



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/5
1 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Twenty-first session
9-10 September 2008
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**ASSISTANCE REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL ADAPTATION OF GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSPORT ENTERPRISES TO MARKET ECONOMY**

Operational Activities
July 2007–June 2008

Note by the secretariat

**I. FACILITATION OF PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL ASIAN AND
CAUCASUS COUNTRIES IN MEETINGS OF THE ITC AND SELECTED
SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

1. From September 2004 to April 2006 the secretariat successfully implemented a European Union funded project on facilitating the attendance of Central Asian and Caucasus countries to the meetings of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and selected subsidiary bodies. Altogether 56 Government experts from most of the Central Asian and Caucasus countries concerned have participated in 11 such meetings under this project, including the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5).

2. Based on the positive evaluation made by the beneficiary countries of the implementation of this project, the secretariat requested the European Commission (EC) to consider co-financing the continuation of the Project in 2007. Moreover, taking into account the importance of the participation of experts from Central Asian and Caucasus countries in the work of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies, the secretariat has ensured modest funding for supporting the participation

of National Focal Points of those countries to the twentieth session of the WP.5 and its informal meeting of experts on Euro-Asian transport links, held back-to-back with the twentieth session of the WP.5 on 12 September 2007.

II. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (UNDA) PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEVELOPING INTERREGIONAL TRANSPORT LINKAGES

3. The UNECE Transport Division, in close cooperation with the other United Nations Regional Commissions completed at the end of 2007 the implementation of the UNDA funded project on Capacity Building on developing Interregional Transport Linkages. The objective of the Project, which started in 2003, was to assist member States of the five United Nations Regional Commissions in strengthening their national capacities for developing land and land-cum-sea interregional transport linkages and to promote interregional cooperation to facilitate interregional trade and tourism. The project was divided in components, which have been implemented in close cooperation by the Regional Commissions concerned.

A. UNECE-UNESCAP joint Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Links

4. Based on the results achieved by the Project in previous years, work has continued and this was finalized in 2007.

5. **Two capacity-building national workshops** on the facilitation of international transport along the Euro-Asian transport links were organized during the second part of 2007 under the project by ECE and kindly hosted by the Governments of Moldova and Ukraine in Chisinau, (6–7 November 2007) and Kyiv, (17–18 December 2007), respectively. The main objective of the workshops was (i) to enhance national capacity for the facilitation of interregional transport and trade along EATL, (ii) to promote UNECE's role in the development and facilitation of pan-European and Euro-Asian transport and, (iii) to highlight the importance of the TEM and TER projects. (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/eatl/6thNatlWrkshp.html>).

6. Following the agreement of WP.5 to support the organization of a Meeting of Ministers of Transport of countries in the Euro-Asian region during the ITC's seventieth session, which was also supported by the ITC Bureau, the first day of the seventieth session of the ITC was devoted to a **Meeting of Ministers of Transport of countries in the Euro-Asian region**. Ministers of Transport and high-level officials from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the EC, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), International Transport Forum (ITF), International Road Transport Union (IRU) and International Union of Railways (UIC) participated in a policy debate on developing Euro-Asian transport links. On this occasion, Ministers of Transport and high level officials from countries in the Euro-Asian region signed a Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links by which they confirmed their support for continued cooperation, endorsed the identified Euro-Asian routes and their priority development, supported the creation of a mechanism that would ensure efficient coordination and monitoring of project-related activities in the future, and invited Governments,

international organizations and potential donors to consider providing the needed financial assistance to ensure implementation and development of the second Phase of the EATL project (2008-2011). (<http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/index.html>).

7. The EATL Phase II (2008-2010) will build upon the successfully implemented 2003-2007 project and along the lines of a UNECE and UNESCAP jointly elaborated action plan. It will be pursued by the newly established Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links, which is meeting for the first time on 8 September 2008.

B. Other components dealt with under the project on developing Euro-Asian transport links

8. Cooperation with the other UN regional commissions has continued in 2007 under the UNDA capacity-building project towards developing transport links connecting the ECE and ESCAP regions to the ESCWA region, and transport links connecting ECE and ESCWA to ECA region.

9. A **second seminar on the Interregional Transport Linkages Project**: “Best practices and lessons learned”, was jointly organized by ESCWA, ECA, ECE and ESCAP under the UNDA Project in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 23-25 October 2007. The seminar considered a range of issues related to the development of transport on the ECE/ESCWA/ESCAP/ECA regions, including the draft interregional GIS database, maps and application software; the lessons learnt by the ECE and ESCAP from the Euro-Asian transport links project component; the relevance of the international transport facilitation agreements and conventions administered by the ECE; the ESCAP time/cost-distance methodology and its applications; the lessons learned by ECE, ESCWA and ESCAP from establishment/strengthening of national transport and trade facilitation committees; the future cooperation and coordination among the regions in the fields of infrastructure development and transport facilitation; and the remaining project activities.

10. In addition a **first Interregional Workshop and Visit of African port's experts to Barcelona port**, on Policy, Infrastructure and Management of Ports in the ECE and the ECA region was jointly organized and sponsored by ECE and ECA in the framework of the UNDA Project in Barcelona, Spain, 4-5 October 2007. The workshop discussed major policy, infrastructure and management developments in ECE and ECA region related to ports; initiatives of the UNECE WP.5 in relation to seaports; constraints and challenges of ports management in Africa; and provided the opportunity to participants to share experiences on port's policy, infrastructure and management in the ECE and ECA region through particular country cases in both Europe and Africa. The workshop concluded that among the many issues discussed the following deserve further consideration and elaboration in follow up activities: (i) when and why ports are needed; (ii) financing schemes for ports developments; (iii) reform of management practices, commercialization and privatization of ports operations; and, (iv) competition of ports (http://www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itcrt_african_ports.html).

11. Further information on these project components, including reports, background documents and presentations can be obtained by visiting the ECA and ESCWA websites.

III. TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM) AND TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) PROJECTS

12. The UNECE, as the Executing Agency of the TEM and TER Projects, continued to provide technical and administrative backstopping to the Projects. The TEM and TER Projects work in the reporting period focused on monitoring the implementation of the Master Plan and in preparing of its revision.

13. **Monitoring of the implementation** of the TEM and TER Master Plan has been pursued by the Project Central Offices in close cooperation with experts from participating countries. A **2007 Progress Report** on the implementation priority projects along the Master Plan backbone networks has been elaborated. Furthermore, a **comparison** of the Master Plan backbone networks with those included in the European Union (EU) TEN-T, the report of the High Level Group on the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions, and in the accession treaties of the 10 new EU member States has been finalized by the TEM and TER Projects with positive results. This was followed by another comparison of the backbone Networks with the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) and Committee of the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) networks.

14. **The revision of the TEM and TER Master Plan** in 2008– 2009 is among the main future targets of the projects. This work will not only extend the geographical coverage of the Master Plan to 25 ECE member countries, but will also embrace new challenges, such as intermodality, funding, operational performance. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TEM and TER Master Plan Revision have been endorsed by the Projects' Steering Committees. The Master Plan Revision Coordination Group, consisting of the Project Managers, UNECE representatives and external consultants, met in Prague, Czech Republic, on 21 April 2008 to finalize the revision preparatory work. A first joint meeting of the TEM and TER Master Plan Revision Expert Groups will take place in Hallstat, Austria on 2 September 2008.

15. Parallel to the Master Plans work, the development of the TEM and TER Projects was successfully pursued during the reporting period. The Projects continued their long-standing activities in assisting transfer of know-how and sharing best practices among their members in various fields of interest by organizing workshops and training activities.

16. The Steering Committees of both the projects, recognizing the importance of the Euro-Asian links for all TEM and TER member countries, expressed their support for the involvement of the TEM and TER in future activities.

IV ACTIVITIES UNDER REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

A. Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

17. The UNECE secretariat, together with ESCAP, continued supporting the SPECA Transport Infrastructure and Border Crossing Facilitation Project Working Group (PWG-TBC), established in 1998 within the framework of the SPECA Tashkent Declaration. It contributed to the preparation of work programmes and action plans, the organization of meetings and workshops, to drafting proposals and documents for the Group, to capacity building, to knowledge and experience sharing between European and Central Asian countries, and to promoting transport

cooperation among SPECA countries, as well as between them and other UNECE member countries.

18. At its **13th session held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 12-13 March 2008, the SPECA PWG-TBC** project discussed transport infrastructure and facilitation issues in relation to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. These include country reports on transit transport, regional and interregional transport activities, bilateral consultations on border crossing and implementation of the guidelines to improve efficiency of the SPECA PWG – TBC. The Group also reviewed the development of priority transport databases (rail routes, road routes, border crossing points, intermodal transport) for the SPECA region, as well as of the SPECA guide on road wayside facilities. More information on discussions, reports and respective documents from SPECA WG-TBC work can be obtained through the ECE website under the SPECA heading (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/speca/speca.html>).

B. Other regional and sub-regional initiatives

19. The activities of the Transport Division were concentrated on providing advisory services to strengthen the capacity of countries with economies in transition to implement UNECE legal instruments on transport, facilitate international transport in the UNECE region and promote intercountry cooperation towards the development of pan-European transport networks and Euro-Asian transport links.

20. The Transport Division contributed, inter alia, through active participation and submission of papers, to a number of international activities and fora, towards the development of European Transport infrastructure, as well as of Euro-Asian Transport Links and the accession and implementation of UN transport legal instruments in transport, including the following: BSEC Working Group on Transport followed by the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of BSEC Member States (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-5 July 2007), National Workshop on the facilitation of interregional transport along the Euro-Asian Transport Links (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 23-24 July 2007), the Regional Conference on Promoting Good Governance in Customs in Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25–26 July 2007), XVII Economic Forum (Krynica – Zdroj, Poland, 5-8 September 2007), 6th Annual Conference of the IGC TRACECA, (Astana, Kazakhstan, 12-13 December 2007), OSCE Round Table for Borders Crossing Facilitation (Kiev, Ukraine, 19-20 December 2007), UIC Expert Group on International Railway Corridors (Paris, France, 13-14 March), BSEC Meeting for the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States (Odessa, Ukraine, 9-10 April 2008), Regional Preparatory Meeting on Euro–Asian landlocked and transit developing countries for the mid-term review of the Almaty Program of Action (Bangkok, Thailand, 22-23 April 2008), Joint OSCE Economic and Environmental and Security Committee (Vienna, Austria, 15 April 2008), 31st World IRU Congress, (Istanbul, Turkey, 15-16 May 2008), International Transport Forum (Liepzig, Germany, 28-30 May 2008), Seminar on International Transport Facilitation Conventions in China (Beijing, China, 17-18 June), 3rd European Road Congress (Brussels, Belgium, 25 June 2008) and OSJD Ministerial Conference (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-12 June).

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

21. The Transport Division continued cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in accordance with the MoU between the UNECE-OSCE, signed in 2004.

22. UNECE contributed in the framework of the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, in the field of transport of dangerous goods, during the sixteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, 19-21 May 2008, Prague, Czech Republic.

B. Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC)

23. The Transport Division continued cooperation with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) in accordance with the cooperative agreement between the UNECE-BSEC, signed in 2001.

24. The UNECE secretariat attended the **Meeting of BSEC Ministers of Transport** and the **BSEC Transport Working Group**, organized by the Ukrainian Government in Odessa, Ukraine (8-10 April 2008), under the chairmanship of Mr. Iosyp VINSKIY, Minister of Transport and Communications, Ukraine. The meeting endorsed a **joint Declaration** on transport cooperation in the BSEC region in which, inter alia, BSEC Transport Ministers, acknowledged the importance of the UNECE activities on developing internationally harmonized transport norms and standards and agreed to intensify joint efforts to ensure of the related UNECE transport conventions. The Joint declaration stressed the necessity to strengthening cooperation with UNECE, EC and other international organizations on the development of the Euro-Asian transport linkages passing through the BSEC region.

VI. FUND-RAISING FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN TRANSPORT

25. During the reporting period, the UNECE Transport Division continued and further intensified its fund-raising efforts for financing the implementation of projects, advisory missions, workshops and seminars in the countries concerned.

26. So far, **extra budgetary funding** had been ensured for the elaboration of the TEM Master Plan and its revision (co-funded by additional funding provided by the TEM member countries through the TEM Trust Fund and IRU funds). Funds were also raised for the facilitation of participation of Central Asian and Caucasus countries to the meetings of the ITC and selected subsidiary bodies (co-funded by EU, in 2004-2006). Funds were also ensured in 2006 from OSCE for the development of a first pilot project on strengthening the implementation of UNECE international transport conventions, and from IRU in 2007 for co-funding part of the TEM Master Plan follow-up work.

27. Furthermore, the UN Development Account funded project on capacity building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport links, provided good opportunities to the Transport Division to implement capacity building activities in the beneficiary countries, by

organizing Expert Group meetings, workshops, provision of advisory services and preparation of country reports.

28. The Transport Division is now focusing its efforts on ensuring extra budgetary funding for the implementation of a number of **specific projects**, including the following:

(a) Continuation of the joint UNECE-UNESCAP project on developing Euro-Asian transport links in a new Phase II to be implemented over the period 2008-2011;

(b) Continuation of the project on facilitation of participation of Central Asian and Caucasus countries at the meetings of the ITC and selected subsidiary bodies, after 2007;

(c) Facilitation of implementation of the TEM and TER Master Plan, in 2008–2011;

(e) Review of the TEM and TER master Plan in 2008;

(f) TIR trust funds;

(g) TIR Pilot Russian funds;

(h) Promotion and Development of Interregional Highways: Towards Sustainable Asset Management of Euro-Asian Road Network;

(i) Strengthening the national capacity to respond to global environmental challenges of transport and their contribution to global warming;

(j) Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR);

(k) Harmonization of National Regulations for the transport of dangerous goods by road with ADR;

(l) Accession to ADR.

Copies of proposed projects may be provided upon request.
