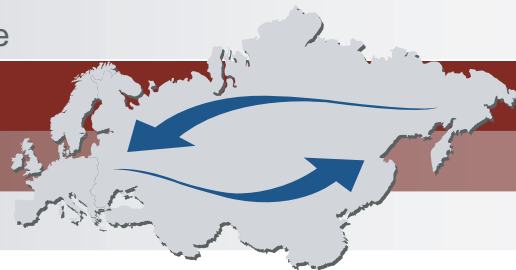




Euro-Asian Transport Links Ministerial Meeting

19-21 February 2008 | Geneva, Switzerland



Newsletter No. 4 – 22 February 2008

Ministers of Transport resolve to cooperate in developing Euro-Asian inland transport routes



Eighteen countries signed a Joint Statement on the Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links on Tuesday 19 February 2008, during the Meeting of Transport Ministers from Euro-Asian countries.

The Meeting was part of the 70th Annual Session of the Inland Transport Committee and opened to a full house in Palais des Nations. Around 260 delegates from 40 countries and 20 international organizations attended.

The Ministerial Meeting was organized at the close of a five year project (2002-2007) on Euro-Asian transport links, jointly elaborated by UNECE and UNESCAP together with designated national focal points from eighteen countries in the Euro-Asian region. Their efforts at encouraging development of Euro-Asian transport links paid off when decision makers confirmed their support for these projects and signed a Joint Statement by which they:

- › Confirmed their will for continued cooperation
- › Endorsed the identified Euro-Asian routes and their priority developments
- › Supported the creation of a mechanism that would ensure efficient coordination and monitoring of project related activities in future
- › 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).

Future work will focus on supporting countries towards coordinated development of identified priority routes and addressing international transport facilitation issues, including border crossing and transit bottlenecks along the Euro-Asian transport links

Setting priorities for transport links is a complex exercise which requires governments to strike a balance with other national priorities, and weigh national versus international interests. They must ascertain the economic, social and environmental net benefits, coordinate programmes and timetables with neighbouring countries, determine the degree of new development and maintenance of existing infrastructure, as well as of private versus public participation, and factor in security considerations.

Given the continued growth of trade and resulting congestion of main ports and their hinterland routes, the development of efficient, safer and more secure Euro-Asian inland transport routes, in addition to providing an important extension of the existing transport capacity, is of outmost importance for the development of countries in the region, including landlocked countries, and for their economic development and integration into the global economy as well as the reduction of poverty in those countries.

The removal of both physical and non-physical barriers along the Euro-Asian inland transport routes, at key transport nodes and transshipment points, including maritime ports, is essential.



More photos can be seen on:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/unecetrans>

List of Signatories



Mr. Niamatullah Ehsan JAWID, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Mr. Zohrab MNATSAKIANIAN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Armenia, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications	Republic of Armenia
Mr. Zia MAMEDOV, Minister of Transport	Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr. Vladimir SOSNOVSKIY, Minister of Transport and Communications	Republic of Belarus
Mr. Petko DRAGANOV, Ambassador, the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the U.N., on behalf of the Minister of Transport	Republic of Bulgaria
Mr. Guozhi CHANG, Senior Advisor of Ministry of Railways on behalf of the Minister of Railways, and Mr. Chengzhi JU, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Communications, on behalf of the Minister of Communications	People's Republic of China
Ms. Tamar KOVZIRIDZE, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, on behalf of the Minister of Economic Development	Georgia
Mr. Andreas KAMBITSIS, Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Greece in Geneva, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications	Hellenic Republic
Mr. Mohammad BOKHARAEI, Deputy Minister of Roads and Transport, on behalf of the Minister of Roads and Transportation	Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Dulat KUTERBEKOV, Vice-Minister of Transport and Communication, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications	Republic of Kazakhstan
Mr. Muktar DJUMARLIEV, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications	Kyrgyz Republic
Mr. Vasile URSU, Minister of Transport and Road Management	Republic of Moldova
Mr. Dorjpurev BATKHUYAG, Vice-Minister for Road, Transport and Tourism, on behalf of the Minister of Road, Transport and Tourism	Mongolia
Mrs. Steluta ARHIRE, Deputy Permanent Representative, the Permanent Mission of Romania, on behalf of the Minister of Transport	Romania
Mr. Oleg STAROVOYTOV, Director, Ministry of Transport, on behalf of the Minister of Transport	Russian Federation
Mr. Erdem DIREKLER, Head of Foreign Relations Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications	Republic of Turkey
Mr. Yosyp VINSKYI, Minister of Transport and Communications	Ukraine
Mr. Abdurakhman ABDUVALIEV, Head of Automobile and River Transport Agency, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Communications	Republic of Uzbekistan