

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION TRACECA
AND
THE PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA (hereafter: PS IGC TRACECA) and the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (hereafter: BSEC PERMIS),

Taking into consideration

the necessity to create a highly efficient regional transport system, which combines the national transport programmes with the development plans of the Pan-European transport corridors in the Black Sea region and Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia,

shared objectives to promote and support every effort towards the development of multilateral regional cooperation in the transport field on the basis of international law,

common involvement in promoting intra-regional and inter-regional trade facilitation and wish to avoid duplication of work and to maximize complementarities and the use of available resources as well as to work closer together for the stability, prosperity and strengthening cooperation in transport field;

Have reached understanding on the following:

1. Areas of cooperation

PS IGC TRACECA and BSEC PERMIS will cooperate in the following areas:

- 1.1 development of international transport corridors;
- 1.2 development and promotion of technical standards and effective operational practices for efficient international transport and trade (best practices);
- 1.3 facilitation of cross-border movement of people and goods;
- 1.4 human resources development, including staff training programmes;
- 1.5 technology and information transfer;

- 1.6 information technologies to improve the efficiency of international railway, road, maritime, air, combined transport, as well as border crossing and customs procedures;
- 1.7 market analysis and transit tariffs;
- 1.8 Geographical Information System (GIS) modeling of the transport infrastructure of the TRACECA and Black Sea member states;
- 1.9 development of projects of common interest, aimed at the development of transport corridors.

2. Consultations and cooperation on substantive issues

- 2.1 PS IGC TRACECA and BSEC PERMIS will hold periodic consultations on the issues of cooperation.
- 2.2 They may, in particular, discuss the joint undertaking by the IGC TRACECA and the BSEC of projects on matters of mutual interest, including those aimed at institutional capacity building, as well as studies, seminars, workshops etc., subject to appropriate organizational and financial arrangements.
- 2.3 Wherever feasible, they will seek complementarities and synergy of their efforts for the attainment of their respective objectives in the transport field in accordance with their respective mandates.
- 2.4 Following a request from the Member States, the Secretariats will mutually share their expertise on transport issues and transport facilitation information.

3. Exchange of information and documentation

- 3.1 The PS IGC TRACECA and the BSEC PERMIS will exchange information on their activities.
- 3.2 An exchange of primary and analytical information and unofficial consultations of experts on professional issues will be carried out on a regular basis.
- 3.3 The exchange of information will be organized through established channels, including Internet, by placing information on respective web pages.

4. Participation in the meetings

In the spirit of reciprocity, PS IGC TRACECA and BSEC PERMIS will regularly inform each other of meetings dealing with the issues of mutual interest. Without prejudice to the established rules and procedures of IGC TRACECA and the BSEC, the officials of PS IGC TRACECA and BSEC PERMIS may participate in the meetings of the BSEC and IGC TRACECA.

5. Concluding Provisions

5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual agreement between the participants and on the basis of the respective procedures of the IGC TRACECA and of BSEC.

5.2 Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this MoU will be settled by direct negotiations.

5.3 No provision of this MoU will be deemed to waive the privileges and immunities of PS ICG TRACECA or of BSEC PERMIS, nor infringe upon the respective mandates of PS ICG TRACECA and BSEC PERMIS in accordance with their relevant rules and procedures.

This MoU will come into effect upon its signature by the Secretary General of PS ICG TRACECA and the Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS.

Signed in Astana this thirteenth day of December two thousand and seven in two copies in the English language.

For PS ICG TRACECA



For BSEC PERMIS

