The OSCE’s Role in Trade and Transport Facilitation

Roel Janssens, Economic and Environmental Adviser
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
Theme: “Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability”
14th OSCE Economic Forum

Specific Problems of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries

2006 Economic Forum process highlighted, among others, the special needs of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) i.e. in Central Asia and South Caucasus
Specific Problems of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries

- A lack of direct access to the sea, dependence on transit facilities and policies of their neighbors, additional border crossings, excessive distances to major markets, inadequate infrastructure and cumbersome procedures
In response, the government of Tajikistan offered to host in fall 2007 a Conference on transit transport in Central Asia.

Proposal was supported by a joint statement of the five Central Asian states at the Economic Forum in Prague.
OSCE participating States decided to support the Almaty Programme of Action (APA) with a view to improving the transit potential of LLDC by strengthening the regional political dialogue and by supporting the relevant UN structures in their capacity-building Programmes.
Decision No. 11/06
Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- To strengthen cooperation with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
Decision No. 11/06
Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

To convene in fall 2007 an OSCE Conference on the prospects for development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia
Preparatory Expert Workshop
Vienna, December 2006

- Expert Workshop on the Specific Problems of Landlocked Countries Regarding Transit and Transportation

- Co-organized by OSCE and UN-OHRLLS in cooperation with relevant partners such as UNECE, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, ADB, IRU, WCO, EC, ICG TRACECA, ECMT, EurAsEC, UNDP and others
Improving inter-institutional co-ordination of activities regarding the implementation of APA

Offering the opportunity to exchange views and share experiences on all issues related to transit and transportation in landlocked countries

Identifying priority areas/topics to be dealt with at the Dushanbe Conference
CONCLUSIONS

Four priority areas were identified:

1. Transport corridors and infrastructure development
2. Trade, transit and transport facilitation measures
3. Financing
4. The role of the private sector
Preparatory Meetings (1)

- Two regional Conferences on promoting Good Governance in Customs: 14-15 May, Tbilisi (South Caucasus focus), 25-26 July, Almaty (Central Asia Focus)
Preparatory Meetings (2)

- 18 May, Poti, Georgia: IRU/OSCE round table on “Public Private Partnership in addressing transit transport issues in landlocked countries and their neighbours”

- More than 60 representatives of national road transport associations and business people from the Black Sea region, South Caucasus and Central Asia
28 July, Almaty, “Expert Meeting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action”

- Participation: 30 senior officials of Ministries of Transport, Trade and Finance (i.e. customs) from the region
- Recommendations and conclusions to be presented at the Dushanbe Conference
The Dushanbe Conference
23-24 October 2007

To raise awareness and enhance political dialogue on the development of transportation in and through Central Asia including the neighboring OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Cooperation
The Dushanbe Conference

- To take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the APA and contribute to the APA mid-term review process.
- To identify ways and means to further improve the current situation in OSCE LLDC’s and their transit neighbours.
- Expected outcome: a conference declaration or joint statement between the Governments concerned committing to undertake certain actions and improve regional transit transport cooperation.
The Dushanbe Conference

- The Dushanbe Conference should be seen as part of a process of enhanced regional cooperation in trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation continuing into 2008, in line with the MC Decision.
Thank you for your attention
www.osce.org/eea
www.un.org/ohrlls