





# **OSCE – UNECE co-operation in the field of transport and trade facilitation**

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**Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links  
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# The OSCE Approach

- Comprehensive concept of security, including economic and environmental aspects
- Promoting dialogue on various security related aspects in order to build confidence and strengthen co-operation
- Work in partnership with other organizations with relevant expertise

# 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum Belgian 2006 OSCE Chairmanship



- **Theme:** "Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability"

# OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

- High level political meeting, prepared through expert level preparatory conferences
- Aims at raising political awareness, strengthening dialogue and co-operation, formulating recommendations and policy guidelines, generating follow-up activities

# Brussels Ministerial Council December 2006 (1)

## Decision No. 11/06 Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- Support the adoption and implementation of legal instruments and other tools developed by relevant organizations related to transportation and trade facilitation
- Support the Almaty Programme of Action (APA) with a view to addressing the specific challenges of LLDC
- Strengthen the regional dialogue

# Brussels Ministerial Council December 2006 (2)

## Decision No. 11/06 Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- Promote a wide dissemination and implementation of best practices and standards
- Promote good public and corporate governance in the area of transport and trade facilitation
- Promote and facilitate public-private dialogue

# Brussels Ministerial Council

## December 2006 (3)

### Decision No. 11/06 Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- Enhance the existing co-operation with the UNECE, in particular by providing political support for:
- The implementation of relevant conventions among participating States, drawing upon the example developed in the framework of the Pilot Project on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods
- The implementation of the TEM and TER Projects' Master Plan, and of the Euro-Asian transport links project Phase II



# Brussels Ministerial Council December 2006 (4)

## 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 until the year 2015

# Follow-up activities to the 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum (1)

- **Pilot Project** (consisting of two regional seminars) aimed at capacity building on the implementation of the **UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods**
- A first seminar, targeting trade, transport and customs officials from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Caucasus countries took place in Moscow in October 2006
- A second seminar aimed at a similar audience from South Eastern European countries was held in Belgrade in December 2006

# Follow-up activities to the 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum (2)

- **OSCE Conference on Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transport Development through Central Asia (Dushanbe, October 2007)** brought together Ministers, and Senior Officials from customs, transport and trade Ministries from LLDCs in and around Central Asia (including Afghanistan and Mongolia)
- It aimed at raising awareness and enhancing political dialogue on the development of transit transportation in and through Central Asia, and to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APA)
- A **Joint Dushanbe Statement** was agreed upon by the delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia, participating in the conference

# Follow-up activities to the 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum (3)

May 2007 in Tbilisi, a **Regional Conference on Promoting Good Governance in Customs in the South Caucasus** followed by a **Round Table on Public Private Partnership in Addressing Transit Transport Issues in Landlocked Countries and their Neighbours** (jointly organized with the International Road Transport Union, IRU in the Black Sea port of Poti)

July 2007, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, a similar event, this time focussing on the Central Asia region

# 16<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (2008)

- Focussed on maritime and inland waterways cooperation and included discussions on issues such as transit transportation and the challenges faced by LLDCs
- UNECE contributed to the review of implementation of commitments focusing on the transport of dangerous goods and as a result a number of possible follow-up activities related to the ADR accession, implementation/harmonization are currently under consideration

# Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings (1)

The aim of the project is to support OSCE countries in their efforts to make their border-crossings more efficient, taking into account trade and transport facilitation as well as security aspects

# Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings (2)

It is expected to become a reference document for national policy makers and customs and border officials, but it also targets representatives of transport agencies, the business community and civil society

# Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings (3)

- It should provide concrete examples from across the OSCE region on how border-crossing points can be made increasingly efficient thereby allowing smooth trade and transport operations while at the same time reducing opportunities for corruption, illicit trafficking and transnational crime and terrorism



# Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings (4)

- The Handbook is a joint endeavor of the OSCE and the UNECE, also in partnership with other organizations such as WCO, UNCTAD, ILO, World Bank, UNODC, IOM, EC, EurAsEC, BSEC etc
- A coordination meeting to launch the process will take place in Geneva on 22 September to decide on a table of contents for the handbook and the way ahead

# Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings (5)

- Two “stakeholders meetings” involving the governments in the region are planned for October
- The Handbook should be published by May 2009
- Further raising awareness and capacity building workshops based on the Handbook are envisaged later on

# Conclusions

**Political dialogue and fostering regional co-operation are areas where the OSCE can add value and play a catalytic role**

- **The OSCE is well placed to raise awareness and disseminate experiences on issues related to trans-national co-operation (such as borders, customs, transport and trade)**
- **The OSCE stands ready to continue its fruitful cooperation with the UNECE and with other partner organizations**

**Thank you for your attention**

The image shows four tall flagpoles against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Each pole holds a white flag with blue OSCE branding. From left to right: the first flag shows the letters 'OSCE' vertically; the second shows a blue square with a white circle; the third shows a blue square with a white circle; and the fourth shows the letters 'OSCE' vertically. A white rectangular box is superimposed in the center of the image, containing contact information.

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