

United Nations Development Account Capacity Building Project on Interregional Transport Linkages

1st Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro – Asian Transport Linkages

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABC Action Border Crossing ADB Asian Development Bank

AGC European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines
AGR European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries

AGTC European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport

Lines and Related Installations

AH Asian Highway

ALTID Asian land transport infrastructure development project of UNESCAP

ASYCUDA Automated System for Customer Data
CFRSA Romanian National Railway Company
CIS Commonwealth of Independent States

EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ECO Economic Cooperation Organization
GIS geographic information systems

KAZATO Union of International Road Carriers of the Republic of Kazakhstan

KFFA Kazakhstan Freight Forwarders' Association

IsDB Islamic Development Bank

ISPA Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession (European Union)

MPWTH Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing of Romania

NEW Northern East-West

NGOs non-governmental organizations NRA National Road Administration

OSJD Organization of Railways Cooperation

PHARE Poland and Hungary - Aid for economic restructuring
PWG-TBC Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing

SPECA Untied Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

SRADP Silk Road Area Development Programme

TAR Trans-Asian Railway
TCDD Turkish State Railways

TER Trans-European railway projects of UNECE
TEM Trans-European motorway project of UNECE
TINA Transport infrastructure needs assessment project

TRACECA Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia

TTFA Transit Transport Framework Agreement (ECO)
TTFSE Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeast Europe

UIC International Union of Railways

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

WTO World Trade Organization

I. ORGANIZATION

1. The 1st Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) at Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 9 to 11 March 2004. The Meeting was generously hosted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan. The agenda and programme of the Meeting are given in Annexes I and II to this report.

A. Attendance

2. The Meeting was attended by 70 participants from national governments, international organizations and intergovernmental bodies related to transport, transport associations, and representatives from the private sector. A list of participants is given in Annex III to this report.

B. Opening of the Meeting

- 3. The Meeting was jointly opened by Mr. Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division of UNESCAP, Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, Transport Division of UNECE, and His Excellency Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko, First Vice-Minister for Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan
- Mr. Barry Cable delivered a message on behalf of Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive 4 Secretary of UNESCAP. He noted that in 1996, the fifty-second session of UNESCAP passed Resolution 52/9 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges, which called for member governments and the secretariat to strengthen transport links between Asia and Europe. This led to the "Common ECE-ESCAP Strategic Vision for Euro-Asian Transport Links", presented at the Second Euro-Asian Transport Conference on Transport held at St. Petersburg in September 2000. Building on this vision, UNECE and UNESCAP were ready to implement the Euro-Asia component of a project on "Capacity-building for developing interregional land and land-cumsea transport linkages", beginning with this 1st Expert Group Meeting. He noted that the project came at an opportune moment, given the increased interest in Euro-Asian transport as a result of the expansion of trade between the two continents, and the growing international consensus on the need for the international community to cooperate to assist landlocked and transit developing countries to develop their transit transport routes, as expressed in the Almaty Declaration of the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation. He informed the Meeting of some related activities being implemented by UNESCAP, including the adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, for which a signing ceremony

would take place during the sixtieth session of UNESCAP to be held in April 2004 at Shanghai, China. UNESCAP also promoted the implementation of demonstration runs of container block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, and was planning several more runs following the success of the first demonstration run between Tianjin Port in China and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in November 2003. In closing, he thanked His Excellency Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko and his staff for their cooperation and generosity in hosting the Meeting.

- 5. Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, on behalf of Mrs. Brigita Schmognerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE, welcomed the participants and expressed his sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko for hosting the Meeting in Almaty. He noted that the UNECE-UNESCAP Euro-Asian Transport Linkages project was part of a joint project implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions, and that the objectives of the project was to assist member States in strengthening their national capacities for developing land and land-cum-sea transport linkages and to promote interregional cooperation to facilitate interregional trade and tourism. Mr. Capel Ferrer noted that the development of Euro-Asian transport linkages had been an objective of UNECE for several years. In February 1995, the UNECE Inland Transport Committee stressed the importance of extending the E-road network under the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) to countries of the former Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. Subsequently, both the AGR and the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) were amended to incorporate the road and rail lines of Eastern Russia and the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Currently work is ongoing to identify the Euro-Asian combined transport links for introduction into the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC). In order to implement the networks, UNECE and UNESCAP developed their "Common Strategic Vision on Euro-Asian Transport Links", in which four main corridors were identified. In concluding, he felt that the project should focus on these corridors and he expressed the view that two conditions were indispensable for the success of the project. Firstly, the willingness of the countries concerned to cooperate with each other towards this common endeavour. Secondly, the readiness of the countries concerned to cooperate in the framework of the project.
- 6. **His Excellency Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko** welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He stressed the need for all countries to cooperate and coordinate their activities in building an integrated transport system in order to ensure the free movement of people and goods. This was particularly important in an era of globalization and was not possible without efficient and effective transport systems. He noted that it was timely to be embarking on this endeavour as many countries were showing renewed interest in developing the corridors. He drew the attention of participants to the convening of the Fifth International Conference

TRANSEURASIA 2004 to be held at Astana, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 19 June 2004. He wished the Meeting all success in its deliberations.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

- A. Introduction to the United Nations Development Account Project "Capacitybuilding for Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-Sea Transport Linkages" and Objectives of the Meeting
- 7. Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Regional Advisor on Transport, UNECE, provided an introduction to the Project "Capacity-building for Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-Sea Transport Linkages". He noted that the project was being jointly implemented by the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations, with funding from the United Nations Development Account. He informed the Meeting that the project was being implemented in three phases. Phase I (2004) related to the formulation of interregional transport linkages between Europe and Asia and included: identification of important routes incorporating intermodal concepts; development of an inventory of routes and priority projects; and presentation and prioritization of investment projects. Phase II (2005) was to focus on facilitation of transport along Euro-Asian Transport Linkages, and included analysis of transit times and costs along routes; strengthening of capacity to implement major international agreements and conventions; strengthening of national transport development bodies; and presentation of results of the study and transit analysis. Phase III (2006) was to concentrate on information dissemination and institutional networking, including the development of a database with contact details of responsible experts and institutions involved; creation and continuous updating of a project website; and the organization of a workshop for sharing lessons learned across the Regional Commissions.
- 8. **Mr. John Moon,** Chief, Transport Infrastructure Section, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP, explained that the Meeting was divided into two parts. The objectives of the first part were to understand the conceptual basis of the Project, to share information on routes lying within Euro-Asian transport corridors, and to understand national and user perspectives with respect to Euro-Asian linkage. In outlining the conceptual basis, he noted that the project was about access to markets; "land-linked" as opposed to "land-locked"; efficient utilization of investment resources and existing infrastructure; choice of markets and the means of reaching them; and defining efficient and cost-effective paths through transport networks. The objectives of the second part of the Meeting were to consider a strategy to meet the project's overall goals, including to: develop Project implementation methodology; agree on an outline for the study to be undertaken within the Project; reflect upon possible criteria for identification

and prioritization of linkages; consider technical and operational information to be collected by the National Focal Points; and to define a set of tasks to be completed before the next Meeting (October 2004).

B. Review of international transport networks and corridors linking Europe and Asia and related initiatives

- 9. Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, Transport Division, UNECE, highlighted the work that UNECE has been doing in the area of transport infrastructure development, including the major infrastructure agreements, infrastructure planning tools; the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railways (TER) projects and Euro-Asian Transport Linkages. He apprised the Meeting of the four principal transport infrastructure agreements including: AGR (1975) for roads; AGC (1983) for railways; AGTC (1991) for combined transport and related installations; and AGN (1996) for inland waterways. He noted that these networks had been used as the basis for the identification of the Pan-European Transport Corridors agreed at Crete (1994) and Helsinki (1997) Conferences. He further noted that incorporation of the international networks of Caucasus and Central Asia countries since 2000, they represented an appropriate basis for the identification of priority Euro-Asian transport links. He also apprised the meeting of the UNECE infrastructure planning tools, including the E road Censuses, carried out every five years, the E rail Census, to be carried out for the first time in 2005 and the UNECE methodology for Infrastructure Project Appraisal. He indicated that further details were available at the website <www.unece.org/trans>.
- 10. **Mr. Barry Cable,** Director, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP, described the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project and its contribution to Euro-Asian transport linkages. The ALTID project, begun in 1992, was designed as an "umbrella project" with three integrated components, namely the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway, and facilitation of land transport. He described the processes of formulation and formalization, in which the UNESCAP secretariat had assisted its member countries in developing the networks. He noted that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network was unanimously adopted by 32 member states in November 2003, and that a signing ceremony was to be held on 26 April 2004 during the sixtieth session of the UNESCAP to be held at Shanghai from 22 to 28 April 2004. Concerning the Trans-Asian Railway, he noted that the secretariat was working towards a similar agreement. In the meantime, the secretariat was actively supporting member countries to implement demonstration runs of container block trains on the Northern Corridor. In this respect, a Second Steering Committee held at Ulaanbaatar in October 2003 decided upon a schedule of demonstration runs of container block-

trains along key segments of the corridor. In conclusion, he presented the results of the first demonstration run between Tianjin Port, China, and Ulaanbaatar using the UNESCAP time/cost against distance methodology which was proposed to be used in the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages Project. Further details were available at the website <www.unescap.org/ttd>.

- 11. **Mr. Morteza Khalaj,** Director, Transport and Communications Directorate, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) stated that transport and communications were the main priority areas of cooperation among ECO member states. The most important activity was the development of a transit transport framework agreement (TTFA) which *inter alia* included provisions that were in conformity with the TIR Convention. The agreement will become operational six months after it is ratified by six member states. Currently the agreement has been signed by one member state and ratified by five members. Mr. Khalaj also apprised the Meeting of a number of ECO events over the coming months, including: (a) Expert Working Group Meeting to fine-tune the draft Action Plan for revitalizing and operationalizing of the China-Middle East- Europe corridor (Tehran, 9 to 10 May 2004); (b) Second Steering Committee Meeting for coordination of block container trains between Almaty and Istanbul (Tehran, 11 to 12 May 2004); and (c) Second Meeting of Heads of Marine Organizations of ECO Member States for Cooperation in Sea Transportation (Turkey, June 2004).
- 12. **Mr. Anzal Glonti**, member of the Committee of the Organization of Railways Cooperation (OSJD), apprised the Meeting of the thirteen major rail corridors identified between Europe and Asia in 1996. These routes were adopted by OSJD members in August 2001 (itineraries of the routes are contained in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/20). He noted that while ten corridors had been operating in Europe for many years, Europe-Asia corridors presented many challenges including climatic conditions and changes in gauges. OSJD was trying to address these challenges. One action in this respect was the development of a database on each of the corridors which could be accessed by freight forwarders by Internet. He also noted that a managing committee would be appointed for each corridor. In closing, he noted that if countries united their efforts, then the project would be successful.
- 13. **Mr. Yerzhan Suleymenov**, National Secretary (Kazakhstan) of the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, informed the meeting that the TRACECA programme was currently re-evaluating its strategy and had developed a draft new strategy for future activities which was under review. He noted that TRACECA was looking at ways to strengthen cooperation with international financial institutions and other organizations, which would help avoid duplication and realize synergies. He apprised the meeting of several recent projects being undertaken in the areas of border crossing operations, reconstruction of roads, intermodal transport, air transport, harmonization of transit fees and tariffs, legislative

frameworks for transit transport, and training activities. He noted that the success of the TRACECA programme thus far had confirmed the importance of investing in transport infrastructure. He concluded by expressing the desire to develop further cooperation with other organizations.

- 14. **Mr. Vipin Sharma**, Director, World Division, International Union of Railways (UIC) noted that sustainable transport systems are needed and that they have to be based on railways as their backbone. He also noted that Euro-Asian transport links were the key to the global supply chain. He drew the attention of the Meeting to the UIC Northern East-West (NEW) freight corridor connecting the Pacific coast of Asia to Narvik by rail, with onward movement by sea to Halifax and Boston, and indicated that UIC was seeking partnerships in this project. He also drew attention to the plan of China to construct 18 national and regional container nodes, seven of which would be located on the N.E.W. Corridor (Urumqi, Lanzhou, Xian, Zhengzhou, Qingdao, Shanghai and Tianjin).
- 15. His Excellency Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko, First Vice-Minister for Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan, apprised the Meeting of the activities of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). He noted that Azerbaijan joined SPECA in November 2002 and that the eighth session of the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC) was held at Baku in March 2003. The Meeting adopted the Action Programme for Transit Transport Cooperation for SPECA Countries. This was also submitted as the Regional Platform of Central Asian and Caucasus countries to the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries on Transit Transport Cooperation, held at Almaty from 28 to 29 August 2003. The PWG-TBC Meeting also highlighted the importance of actively involving neighbouring countries and other interested organizations and financial institutions in future Meetings of the Working Group. The PWG-TBC Meeting expressed its full support to the United Nations Development Account project "Capacity-building for Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-Sea Transport Linkages" and the need for the Working Group to work closely with this project and initiatives of other organizations.
- 16. **Mr. Evgeny Kazantsev,** Chairman, Coordinating Transport Meeting of CIS Countries, noted that in reorienting trade and economic links there was a need to re-examine transport. He observed that transport could no longer be considered as an extension of production or a means of providing social services, its efficiency needed to be improved and costs reduced. He apprised the Meeting of the document "Conception of Transport Policy of CIS Countries 2010", which provided a framework for the development and deep integration of the transport

- sector. This document provided a basis for the development of transport networks and logistics, and formulation of international transport corridors.
- 17. **Ms. Aigul Idrissova,** UNDP Kazakhstan and Project Manager, Silk Road Area Development Programme (SRADP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) apprised the Meeting of phase I (2000-2002) of the SRADP Programme and the components of phase II (2004-2005). Participating countries during Phase I were China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with membership for phase II open to Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Selected activities in Phase I included the establishment of National Coordinating Committees and a website <www.silkroadprogram.org>; diagnostic studies on regional economic cooperation and transit issues; three symposia on New Silk Road Continental Bridge; as well as various conferences on customs, transport, customs statistics and WTO accession. The goal for phase II included the strengthening of cooperation between China and Central Asia and development of Public-Private partnerships. In the area of trade and transit transport, phase II aimed to study barriers to implementation of international and subregional agreements as well as developing a road map for their implementation.
- 18. **Mr. Henry Kerali,** Senior Transport Specialist, World Bank, provided a review of the trade and transport of the five Central Asian countries and of the Bank supported project Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeast Europe (TTFSE). For the Central Asian Countries, a Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit had been undertaken which identified impediments and suggested a number of reforms. *Inter alia*, these included: the need for a regional trade and transport policy; harmonization of customs procedures; common and transparent transit fees and implementation of international freight handling standards (for example, TIR and ASYCUDA). The TTFSE had been under implementation for two and a half years, during which time achievements included significant reductions in waiting times at borders; user participation in the evaluation of border agencies' performance; and increases in revenue collection and trade volumes. Further details were available at the website, <www.TTFSE.org>.
- 19. **Mr. Christopher Ousey,** Senior Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) outlined the Bank's policy for lending to regional transport projects. He stated that the Bank welcomed being involved in investments in countries where they were working and where there was a good business case for each project. He stressed that there also needed to be a demonstrated economic transition impact of projects that could include the promotion of greater competition; wider private ownership; an impact on laws that promote market efficiency; and improved governance. He provided details of trade and transport related projects being implemented by the Bank in the seventeen countries included in the UNECE-UNESCAP Euro-Asia Transport Linkages project.

- 20. **Mr. Nigel Rayner,** Director, Transport and Communications, East and Central Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) outlined the transport issues in the members in Central Asia and the Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China), its support to the regional economic cooperation process, and its lending and non-lending activities. He noted that the priority infrastructure areas were rehabilitation of both the regional road and rail networks. The Bank has supported two senior officials' preparatory meetings and two ministerial conferences (March 2002 and November 2003) in support of subregional economic cooperation. At the Second Ministerial Conference, delegations endorsed a number of Strategic Priorities including: development of regional corridors; harmonization of the regulatory framework; improving border controls; as well as restructuring and modernization, competitive tariffs, and improved financing and management. He noted that the Bank works closely with other International Financial Institutions in both its lending and non-lending programmes. He offered to provide further details of the Bank's projects in the region.
- 21. **Mr. Abu Reza,** Senior Economist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) outlined the work being undertaken under an IsDB financed, ECO implemented study on multimodal transport. He noted that the study was investigating the trade flows of the ten ECO member countries over a time horizon of 10 to 15 years in order to assess the transport capacity and investment requirements. In addition, the principal non-physical bottlenecks were being assessed so that training needs could be identified. To date, eight out of ten country transport sector studies had been completed as well as a trade facilitation study. Further 10 to 15 studies would be undertaken in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the issues raised in the earlier studies. He noted that road projects were being financed by the Bank in all member countries, highlighting the Bank's work in improving road transport linkages between Tajikistan and Pakistan through China. He also noted a recent meeting in Tehran that considered the crossborder road network between Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 22. **Mr. Thomas Lamnidis,** Team Leader, TRACECA Project for Common Transit Transport Legal Basis, outlined the change in the focus of the TRACECA project. He noted that during its first decade it concentrated on institutions while during the next decade, it would be issues oriented. The three principal issues to be addressed were trade, investment and transport. He noted that each of these aspects needed financing whether it be for infrastructure, trade, information and communications technology or human resources development. He stressed the importance of addressing "non-calculated risks", including through a stable environment that attracts investment and in which trade transactions and transport operations could be undertaken.

He also noted the importance of regional and interregional cooperation in creating such an environment and the initiatives of TRACECA.

- 23. **Mr. Jerzy Wisniewski,** Director, East-West Division, UIC, outlined the Action Border Crossing (ABC) project: UIC Study on Facilitation of Border-Crossings along Railway Corridors. The study was undertaken at 35 border crossing points on Pan-European Rail Corridors. Each of the points was investigated in steps, namely: fact-finding, analysis and optimization of processes, and framing of proposals; and discussion on measures and compilation of a report. One of the principles promoted by the study was to shift formalities away from borders to "operating hubs". On the technical side, the introduction of gauge-adjustable bogies was proposed for both passenger and freight vehicles and wagons as mass production would reduce their cost. Sets of specific recommendations have been made for passenger and freight traffic which are available from UIC in hard copy and electronic format. He also outlined the UIC/OSJD joint project to *inter alia* study border crossings with transshipment between European standard gauge track and broad gauge track.
- 24. **Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis**, Regional Adviser on Transport, UNECE, presented the UNECE Trans-European motorway (TEM) and Trans-European railway (TER) projects, being subregional cooperation frameworks established in 1977 and 1990 respectively by the Governments of Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Countries under the aegis of the UNECE. He presented the objectives, membership, structure and achievements of the projects and gave more information on the TEM and TER networks, as well as on the current efforts on data collections and processing and their databases and GIS maps activities. He introduced the ongoing work for the elaboration of the TEM and TER project master plans and emphasized the important role played by the projects in the development of the transport infrastructure in the countries concerned. Characterizing TEM and TER projects as the best practices for development of international transport infrastructure, he invited Eastern European and Caucasus countries, not yet members to the projects, to consider their accession.

C. National perspectives on Euro-Asian Transport Linkages

1. Afghanistan

25. **Mr. Abdul Habib Seyar,** representative of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, noted that due to the topography and geographic location, more than 90 per cent of transport moved by road transport, with the remainder moving by air, animal and other modes. In this regard, he informed the Meeting that Afghanistan's highways constitute about 1,400 km of the Asian Highway, adopted in Bangkok in November 2003. In Afghanistan, roughly 19,000 km of road were unpaved, while the remaining 3,000 km which were paved with asphalt and bitumen were

those connecting with neighbouring countries. He informed the Meeting that vehicles would not have problems passing newly constructed bridges, tunnels and footbridges, as they were being constructed according to new technical norms. He noted that despite the fact that some parts of the highway had been damaged and required reconstruction, vehicles could still move along them. At the same time, he expressed the need to build up Afghanistan's vehicle fleets. In closing, he noted that Afghanistan was currently in a rehabilitation process and he requested neighbouring and international countries to cooperate to re-establish transport companies to help accelerate this rehabilitation process.

2. Armenia

26. Mr. Vahagn Badalyan, representative of Armenia, informed the Meeting that Armenia's transport policy directly supports the establishment of an integrated Euro-Asian transport system, which would create mechanisms to unify the legislative acts and other regulatory norms. He described a number of projects being implemented to develop and modernize transport infrastructure, noting that special attention was being given to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of bridges, tunnels and railways; the facilitation and unification of border crossing procedures; and combined container haulages through Black Sea ports. A Transport Inspection Committee was in the process of being established, which would be responsible for the observation and control of the implementation of legislative acts. He noted the importance of international corridors such as TRACECA. Furthermore, Armenia had applied to join the Agreement on the International Transport Corridor North-South and was actively involved in activities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. In addition, it was in the process of completing the national procedures for the approval of the Asian Highway Agreement and was likely to be one of the first countries to sign the agreement in Shanghai in April 2004. He also informed the Meeting that Armenia was in the process of joining ten international transport agreements administered by UNECE; that a Multilateral Agreement on Multimodal Transport of Goods was being signed between Armenia, Georgia and Bulgaria in 2003; and that Armenia recently became the forth-third full member of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport.

3. Azerbaijan

27. **Mr. Ramiz Sharifov**, representative of Azerbaijan, presented the priorities of his country in the framework of Euro-Asian transport links stressing the importance attached by his country in developing all transport modes. He mentioned that the newly established Ministry of Transport is formulating a National transport policy and implementation strategy, using the

experiences from Western European countries, placing particular importance in structural reforms. He stressed the role of multimodal transport in the framework of Euro-Asian transport links and the necessity for the establishment of a user-friendly transit environment, supporting smooth transporting of goods and passengers in the region. He informed the participants about the activities being undertaken on the development of infrastructure in the Azerbaijan part of the TRACECA and North-South corridors. He also informed the participants that the TRACECA Monitoring Center for rail-carried oil shipments is to be established in Baku soon, and referred to the need for a wider use of information technologies and telecommunication facilities for the management of transport flows. Finally he stressed the importance of the development of efficient and effective Euro-Asian transport linkages as a means to increasing prosperity and improving the living standards of the populations of all countries involved.

4. Belarus

28. **Mr. Gennady Aleksijan**, representative of Belarus, presented the international transport corridors No I, II and IX crossing the territory of Belarus and gave the technical characteristics and the existing facilities available, as well as traffic flows, in major parts of these corridors. He referred to the development of further cooperation with the neighboring countries in developing road transport infrastructure, and in particular with the Russian Federation. He also informed the participants of construction works in some sections of the UNECE (E-30) road, ensuring international technical standards of AGR, as well as other ongoing or planned transport infrastructure projects in the territory of Belarus.

5. Bulgaria

29. **Mrs. Albena Peeva-Smilkova**, representative of Bulgaria, gave information on the investment programme of Bulgaria in construction and rehabilitation of roads, electrification and double tracking in the railways, and referred to the Bulgarian road, rail, combined transport and inland navigation networks corresponding to relevant UNECE AGR, AGC, AGTC and AGN Agreements. She gave further information on ongoing projects of transport infrastructure, including the Vidin Carafat Bridge, Sofia Intermodal Terminal, Electrification of Sofia Svilnegrad rail section and other sections of the Bulgarian railway, construction of a missing link and Tunnel (2.5 Km) at the Bulgarian-Macedonian border, concessions in the Varna and Burgas ports and some other priority projects of significance to the development of transport infrastructure on the route of Corridor VIII. Finally, she informed the participants on the introduction, as from the 1 April 2004, of a road vignette system for heavy vehicles and on the

importance placed by her country in the development of the Pan-European transport corridor, TRACECA and Euro-Asian transport links.

6. China

30. Mr. Ren Weimin, representative of China, stated that seamless transport linkages would facilitate trade and promote economic development along Euro-Asian transport routes, and noted that regional cooperation would be critical for the development of these routes. As both a provider and user of these routes, China was ready to cooperate with other countries and international organizations. He described the growth of trade between China and Europe, as well as with the other countries of the project, and noted that this growth was likely to continue in the near future. He also described the growth of transit trade through China, particularly through Xinjiang region, and noted that most transit trade from Japan, the Republic of Korea and the USA to Central Asia via China's sea-ports, was being carried by rail. He noted that China had 14 land posts with neighbouring Central Asian countries, and informed the Meeting of a plan to open a border post with Tajikistan in May 2004. He apprised the Meeting of the status of transit routes in the Xinjiang region and described a number of road investment projects, including rehabilitation of highways connecting land ports, construction of two truck routes (Urumqi-Kashi and Urumqi-Yining), and the rehabilitation of a road in Kyrgyzstan which would connect China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. He also informed the Meeting of the Asian Highway network in China, and described six major AH routes connecting China to the Central Asia and Caucasus region which may be of particular relevance to Euro-Asian Transport Linkages.

7. Georgia

31. **Mr. Lasha Khmiadashvili,** representative of Georgia, highlighted the progress achieved in the development of infrastructure in Georgia, as well as prospects for Euro-Asian transport links and existing problems. He described several examples of successful regional and subregional cooperation initiatives in the transport sector, including the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railways, AGR, AGC and TRACECA. With regard to TRACECA, he described the various agreements which had been concluded under the framework of TRACECA, noting that the realization of these agreements had increased the volume of transit cargo. In addition, the completion of the Rail-Ferry terminal at Aktau Port, with financing from the European Union, had helped to increase transit cargo, as it connected Kazakhstan Railways with the South Caucasus Railway network. He also noted that a resolution signed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, held at Tblisi in December 2001, aims to simplify procedures for humanitarian cargo to Afghanistan. He also described a joint initiative between

Daimler-Chrysler and the European Union which had successfully run a convoy of humanitarian goods from Brussels to Afghanistan through the TRACECA route (September 2003). He informed the Meeting that rehabilitation of approximately 350 km of roads of international importance would be completed by the end of 2004, but that a significant proportion of international roads required rehabilitation.

8. Islamic Republic of Iran

32. Mr. Amir Amini, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, outlined the main policies on transit transport as given in the third social, economic development plan law (2000-2005). He expressed his anticipation that the rehabilitation, upgrading and expansion of the road and rail networks, in accordance with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway objectives, would promote cargo transit through land transport, and that the formulation and formalization of these networks would lead to increased land transport between Asia and Europe. The main policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard included: providing sustainable, dynamic and smooth flow of goods and facilitation of border crossing; completion of the missing link of Bhazvin-Rasht railway and freeway along the North-South Corridor; completion of missing rail link between Mashhad and Bafgh (estimated completion by end of 2004); completion of new connection of India-Pakistan to Europe through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran involving the construction of Ban-Zahedan railway (estimated completion by end of 2007); creation of free trade zones in different regions, especially along the Sarakhs-Bandar Abbas corridor; emphasis on combined and multimodal transport and multimodal terminals; and the use of new system of rapid bogie changing at borders. In this regard, increased containerization by equipping borders with loading and unloading facilities of containers and bogie changing systems could facilitate transport. He further described the developments along the major corridors within the TAR and AH networks passing through Iran. A significant amount of the national budget and private sector investment was being allocated to these projects, in accordance with the third development plan law. Priority of ITC technology is emphasized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran while policy on the expansion of dry port is strictly followed by the Government.

9. Kazakhstan

33. **His Excellency Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko,** representative of Kazakhstan, apprised the Meeting of the importance of transport to the economy of Kazakhstan. He highlighted reforms being undertaken in the sector as contained in the state policy to 2008, which included institutional and legal reforms, modernization, introduction of new technologies, and integration

into the world transport system. He noted the geopolitical importance of Kazakhstan's location which lay on more than half of OSJD corridors as well as TRACECA and the International Transport Corridor North-South. In this respect, Kazakhstan was developing its road and rail transport infrastructure as well as the Port of Aktau.

10. Kyrgyzstan

34. Mr. Temir Niyazbekov, representative of Kyrgyzstan, noted that his country's landlocked situation was a defining factor in determining transport infrastructure development policy, and the country actively participated in forming international transport corridors in the strategic directions of "east-west" and "north-south". Kyrgyzstan had developed a "Concept of Development of the Kyrgyz Republic as a Transit Country for the period 2010", based on the doctrine of His Excellency the President of Kyrgyz Republic, "Diplomacy of the Silk Road". The basic principles of this doctrine were to develop roads in accordance with international standards. He described the roads that were included in the Asian Highway, of which 1,552 km were transit roads. He mentioned various projects relating to linkages with neighbouring countries, which were being financed by donors, including China, ADB and IsDB. reference to railways, the existing network was only 425 km in length and did not provide all needs for interregional connections due to missing links within the network. In view of the importance of railways for the socio-economic development of Kyrgyzstan, the government had developed a feasibility plan for rail transit corridors between Europe and Asia for the development of a route between China and Uzbekistan via Kyrgyzstan, and was working in close cooperation with China in this regard.

11. Romania

35. **His Excellency Mr. Vasile Soare,** representative of Romania, described the various corridors on which his country was located, including Pan-European Corridors IV, VII, and IX. He described some of the challenges facing the Romanian National Railway Company (CFRSA), but noted that the new strategy adopted by Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing (MPWTH) had obtained good results. Various projects and activities were currently being implemented. With regard to road infrastructure, the National Road Administration (NRA) placed focus on road maintenance and rehabilitation. In 2001, the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism developed a clear strategy for highway maintenance, rehabilitation and construction, which consisted of two components: the establishment of priority actions for the whole road network and the attraction of extrabudgetary funds for the implementation of programmes. In this regard, the Ministry considered that the public-private partnership initiative

promoted in 2001 was a viable solution to speed up the investment process and develop and modernize road infrastructure. Through various projects, roads were being upgraded to allow the harmonization of Romanian standards with international standards. In addition, the rehabilitation projects created a large framework for the absorption of grants from the European Community through the PHARE and ISPA programmes. With regard to water transport, he described several projects being undertaken for that mode.

12. Russian Federation

36. Mr. Valery Shaykin, representative of the Russian Federation, observed that reductions in transport costs and transit times are equivalent to reductions in customs duties and consequently they promote trade and economic development in the same way as multilateral trade liberalization. In this respect, he noted that measures being taken by the Russian Federation to improve efficiency on the Euro-Asian transport corridors "Transsib" and "North-South" would promote economic development of all the Euro-Asian countries, especially those that were landlocked. He described the characteristics of the existing road, rail and inland waterway networks, border crossing points and terminals on the two corridors as well as plans for their future development. In describing the "Transsib" he noted that since 1999 various demonstration runs of container block-trains had been carried out between Nakhodkha-Vostochaya, Brest and Berlin and that transit times of 12.5 and 14.5 days respectively had been achieved. On the "North-South" corridor an agreement was ratified by the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and India in 2002. The corridor currently centers on the Caspian Sea with cargo movements between ports of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation moving onward overland to the Persian Gulf. A plan for the development of transport infrastructure on the corridor is currently under implementation, with rail connections to Russian ports being recently completed.

13. Tajikistan

37. **Mr. Anvar Hafizovich Nurov**, representative of Tajikistan, noted the importance of developing transit corridors to accelerate integration processes and creating favourable conditions for economic growth for all countries in Central Asia. He noted that in the region, a common mechanism of transit of goods and services which would meet the requirements of a market economy had not been established, and that individual states did not take into account the prospect of developing a transport network in the region when adjusting their legislation. These factors explained the large number of barriers on transport corridors. He noted that some of the problems included the illegal collection of fees and delays at border crossings and intermediate

points, which increased the price of goods and lessened their competitiveness in the international market. The primary means of solving problems was the unification of transport legislation and the development of measures to eliminate internal barriers, such as through the introduction of modern monitoring mechanisms for the movement of vehicles. He described the three main transit corridors passing through Tajikistan and informed the Meeting of major investments, including modernization of border crossings, electrification of railways, rehabilitation of roads, construction of bridges and tunnels. He informed the Meeting that Tajikistan had acceded to the TIR Convention in July 2003 but was still not attracting traffic due to the lack of appropriate parking space corresponding to international standards.

14. Turkey

38. Ms. Hulya Zeybek, representative of Turkey, began by describing the share of trade being transported by the different modes. She noted that Turkey was part of the Pan-European Transport Corridors IV and X as well as part of two Pan-European Transport Areas – Black Sea and Mediterranean Basin - adopted at the Third Pan-European Transport Conference held at Turkey was also participating in activities under the Transport Helsinki in June 1997. Infrastructure Needs Assessment (TINA) and TRACECA projects. She listed the international transport conventions of UNECE which Turkey had acceded to, and also informed the Meeting that it was considering the accession to the Convention on Road Traffic (1968) and Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968). With regard to infrastructure and services, she described the current status of road development, including major investment projects such as the Black Sea On-Shore Transport Route (road) which would connect Turkey to the Caucasus region. With regard to railways, she described planned and ongoing projects on Euro-Asian corridors such as Rehabilitation of Ankara-İstanbul Railway Line, Bosphorus Rail Tunnel Crossing & Rehabilitation of Gebze-Halkalı Railway Line and Construction of Ankara- Sivas New Railway Line. She also noted that the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) was responsible for operating seven sea ports, of which four were connected to the TAR network. A number of regular block train services were in operation between Turkey and various countries, including the Istanbul-Almaty block train (weekly since June 2002), which was expected to extend beyond to Hamburg and Lianyungang. She then described the current status of the many ports of Turkey, six of which were included in the AGTC. She noted that due to the problems arising in the road sector, ro-ro transport was increasing. Some of the main obstacles which the rail sector currently faced included the different gauge between Turkey and the CIS countries; the need for harmonization of axle load limits and standardization of vehicles; and the absence of tariff unification between Turkey and CIS countries.

15. Ukraine

39. **Mr. Grygorii Legenkyi**, representative of Ukraine, gave detailed information of his country transport infrastructure of international importance and the Pan-European Transport Corridors III, V and IX passing through the territory of Ukraine. He referred to the efforts of his country for the development of transport corridors in close cooperation with neighboring countries and stressed the importance of the Southern rail version of the Euro-Asian Corridors, through Ukraine-Depnopetrovsk - Lugansk and further East. He referred to the role of Ukrainian Sea Ports in the Euro-Asian Transport links, and gave more information on a number of specific projects financed by EBRD and other sources, including electrification of railways, double tracking, automatic change of gauge and the Danube channel in the territory of Ukraine. Finally, based on the positive experience obtained from the introduction of a RO/RO connection between Odessa and Batumi Ports in terms of increased cargo flows, he stressed the need for further efforts in developing Euro-Asian transport linkages.

16. Uzbekistan

40. **Mr. Umidjon Makhmatov**, representative of Uzbekistan, noted that it was necessary to enhance dialogue between participating countries in order to ensure that the project was completed successfully. As a landlocked country, he observed that for some import and export commodities the transport costs were more than the value of the commodity. As a result, more than 40% of export revenues were spent on transport and insurance. He apprised the Meeting of the signing of an agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan on 18 July 2003 on the establishment of an international Trans-Afghan transit corridor connecting Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran which will assist the development of regional trade between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

D. Private sector perspectives on Euro-Asian Transport Linkages

41. **Mr. Alexander Denisenko**, Union of International Road Carriers of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KAZATO), drew the attention of the Meeting to a number of concerns of the Union. These included: the lack of respect of driver working hours and vehicle overloading (he noted that overloading led to excessive road damage which introduced safety hazards); and the need for road rehabilitation and an examination of transit charges and other non-physical barriers in countries of the region.

- 42. **Mr. Ilya Segal,** Executive Director, Kazakhstan Freight Forwarders' Association (KFFA), noted the high costs of Euro-Asian land transport meant that shippers were using sea routes in preference to land routes. He stressed that in order to resolve such issues there was a need for close dialogue between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and other concerned stakeholders.
- 43. **Ms. Akku Ryskulova,** Kazakhstan Railways, apprised the Meeting of the work of Kazakstan Railways in developing the Kazakhstan links of interregional rail networks. She noted that in December 2001 a demonstration run of a container train was undertaken from Urumqi to Berlin through Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Belarus and Poland. She also noted that in 2003, demonstration runs had also been undertaken from Nakhodka-Almaty-Tashkent. In order to improve their services, Kazakhstan Railways are cooperating with customs, using a flexible tariff policy, undertaking market research, increasing speeds whilst maintaining safety and simplifying procedures.

E. Strategy for further development of Euro-Asian Transport Linkages

- 44. **Mr. Barry Cable** presented the background to the project and the proposed strategy for the further development of Euro-Asian transport linkages. Some of the main elements of the strategy for the development of a Euro-Asian transport system included the formulation of integrated intermodal international Euro-Asian transport routes/corridors and networks; formalization through international agreements or amendments to existing agreements as a basis for their coordinated development; facilitation of transport at border-crossings based on relevant international conventions; establishment of national transport/trade facilitation committees; analysis of routes/corridors to identify physical and non-physical barriers; and operationalization through efficient arrangements and mechanisms for each international route.
- 45. With regards to the identification of routes, Mr. Cable presented the four general corridors as contained in the "Common Strategic Vision for Euro-Asian Transport Links" and their associated routes, namely:
 - (a) Transsiberian corridor: Europe (PETCs 2, 3 and 9) Russian Federation Japan, with branches to:
 - (i) Kazakhstan China and the Korean Peninsula;
 - (ii) Mongolia-China.
 - (b) TRACECA: Eastern Europe (PETCs 4, 7, 8, 9) across Black Sea-Caucasus across Caspian Sea-Central Asia

- (c) Southern: South-eastern Europe (PETC 4) Turkey Islamic Republic of Iran, with branches from Iran to:
 - (i) Central Asia China;
 - (ii) South Asia South-East Asia/Southern China.
- (d) North-South: North Europe (PETC 9) Russian Federation, with branches to:
 - (i) Caucasus Persian Gulf;
 - (ii) Central Asia Persian Gulf;
 - (iii) Across the Caspian Sea Islamic Republic of Iran (Persian Gulf).
- 46. He invited countries to consider the main routes of international importance in their countries focusing on the framework of these corridors. He noted that within the framework of the four corridors outlined earlier, the formulation of the linkages could build on several existing frameworks and agreements such as the PETCs, UNECE AGR and UNESCAP Asian Highway networks; UNECE AGC and UNESCAP Trans-Asian Railway networks; and also the various networks of TRACECA, ECO and OSJD. He then described the limitations to the identification of linkages, suggesting that: (a) not all links in the networks should be included but only major routes; (b) additional routes could be included as alternatives; (c) routes should encompass intermodal aspects, with linkages to inland waterways and major seaports, as well as major transshipment points such as inland container depots and border crossing facilities; (d) the focus of the work should include container transport; (e) at least three points in Europe could be identified for the origin and destinations of routes for the purpose of consistent time/cost analysis; and (f) that air transport should be excluded from the project at the present time.
- 47. Mr. Cable then outlined the implementation schedule for the project activities, which were divided into three phases over the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. Broadly speaking, the first phase consisted of the identification of routes of Euro-Asian transport importance (March-July 2004) by countries, including collection of data on selected technical and operational specifications, as well as investment activities; consolidation and analysis of data by the secretariat (July-September 2004), and presentation of preliminary results at the second Expert Group Meeting (October 2004). Further information on the strategy was contained in the Background Note on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages. Finally, Mr. Cable invited participants to provide any comments or suggestions they might have to the UNECE and UNESCAP.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

48. The Meeting endorsed the strategy and implementation schedule for the further development of Euro-Asian Linkages as well as the criteria for identification of linkages.

- 49. During discussions a number of organizations including OSJD, Coordinating Transport Meeting of CIS countries, and the Intergovernmental Council of Road Administrators of CIS Countries offered to provide UNECE/UNESCAP with details of the corridors and related studies as a substantial contribution to the project and to assist national focal points in preparing their reports.
- 50. A number of delegations noted that countries were entering into various bilateral and multilateral agreements to develop infrastructure and facilitate the movement of goods, vehicles and people. In this respect, the Meeting requested member countries and organizations to provide details of these agreements so that an adequate stock-taking could be made.
- 51. The Meeting proposed a number of means for promoting facilitation measures. These included the development of model legislation, the development and strengthening of more comprehensive agreements (for example, the ECO TTFA) and detailed study of specific border crossings. In this respect, UIC offered to provide details of their ABC Project. The Meeting noted the important role played by customs and other authorities in border crossing and facilitation issues. It requested that these authorities be invited to future expert group meetings when facilitation issues are being considered.
- 52. It was noted that the objectives of the project included the identification and prioritization of investment projects that could be show-cased by the countries in which they lay. In considering the methodology for the project a number of proposals were discussed. In this respect, it was also noted that one of the important tasks of the next meeting was to further consider prioritization criteria. The Meeting took note of the broad criteria proposed by UNECE/UNESCAP which included:
 - that they constituted elements of the major Euro-Asian corridors;
 - that there was consensus that they contributed to improvement of specific Euro-Asian transport routes;
 - that they were included within recognized UNECE/UNESCAP networks;
 - that they would enhance the quality of infrastructure to meet international standards; and
 - that they would address needs to overcome time/cost bottlenecks.
- 53. Recognising TRACECA as an important Euro-Asian transport corridor that ends at the border between Kazakhstan and China, the delegation of China requested for more information about TRACECA in order to better understand the concept of TRACECA and consider the possibility of connecting China to the routes in the TRACECA corridor within the framework of developing Euro-Asian Transport linkages.

- 54. During the course of the discussions, it was suggested that the routes of TRACECA should also include the routes passing through Turkey.
- 55. The Meeting discussed the naming of the corridors. It was agreed that participating countries would discuss the nomenclature with the relevant ministries with a view to seeking guidance prior to the next expert group meeting.
- 56. The Meeting noted the possibility of adding a European side connection with PETC 5 to the Transsiberian and the North South corridors with onward connections to China through Kazakhstan.
- 57. The Meeting noted that utilization of any routes/corridors will be determined by the market-based on criteria such as cost, time, reliability, safety and convenience. Consequently there was a need to involve the freight forwarding industry in the project to assist *inter alia* in obtaining data for the time/cost against distance diagrams. The Meeting also noted the need to look at the marketing of the corridors within the framework of the project.
- 58. The Meeting noted the comments made by delegations on the content of the tables in the TOR and requested the secretariat to incorporate them in the revised questionnaire to be circulated to National Focal Points.
- 59. The representative of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan invited the participants to attend the International Conference TRANSEURASIA 2004 to be held at Astana in June 2004. The representative of OSJD also extended an invitation to all the participants to attend the Ministerial Conference of OSJD Member States to be held in June 2004. In addition, the representative of KAZATO announced the convening of the IRU meeting in Yokohama, Japan.
- 60. The participants expressed their deep appreciation to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan for hosting the Meeting and their generous hospitality.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

61. The Meeting adopted the report on 11 March 2004.

Annex I

UNITED NATIONS

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

1st Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages 9–11 March 2004 Almaty, Kazakhstan

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Meeting.
- 2. Introduction to the UN Development Account project "Capacity-building for Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-Sea Transport Linkages" and objectives of the Meeting.
- 3. Review of international transport networks and corridors linking Europe and Asia and related initiatives:
 - (a) Review of regional networks;
 - (b) Review of subregional networks;
 - (c) Review of corridor-based networks; and
 - (d) Review of other related initiatives.
- 4. National perspectives on Euro-Asian transport linkages.
- 5. Private sector perspectives on Euro-Asian transport linkages.
- 6. Strategy for further development of Euro-Asian transport linkages.
- 7. Conclusions and recommendations.

Annex II



UNECE-UNESCAP

<u>Tentative Programme - 1st Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages</u>
9 - 11 March 2004, Almaty, Kazakhstan

1st Day: Tuesday 9 March 2004 - Morning session

0830	Registration Registration	
0900	Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting Welcome addresses	Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko, First Vice-Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Kazakhstan
		Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, Transport Division, UNECE
		Mr. Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP
0930	Agenda Item 2: Introduction to UN Development Account project "Capacity-building for Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-sea Transport	Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Regional Adviser on Transport, UNECE
	Linkages" and objectives of the Meeting	Mr. John Moon, Chief, Transport Infrastructure Section, TTD, UNESCAP
1000	Coffee break	
1015	Agenda Item 3: Review of international transport networks and corridors linking Europe and Asia and related initiatives.	
	a. Review of regional networks	
	UNECE European Agreement on Main International Road Traffic Arteries (AGR) and Railway Lines (AGC)	Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, Transport Division, UNECE
	UNESCAP Asian Highway (AH) and Trans Asian Railway (TAR)	Mr. Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP
	b. Review of subregional networks	
	UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Railway (TER)	Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Regional Adviser on Transport, UNECE
	Economic Cooperation Organization	Mr. Morteza Khalaj, Director, Transport & Communications, ECO
	Organization for Railway Cooperation	Mr. Anzal Glouti, member of the

		Committee, OSJD
1230	Lunch break Tuesday 9 March 2004 Affarrage passion	
	Tuesday 9 March 2004- Afternoon session	
1330	Agenda Item 3 (continued): Review of international transport networks and corridors linking Europe and Asia and related initiatives	
	c. Review of corridor-based initiatives	
	Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA)	Mr. Yerzhan Suleymenov, National Secretariat (Kazakhstan) of the Permanent Secretariat, IGC- TRACECA
	UIC Global Corridors	Mr. Vipin Sharma, Director UIC World Division
	d. Other related initiatives	
	UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)	Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko, First Vice-Minister of Transport, Republic of Kazakhstan
	Coordinating Transport Meeting of CIS countries	Mr. Evgeny Kazantsev , Chairman of the Executive Committee
	UNDP Silk Road Area Development Project	Ms. Aigul Idrissova, UNDP
1530	Coffee break	
1545	Agenda Item 3: Review of international transport networks and corridors linking Europe and Asia and related initiatives.	
	d. Other related initiatives (continued)	
	World Bank	Mr. Henry Kerali, Programme Team Leader Central Asia, WB
	European Bank of Reconstruction and Development	Representative from EBRD
	Asian Development Bank	Mr. Nigel Rayner, Director, Transport and Communications Division, East and Central Asia Dept., ADB
	Islamic Development Bank	Mr. Abu Reza, Senior Economist, Country Operations department, IDB
1700	Wrap-up and Close of Day One	
1700		

2nd Day: Wednesday 10 March 2004-Morning session

0900	Opening of meeting	
0915	Agenda Item 3: Review of international transport networks and corridors linking Europe and Asia and related initiatives.	
	d. Other related initiatives (continued)	
	UIC ABC Project for border crossing	Mr. Jerzy Wisniewski, Director, East-West Division, UIC UNESCAP
	TRACECA instruments for mitigation of non-calculated risks	Mr. Thomas Lamnidis, TRACECA Project for Common Transit Transport Legal Basis, Team Leader
	Agenda Item 4: National perspectives on Euro-Asian transport linkages (10 minutes presentation by each National Focal Point or designated representative from Governments)	Afghanistan Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bulgaria China
1030	Coffee break	
1045	Agenda Item 4 (continued): National perspectives on Euro-Asian transport linkages	Georgia Islamic Republic of Iran Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova Romania Russian Federation
1230	Lunch break	

2nd Day: Wednesday 10 March 2004 – Afternoon session

1330 1500	Agenda Item 4 (continued): National perspectives on Euro-Asian transport linkages Coffee break	Tajikistan Turkmenistan Turkey Ukraine Uzbekistan
1515	Agenda Item 5: Private sector perspectives on Euro-Asian transport linkages	Representatives of the private sector
1700	Wrap-up and Close of Day Two	

3rd Day: Thursday 11 March 2004- Morning session

3 rd Day:	Thursday 11 March 2004- Morning session	T
0900	Opening of meeting	
0915	Agenda Item 6: Strategy for further development of Euro-Asian Transport Linkages a. Overview of strategy for further development of Euro-Asian Transport Linkages	UNECE-UNESCAP, Euro-Asian Transport Linkages Project Team
1030	Coffee break	
1045	Agenda Item 6 (continued): Strategy for further development of Euro-Asian Transport Linkages b. Study outline and terms of reference	UNECE-UNESCAP, Euro-Asian Transport Linkages Project Team
1230	Lunch break	
3 rd Day:	Thursday 11 March 2004 – Afternoon session	
1330	Agenda Item 6 (continued): Strategy for further development of Euro-Asian Transport Linkages b. Study outline and terms of reference (continued) c. Next steps: Follow-up and monitoring of related actions and developments	UNECE-UNESCAP, Euro-Asian Transport Linkages Project Team
1530	Agenda Item 7: Conclusions of the 1 st Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages and closing of the meeting	Mr. Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division, UNESCAP Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, Transport Division, UNECE Mr. Yuriy Lavrinenko, First Vice-Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Kazakhstan
1600	End of the meeting	

Annex III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1st Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages

9-11 March 2004, Almaty (Kazakhstan)

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

1-го заседания экспертной группы по развитию Евроазиатских транспортных коридоров

9-11 марта 2004 года, Алматы (Казахстан)

	PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES	СТРАНЫ УЧАСТНИКИ
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