

Distr.: General
13 January 2012

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Seventy-fourth session

Geneva, 28 February–1 March 2012

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Review of the transport situation in UNECE member countries
and emerging development trends: Developments related to
the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

Summary of OSCE transport activities in 2011

**Submitted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in
Europe (OSCE)**

I. OSCE mandate

1. In the field of transport the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, continues to implement the relevant Ministerial Council Decisions adopted over the past years, namely the *MC Decision No. 11/06 on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE* (Brussels, 2006), the *MC Decision No. 9/08 on Follow-Up to the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on Maritime and Inland Waterways Co-operation* (Helsinki, 2008) and the most recent *MC Decision No. 11/11 on Strengthening Transport Dialogue in the OSCE* (Vilnius, 2011).

II. Activities implemented in 2011

2. On 5–7 July 2011, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the OCEEA in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Astana and the UNECE Transport Division co-organised and funded the *UNECE 6th Session of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links* which took place in the framework of the EATL project Phase II. The event gathered transport, customs officials and policy makers from a number of Central Asia, South Caucasus and Eastern Europe countries and focused on improving inland transport connectivity between Europe and Asia. Participants discussed measures to further develop and improve transport infrastructure, and reviewed national legislation and methods to overcome non-physical barriers to transport and trade. The OCEEA also participated in and contributed to the

UNECE 7th Session of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL EG) which took place in October 2011 in Astrakhan/Russian Federation.

3. On 12–13 December 2011, in Vienna, the OCEEA co-organised and funded a two-day *Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum Expert Round Table* jointly conducted with the UNECE Transport Division. Some 40 international transport security experts, academics and government representatives from transport ministries and other relevant agencies from across the OSCE region attended the meeting and developed recommendations. Experts presented their views on transport security issues in the road, rail and inland waterways sectors. They discussed weaknesses and threats in the area of transport security and ways to improve co-ordination and the effectiveness of national and international efforts in making inland transport more secure. Later in 2012, the Round Table proceedings, including expert papers and reviews, will be published by the OSCE and UNECE both in English and Russian languages. This OSCE Extra-budgetary (EB) project received funding from the Governments of Belgium and Kazakhstan.

4. The 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum under the 2011 Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE focused on the following theme: *Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport*. The Forum offered a platform for dialogue among the 56 OSCE participating States and allowed for the exchange of experiences, ideas and best practices in the field of sustainable transport. It particularly highlighted the multifaceted character of transport as it is intrinsically linked to the environment, the economy, the use of energy resources etc. UNECE staff provided relevant technical expertise throughout the Forum process and prepared the *Review report of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension*.

5. The OCEEA has also further strengthened its partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO). In May 2011, the OCEEA jointly with the OSCE/Action against Terrorism Unit assisted the WCO with the organisation of a sub-regional workshop for South Eastern Europe on the *SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade*, with particular focus on how to introduce the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) concept. The workshop also featured a Business-Customs Forum with representatives of the private sector. In Astana, the OCEEA supported in October and November 2011 respectively the OSCE Centre in Astana, the WCO and the Customs Control Committee of Kazakhstan in the conduct of two Customs specific regional training events: *A Workshop for CIS officials on Risk Management in Customs* and a *Workshop on Implementing the WCO's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme* with a heavy focus on trade facilitation aspects.

6. In 2011, the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe/Tajikistan continued to provide a number of *ad hoc* training events covering a wide range of border management related issues. In 2012, the BMSC will provide three one-month, comprehensive training programmes in February, June and October 2012 respectively. These training programmes are designed for relevant staff representing customs, border guard, transport and other agencies from countries across the OSCE region. It includes in-depth training on border security issues as well as on trade and transport facilitation, environmental and other relevant aspects of border management.

III. Tentative plans for 2012, possible areas for co-operation with UNECE

A. OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective

7. By the end of 2011, the OCEEA and the UNECE Transport Division finalized the preparations of the *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*. It is expected that the publication, which contains a lot of case studies and best practice examples, will serve as a useful tool for the 56 OSCE participating States/UNECE Member States to modernize and adapt their transport, transit and customs policies. Following the official launching of the Handbook, the OCEEA plans to organise upon request and permitting funding a series of national tailor-made capacity building seminars on specific provisions (i.e. Chapters) of the Handbook. The publication covers the following topics: 'Trade and Customs: the International Legal Framework'; 'From Domestic to International Co-operation'; 'Balancing Security with Trade and Transport Facilitation and Developing Partnerships with Private Industry'; 'Processing of Freight: Policies for Control, Clearance and Transit'; 'Risk Management and Selectivity'; 'Options for the Design of Border Crossing Points'; 'ICT and Non-Intrusive Inspection'; 'Human Resource Management' and 'Measuring Border Agencies' Performance: Possibilities for Benchmarking'. This OSCE Extra-budgetary (EB) project received funding from the Governments of Belgium, Finland, France, Kazakhstan and the United States of America.

8. The OCEEA, jointly with the UNECE Transport Division, is planning to organise a special Handbook side-event on the occasion of the 2012 International Transport Forum in May in Leipzig.

B. Perspectives for the development of transport and transit in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region

9. The OCEEA is planning to support the Government of Turkmenistan, the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the UNECE Transport Division in the organization in May 2012 of an *International Conference on Perspectives for the Development of Transport and Transit in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea Region*.

C. Support for Euro-Asian transport links, good governance and public private partnerships in transport

10. In accordance with the provisions of the recently adopted *OSCE Ministerial Council (MC) Decision No. 11/11 on Strengthening Transport Dialogue in the OSCE* (Vilnius 2011), the OCEEA plans to continue supporting activities aimed at promoting the establishment of multimodal transport and logistics systems, including further development of Euro-Asian transport links and corridors. Promoting good governance and establishing public private partnerships in the transport and border crossing facilitation field will also remain on the Office's agenda. In this regard, the OCEEA stands ready to consider suggestions and requests from UNECE.