

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (RRTC)

Third session

(Heraklion (Crete), 4 to 6 October 2000,
agenda item 5 (g))

Facilitation of visa issuance for professional drivers in the SECI region **(in accordance with Article 10 of the MoU)**

Prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat

The present document contains information received by SECI participating States based on a questionnaire prepared and distributed by the UN/ECE secretariat on 14 April 2000 in accordance a decision taken by the Committee at its first session (Alexandroupolis, 12-13 October 1999).

The objective of this exercise, in line with the provisions of Article 10 of the MoU, is to establish a compendium of best practices in this field by the end of 2000. The compendium could contain bilateral or multilateral arrangements made by SECI participating States aiming at simplifying visa formalities, limiting the number of substantiating documents, reducing the time required to obtain visas and issuing multiple entry visas valid for one year.

An example of such facilitation measures are the bilateral arrangements between Turkey and Bulgaria which provide for an exchange of listings of professional drivers regularly requiring visas. These listings are exchanged via diplomatic channels and are deposited at the relevant consulates to facilitate visa issuance for persons contained on these lists.

* * *

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: Albania

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

It depends on the country; for Croatia, Hungary, and Slovenia 3-5 days
Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, Moldavia 5-7 days
FYROM and Bulgaria at the border crossing station

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

Entry visas for three months only

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

-Invitation from business partner in Albania
-Documents supporting the purpose of travel

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures ?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

There are shorter procedures for Bulgarian TIR drivers (48 hours).

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa ?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

By short procedure

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

Business visa valid six months

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

Invitation from business partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina certified chamber of commerce

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures ?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

We don't have a special facilitation in regulation of visa for professional drivers

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: **Bulgaria**

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

7 days

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

Yes

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

Number of substantiating documents depends on the specific country. For more details please contact the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures ?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

Turkey-Bulgaria

One of the documents required is the TIR carnet taken into charge.

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: Croatia

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

It depends on the type of visa requested:

- a single- or double entry/transit visa - 1 to 2 days
- a single, double or multiple entry visa - up to 30 days

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

Yes, for a multiple entry-exit visa, in especially justified cases also for a multiple transit visa, for a longer period and for official or business purposes.

(Supporting documents as evidence of a need for frequent, usually official or business trips to the Republic of Croatia should be submitted along with the application form.)

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

- 2 photographs,
- Visa application form (available at embassies and consulates) filled in block letters
- valid national passport
- evidence of justified reasons for travel (with business and official trips - letter of invitation by the business partner from Croatia or a third country of destination, or employer's letter certifying that the applicant has been engaged as professional driver to perform certain tasks over the specified period)
- evidence of sufficient funds to cover the period of travel and stay
- entry visa of the country of destination, or transit visa to a third country on the way to the country of destination.

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures ?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available ?

None

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

8-12 days for Greece, 1-2 days for Moldova, Albania and Slovenia on the border crossing.

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

.....

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

No, there are not any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures.

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: Greece

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

2 -7 is the estimated time required for obtaining a visa for TIR drivers.

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

Multiple entry visas for one year are issued for TIR drivers.

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

- 1) Application form (provided by Consulate Authorities) filled in and signed by the driver.
- 2) 2 photographs recently taken.
- 3) valid passport as well as its copy.
- 4) work contract between the driver and the operator plus its copy.
- 5) international driving licence (+ copy).
- 6) vehicle circulation licence (+ copy).
- 7) certification of the company's registration in the competent chamber (+ copy).
- 8) driver's birth certificate (+ copy).

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

There are no other facilitation procedures in use for TIR drivers.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE OF VISA TO PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS
(according to Schengen Agreement)

- 1) Visa application form, provided by the competent Consulate Authority, filled in and signed by the driver.
- 2) Two photographs, used for passport, recently taken.
- 3) Valid passport and its validated copy.
- 4) Work Contract between the driver and the Company and its validated copy.
- 5) International Driving Licence and its validated copy.
- 6) Vehicle Circulation Licence and its validated copy.
- 7) Company's Registration Certificate of the Competent Chamber and its validated copy.
- 8) Driver's Birth Certificate and its validated copy.
- 9) Two photographs showing the front and the back side of the vehicle accordingly as well as its plate number clearly.
- 10) Vehicle's Insurance Contract and its validated copy.
- 11) Vehicle's Insurance Contract for international use (green card) and its validated copy.

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: **Hungary**

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa ?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*but, official commission letters are requested when crossing the border

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days) ?

15 days, according to usual practices

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries ?

Yes, upon individual requests

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

Valid passport, 3-5 photos, official certificate from the employee.

In cases of transit valid entry visas into further countries of transit, as well as destination country need to be shown up.

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

With Turkey negotiations are under way aiming at simplification of visa procedures for professional drivers

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: Republic of Moldova

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days)?

.....

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries?

.....

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

The document required for visa issuance is an invitation letter or any other document which attests the collaboration with the company from the Republic of Moldova.

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

There are not any bilateral or multilateral measures or other facilitation procedures for professional drivers that need a visa for the Republic of Moldova.

5. Taking into the consideration that the above-mentioned countries do not have Moldovan diplomatic missions, professional drivers of these countries can get a visa for the Republic of Moldova at cross-border customs as Leuseni, Cahul, Giugiuilesti.

6. In order to obtain a visa valid for one-year professional drivers of above countries should address to the Moldovian Embassy at Budapest, Vienna, Bucharest, Berlin or Frankfurt on Main.

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: Romania

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days)?

For the drivers of Albania, the multiple entry visa, valid for 6 months, may be obtained in 15 days, from the Embassy of Romania in Tirana. The drivers of Greece need the entry visa for Romania that can be requested at the border crossing points.

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries?

The multiple entry visas may be requested either from the diplomatic or consular missions of Romania abroad, or from the General Directorate of Passports, Foreigners and Migration Problems or the units under its co-ordination.

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

The usual documents for the issuance of visa

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?
None.

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: Slovenia

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days)?

1-7 days

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries?

According to the law on foreigners the multiple visa for 1 year can be issued if all other conditions are fulfilled.

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

Documents supporting the purpose of travel, documents regarding means of transport, prove of sufficient financial means, valid passport and 1 photo.

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures ?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

.....

Visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers in road transport in the SECI region

Country: **Turkey**

For citizens of which of the 11 SECI participating States does your country require entry and/or transit visa?

	Yes	No
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bulgaria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hungary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Republic of Moldova	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Romania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. How long does it usually take to get an entry/transit visa for professional drivers of the above countries (estimated number of days)?

6 -8 weeks

2. Does your country issue, on request, multiple entry visa valid for one year to professional drivers of the above countries?

Yes

3. Please list the number of substantiating documents that are required in your country for the issuance of visa to professional drivers originating in the above SECI participating States.

Depending on local conditions, documents verifying the status of the drivers, type of transportation and the identity of the firms may be requested.

4. Are there any bilateral or multilateral facilitation measures in place for professional drivers, such as the described above (between Turkey and Bulgaria) or do you use any other facilitation procedures?

Please describe them in detail and attach documentation, if available?

In accordance with the visa agreement dated 10.03.1993 between Turkey and Bulgaria multiple visas for 1 year are issued mutually to the truck and bus drivers according to the name lists exchanged every year.
