may also invite anyone to assist in its work.
7) It shall supervise the implementation of the working programme approved by the BSEC-URTA.
8) It shall examine the requests for Member or Observer status or any nominations for Honorary Member status as well as a necessity to suspend, prolong, terminate or annul an existing status under Articles 4, 5 and 6 of these Statutes.

BSEC-URTA President shall have the authority at any time to assign special tasks and responsibilities to Deputy President, if any, Vice-Presidents as well as Honorary Presidents with a view to fulfilling the abovementioned functions.

The Management Council of BSEC-URTA shall meet whenever necessary at the request of BSEC-URTA President or Secretary General, on a date and at a place determined by the latter.

The agenda and notice of meetings of the Management Council shall be drawn up and addressed to the members by the Secretary General of BSEC-URTA.

The decisions of the Management Council of BSEC-URTA shall be taken by consensus, in principle. However, if voting becomes necessary in the absence of a consensus, a simple majority vote of its members shall be required. In an emergency, decisions may be made by correspondence. The Secretary General has the right to participate in all the meetings, but without voting right.

Article 13 – Secretary General of BSEC-URTA

The BSEC-URTA shall appoint its Secretary General by two-thirds majority of the Members and simple majority of the core Members for a four-year term which is renewable based on performance criteria. If this cannot be reached, a second round will be held during the same or next meeting. In this case, the Secretary General will be appointed by simple majority of the Members and simple majority of the core Members.

The Secretary General has the following main functions:

1) To monitor the transport activities of the BSEC authorities and to report on these to the members of BSEC-URTA, including the IRU Geneva, as appropriate,

2) To carry out, in concert with the President of BSEC-URTA, the working programme,

3) To apply and to comply, in accordance with Article 2 of these Statutes, with all the transport policy decisions taken, in accordance with the same Article, by BSEC-URTA, catalogue them and ensure follow-up to them,

4) To co-ordinate the work of the Secretariat and to assure co-operation among all Members and Observers,

5) To take on all administrative tasks and lead the International Secretariat in compliance with the BSEC-URTA Staff Regulations.

6) To assist the Members of BSEC-URTA in drawing up general policy and in preserving unity of the profession,

7) To draw up a proposed budget for the Secretariat and for the activities of BSEC-URTA, if need be,

8) To assume sole responsibility for the proper and sound management of the funds which are entrusted to him and to adhere strictly to budgets and execute them in compliance with the BSEC-URTA Financial Regulations,

9) To create alliances with the partners of the road transport industry to promote the views and opinions of the profession to the media and other bodies concerned.

Article 14 - Working Program, Budget, Membership Fee, and Financial Contributions

The BSEC-URTA Secretary General shall draw up a draft annual and long-term working program, indicating the priorities as well as, if need be, the relevant budget proposals.

The working program, the annual budget and membership fees shall be adopted by autumn session of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.
The annual budget of the BSEC-URTA will be covered by a membership fee paid in advance by each member of the BSEC-URTA. The activities of the BSEC-URTA can also be covered by annual contributions to be paid by the Honorary Members, Observers or other donors.

Expenses of organizing meetings shall be covered by the hosting Member organizations except for travel and accommodation costs to be covered by the delegates.

Subsidies from Members, Observers, Honorary Members, Governments and any other donor organizations are welcome.

**Article 15 – Audit**

At its spring session, the BSEC-URTA General Assembly shall elect three Auditors out of its Members with the term of office of two years. The Auditors shall conduct internal audit of implementation of the BSEC-URTA budgets in the current and next financial year after election.

Auditors will be elected by two-thirds majority of the BSEC-URTA membership.

The Auditors shall visit the BSEC-URTA International Secretariat in February to make a site audit of the BSEC-URTA accounts, accounting records and expense documentation relating with the previous financial year.

The Report of Auditors will be submitted to the forthcoming Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly.

Should the General Assembly decide, an external audit can be conducted in conformity with the international standards.

**Article 16 - Working Method**

Assisted by the Secretary General, BSEC-URTA shall ensure in writing, before initiating or pursuing any new activity, the political support by Members for this activity and, if so decided by BSEC-URTA, their financial participation in it.

To derive maximum benefit from the available time and resources of its Members, any new activity undertaken by BSEC-URTA is to be developed project by project.

Any new project or activity, which requires financial participation or increase in the annual contribution fees of the Members and Observers shall be subject to approval of the General Assembly by two-thirds majority of the Members and simple majority of the core Members.

**Article 17 - Implementation of the Working Programme**

In accordance with the working programme approved and the annual budget, if any, adopted by BSEC-URTA, the President of BSEC-URTA and its Secretary General shall determine 2 to 3 concrete and realistic priority objectives to be reached during the course of the year.

The Secretary General of BSEC-URTA shall establish the corresponding reports, ensure the follow-up to the decisions taken and control their application.

**Article 18 – Languages**

The official meetings language of BSEC-URTA shall be English and Russian.

Any other language can be used at BSEC-URTA meetings if the participating Members agree in advance to cover related costs themselves.

**Article 19 - Amendments to the Statutes**

Any amendments to the present Statutes shall be effected by two-thirds of the BSEC-URTA Members and simple majority of the core Members. Voting shall take place under the conditions set out in Article 9 above. The amendments shall enter into force on the date of their adoption.
**Article 20 – BSEC Accreditation**

BSEC-URTA will seek accreditation to competent BSEC authorities.

**Article 21 – Member Withdrawal and Termination of BSEC-URTA**

Every member of BSEC-URTA has a right with 6 months writing notification for the end of the calendar year to withdraw from the organisation.

In case BSEC-URTA will decide to terminate itself by at least two-thirds majority of its Members and two-thirds majority of its core Members, a liquidation commission shall be appointed to settle all matters pertaining to the liquidation.

Assets shall be divided among all the Member Associations in proportion to the financial resources they contributed for the whole period of their membership.

**Article 22 – Legislation**

On matters, which are not regulated under these Statutes, the laws of the Republic of Turkey shall apply, notably the Law no. 3335 on Establishment of Organizations with International Nature, Law no. 5253 on Associations, Civil Law no. 4721 and regulations enforced under these laws.

**Article 23 – Entry into force**

These Statutes enter into force on the day of their adoption. These Statutes will be entered into force and will be implemented at national level on the day of the adoption by the respective competent body of each national association member of BSEC-URTA. UND shall act as Depository, sending a duly signed copy to all members as well as to the IRU in Geneva.

Done at Antalya (Turkey) on the 24th day of October 2001.

*Signed by*

- Mr. Ilir Mataj, ANALTIR (Albania)
- Mr. Herbert Hambardzumyan, AIRCA (Armenia)
- Mr. Orkhan Afandiyev, ABADA (Azerbaijan)
- Mr. Georgi Petrov, AEBTRI (Bulgaria)
- Mr. Alexander Chkheidze, GIRCA (Georgia)
- Mr. Panagiotis Nicolaras, OFAE (Greece)
- Mr. Oleg Muntean, AITA (Moldova)
- Mr. Adrian Albu, ARTRI (Romania)
- Mr. Arkady Kurshin, ASMAP (Russia)
- Mr. Ö. Çetin Nuhoğlu, UND (Turkey)
- Mr. Yuri Ivanov, AIRC (Ukraine)

*In witness whereof*

- Mr. Martin Marmy, IRU (Switzerland)

***