
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

19th session
18-19 June 2014
Almaty, Kazakhstan

**ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA
FOR THE 19TH SESSION OF SPECA PWG-TBC**

1. Opening of the Session

The session will be opened by H.E. Mr. Azat Bekturov, Vice-Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the lead country of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC). Opening statements will be delivered by the representatives of UNECE and UNESCAP.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Project Working Group will review and adopt the draft agenda as contained in documents SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/L.1 and L.2.

3. Adoption of the report on the 18th Session of the PWG-TBC

The report of the 18th Session of the PWG-TBC, held on 2-3 May, 2013 in Almaty, which is available in English and Russian, will be presented by Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field of transport and the host of the 18th Session. The Project Working Group is invited to adopt the report.

4. Review of transport projects, activities and initiatives in line with the Almaty Programme of Action.

4.1. Transport infrastructure projects, activities and initiatives at national and international level, including development of dry ports to facilitate intermodal transport in SPECA countries

Background documents: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/1;

Under this topic, it is proposed to link items 4.1 and 4.8 of the draft agenda. Representatives of UNESCAP and UNECE will present their respective initiatives and efforts for promoting the development of transport infrastructure in SPECA countries.

The Project Working Group may wish to encourage SPECA countries to become Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, actively participate in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the TAR network and the AH network, support UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats in their respective initiatives on further implementation of Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) and development of dry ports of international importance.

4.2. Accession and implementation of International Conventions and Agreements

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/2

After a presentation made by the UNECE representative, delegates of SPECA member countries will update the Project Working Group on their status with regard to accession and implementation of international conventions and agreements. Representative of UNESCAP will present the activities related to the establishment of the UNESCAP Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation.

The Project Working Group may wish to request the states to identify problems for implementation of the conventions and also any further assistance needed from UNECE and

UNESCAP secretariats in assessing the implications of acceding to and implementing the transport-related international legal instruments. The Project Working Group may also encourage SPECA countries to assign members to UNESCAP Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation.

4.3. Establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation

No background document

Delegates of SPECA member countries will inform the Project Working Group on the progress in the establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation; share best practices and lessons learnt; and suggest possible further actions required.

4.4. Identification, isolation and elimination of major bottlenecks along international transport routes

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/3

UNESCAP secretariat will inform the Group on the progress achieved in cooperation with UNCTAD and UNECA, in the implementation of the Development Account Project entitled “Capacity Building for Control Authorities and Transport Operators to Improve Efficiency of Cross-border Transport in Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries” from 2012. UNESCAP secretariat will also briefly outline the three facilitation tools that were developed to support countries in addressing major bottlenecks.

UNECE secretariat will inform the Group of the key principles of the new Annex 9 on rail border crossing to the International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982, which has entered into force on 30 November 2011. UNECE secretariat will also outline the results of the recurrent survey on the implementation of Annex 8 on road border crossing to the Harmonization Convention, and make brief overview of the OSCE-UNECE joint publication entitled “The Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective”.

4.5. Progress report on the development of the SPECA PWG-TBC transport databases

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/4

The Research Institute of Transport and Communications, Almaty (NIITK) will report on the progress achieved in developing the four priority transport databases for the SPECA region that were selected by the Project Working Group (rail routes of international importance, road routes of international importance, border crossing, and intermodal transport infrastructure).

UNECE Secretariat will inform the Group on the results of the triennial Programme of Workshops on Web Common Questionnaire on Transport Statistics carried out from 2010 to 2012 and particularly aimed at SPECA Member countries, and of the plans for further capacity-building activities on transport statistics.

The Project Working Group may discuss on the possibilities to make better use of the data and information accumulated over years by the NIITK, in the framework of its activities, and endorse the report prepared by NIITK.

4.6. Establishment and strengthening of public-private partnerships in the SPECA region

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/5

UNESCAP secretariat will inform the Group of the progress being achieved by UNESCAP and UNECE in promotion of the use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The Project Working group may update the meeting on developments in PPPs in SPECA countries, including application of this mechanism for specific transport projects.

The PWG may also encourage SPECA member countries to pursue policy measures to create favourable institutional environment for PPPs and strengthen the training programmes for government officials and other relevant stakeholders by taking advantage of training materials on PPPs prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP.

4.7. Road safety issues and policy interventions in the SPECA region

Background documents: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/6

UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats representatives will make a presentation on their activities as regards the implementation of the UN GA Resolution on a decade of action for road safety, as well of the outcomes of the first Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum jointly organized by UNECE and UNESCAP in New Delhi in December 2013. Representatives of SPECA countries will report on the national activities in addressing road safety issues.

The Project Working Group may encourage one of SPECA Member countries to host a road safety awareness Conference, which other SPECA countries could attend and share best practices and lessons learned in the area of road safety and foster improvements in the region on this subject.

4.8. UNECE/UNESCAP regional transport activities with focus on SPECA countries

Background documents: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/1;

It is proposed this agenda item be linked with agenda item 4.1. Representatives of UNESCAP and UNECE will present their respective initiatives and efforts for promoting the development of transport infrastructure in SPECA countries.

5. Bilateral consultations on transport and border-crossing issues between SPECA countries

In the absence of written requests, this topic might not be discussed during this session. The questions raised meanwhile will be addressed afterwards to the countries concerned for follow-up actions. Notwithstanding the above, interested SPECA countries may take the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest informally as done at the 18th session of the Project Working group.

6. Review of the draft agenda for the 20th session of the SPECA PWG-TBC.

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(19)/7

The Project Working Group will be invited to review the draft agenda of the 20th session of the Project Working Group.

7. Other business.

The Project Working Group may wish to consider any other matter not included in the agenda, in particular the date and venue of the 20th session.

8. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations.

The Project Working Group will consider and adopt the major conclusions and recommendations of its 19th session.