

## **Agreement on visa-free travel of professional drivers along the TRACECA corridor**

The Governments of the member states of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor, signed in Baku, on 8 September 1998, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

*referring to* the objectives of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor,

*guided by* the aspiration for further development of road communication and facilitation of the conditions of the international carriage of goods and passengers,

*acknowledging* the significance of simplification of visa procedures for professional drivers performing international carriage of goods and passengers,

have agreed on the following:

### **Article 1. General provisions**

1. Professional drivers who are citizens of the Parties or stateless persons permanently residing on their territory on legal grounds, crossing the state border in compliance with the requirements of Article 2 of this Agreement, have the right to visa-free entry, exit and transit through the territory of the state of any of the Parties in implementing the international carriage of goods or passengers using motor vehicles registered in any of the Parties to this Agreement.

2. This Agreement shall apply to persons specified in paragraph 1 of this Article only if these persons are not exempt from visa requirements for entry into the territory of any of the Parties or transit through its territory on the basis of the national legislation or other international agreement.

3. This Agreement shall not apply to matters falling within the exclusive competence of the national legislation of the Parties, such as grounds for entry into the country, recognition of foreign travel documents, expulsion, deportation and more.

### **Article 2. Terms and conditions**

1. Persons subject to this Agreement have the right to enter and short-term stay (not exceeding 15 calendar days) in the territory or transit through the territory of the Parties, but do not have the right to long-term stay, not related to professional activities.

2. Persons who violate the conditions set forth in paragraph 1 of this article shall be subject to the national legislation of the Parties, which determines liability for

violation of the regime of stay, taking into account the provisions of article 3 of this Agreement.

3. When passing through border passport control, a professional driver, in order to confirm that this Agreement applies to him, shall be obliged to provide the following documents:

- 1) a valid travel document giving the right to enter the country in accordance with its national legislation or international agreement;
- 2) an original written application (letter) of the association (union) of road carriers of the country of citizenship or permanent residence of a professional driver or the country of registration of the company-employer of a professional driver, confirming the professional affiliation of this person.

4. The list of associations (unions) of road carriers of the Parties authorized to confirm the professional affiliation of drivers is specified in the Appendix to this Agreement. In the event of a change in the list of associations (unions) of road carriers of the Parties, the Party to which this change applies shall communicate the relevant information to all other Parties through diplomatic channels.

### **Article 3. Force-majeure**

1. The Parties agree that a person who is subject to this Agreement and cannot leave the territory of the host country due to the occurrence of force majeure circumstances (force majeure) should be given the opportunity to extend the duration of his stay for the period necessary for the person to leave the territory of the country.

2. The Parties agree that the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this article will not be subject to any sanctions or restrictions established in their national legislation for persons staying in their territories without legal grounds.

### **Article 4. Suspension of the Agreement**

1. Each of the Parties, if it is necessary to ensure public order, protect state security or public health, may fully or partially suspend the application of this Agreement in relation to one or more Parties. The remaining Parties shall be notified of such decision in writing through diplomatic channels no later than 72 (seventy-two) hours prior to its entry into force.

2. The Party that has decided to apply the measures provided for in paragraph 1 of this article shall immediately notify the other Parties in writing through diplomatic channels of the cancellation of these measures and the resumption of this agreement.

3. A Party that has made a decision to apply the measures provided for in paragraph 1 of this article cannot require the other Party or Parties in respect of which such measures have been taken to continue the operation of this Agreement in relation to its citizens or persons permanently residing in its territory on legal grounds.

#### **Article 5. Dispute settlement**

1. In the event of any dispute or controversy or discrepancy in the interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

2. Any disputes, disagreements or claims between the Parties that arise in connection with the application, interpretation, violation or termination of this Agreement and which cannot be resolved through negotiations, shall be submitted to the Intergovernmental Commission for consideration by any of the Parties involved.

#### **Article 6. Final provisions**

1. This Agreement is open for accession of any state with the consent of all Parties received by the Depositary through diplomatic channels.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force 30 (thirty) days after the fourth notice of the completion of the relevant domestic procedures has been submitted to the Depositary, at least one of which must belong to the state, movement through the territory whereof is restricted for citizens of any other state, a Party to this Agreement, by visa requirements.

3. This Agreement shall enter into force for the acceding Parties 30 days after they have submitted a notification to the Depositary on the completion of the relevant domestic procedures.

4. With the consent of the Parties, this Agreement may be amended and supplemented by the Protocol, which is an integral part of this Agreement.

5. The entry into force of the Protocol on amendments and additions shall be carried out in the same manner as this Agreement.

6. The depositary of this Agreement is the Republic of Azerbaijan, which will send its certified copies to the Parties that signed the Agreement.

7. The Depositary shall inform the Parties about the accession of other Parties to the Agreement and about the termination of the Agreement in respect of any of the Parties.

8. The Agreement may be terminated in the territory of a Party if that Party notifies the Depositary in writing at least six months in advance of its intention to terminate it in its territory.

9. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period.

Done at the city of ....., on «...» ..... , in one original copy in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**For the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**For the Republic of Armenia**

**For the Republic of Bulgaria**

**For Georgia**

**For the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**For the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**For the Kyrgyz Republic**

**For the Republic of Moldova**

**For Romania**

**For the Republic of Tajikistan**

**For the Republic of Türkiye**

**For the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**For Ukraine**