

**Seventh session of the
Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links
Astrakhan 24-25 October 2011**

LIST OF MAIN DECISIONS

At its seventh session, the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links decided the following:

Elected Mr. Sergey ANREEV (RUS), as the Chairman of its seventh session.

Adopted the agenda.

Noted the results of the study on non-physical obstacles to transport elaborated by the consultant and requested the secretariat to incorporate it into the final report of the group, together with the comments and inputs received and any further improvements.

Approved the final version of the review, update and extension of the EATL priority routes and related maps prepared by the secretariat on the basis of country inputs covering twenty-seven countries involved.

Approved the results of the project prioritization exercise presented by the consultant and the related maps prepared by the secretariat on the basis of country inputs, as reflected in the final draft report of the group dated 18 October 2011.

Noted the results of the GIS work done by the consultant and requested the secretariat, to upload the application into a restricted access webpage for testing and comments by the members of the group within one month from the time it would be made available. Thereafter the secretariat was requested to introduce comments received, if any, and resubmit the final version for last comments by the members of the group, within two weeks time, before it is posted on the UNECE website allowing free access by all users.

Adopted in general the 3rd version of the draft report of the group on implementing EATL Phase II dated 18 October 2011.

Requested the national focal points who have not done so to communicate to UNECE secretariat - not later than by 10 November 2011 - updated or new country reports as appropriate (1000 words) on the basis of the model sent by the secretariat.

Requested the secretariat to complete the missing parts of the report, incorporating all necessary elements and further improvements to be introduced by it, into a final version of the report and communicate it, as final draft, to all EATL National Focal Points for their consideration and comments, at their earliest convenience, but not later than 22 December 2011.

In the absence of comments by the National Focal points by the above set deadline the final draft of the report to be considered as approved.

Noted the detailed work plan of the group and the new EATL Phase III (2012-2015), reflected in document presented by the secretariat and posted on the meeting's website.

Welcomed the arrangements made by the secretariat to organize and host in Geneva on 23-24 April 2012, the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Transport of EATL region aimed at approving the results of the EATL Phase II, committing to cooperate towards their

implementation, offering political support to the continuation of the work of the Group of Experts for monitoring the development of Euro-Asian transport links in a new Phase III and signing a joint statement in this regard. Noted the readiness of OSCE to explore possibilities of hosting this event in Vienna.

Requested the secretariat to seek the views of the ITC Bureau at its November 2011 meeting, before proceeding with the organization of the EATL Ministerial meeting and all related preparation, including the agenda and programme of the meeting, sending official invitations, drafting and communicating the joint statement for comments and approval.

Welcomed the valuable work done by the OSCE-UNECE secretariats on the joint Handbook on best practices in border crossing.

Expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation, its Ministry of Transport for hosting this meeting in Astrakhan in excellent conditions and providing resources and financial support.

Expressed its sincere gratitude to OSCE for providing financial support to some country delegates to participate to this meeting.

Adopted the list of main decision of its seventh session and requested the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report to be circulated to the members of the group for comments on items other than those contained in the list of main decisions.
