

Promoting best practice solutions across the OSCE region

Presentation by
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Outline of Presentation

- **The OSCE approach**
- **Border Security and Management Concept / Future Transport Dialogue**
- **OSCE role and activities**
- **Concrete examples**
- **Development of an OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders**



The OSCE Approach

- **Regional security organization incl. West and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Caucasus and North America**
- **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, act as a catalyst**
- **Secretariat in Vienna, 19 field presences**



OSCE Border Security and Management Concept

- **Provides a framework for the OSCE to assist its pS in enhancing BSM in all three OSCE dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental and human**
- **Annex A lists possible OSCE Contributions**
- **Envisages a balance between security and facilitation facets of borders**



OSCE Transport Dialogue

- **Started in 2006 in the framework of the 14th OSCE EF under Belgian Chairmanship**
- **Focus on transport security and on development to enhance regional economic cooperation and stability**
- **Led to the adoption of MC Decision No. 11/06 on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE**



OSCE Transport Dialogue (2)

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

- **Recognizes that OSCE landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) face unique transit transport challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea**
- **Stresses the role of the OSCE in supporting the adoption and implementation of relevant international legal instruments, conventions, standards and norms**
- **Recognizes the need to promote good governance and public private partnerships in the transport sector**



OSCE Transport Dialogue (3)

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

- **Emphasizes the need for enhanced cooperation and exchanges of best practices among OSCE participating States**
- **Tasks the OSCE Secretariat to continue promoting high level dialogue on transit transportation issues across the region and particularly between LLDCs in Central Asia (i.e. Dushanbe Conference, October 2007)**



OSCE Role and Activities

- **Supporting ongoing coordination mechanisms such as the EATL, TEM/TER Master Plan and the adoption and implementation of existing legal instruments**
- **Provide support to pS in addressing all threats and challenges related to border management, promoting a balanced approach**
- **Conduct border assessment missions, raise awareness, develop capacity building programmes / promote the dissemination of good practices**



OSCE Role and Activities: concrete examples

- **Examples of capacity-building/awareness raising activities: ‘UNECE Harmonization Convention’ & Annexes 1-9: Moscow (2006), Belgrade (2006), Almaty (2007), Tbilisi (2007), Kyiv (2007), Astana (2009)**
- **Railway safety and infrastructure development issues: Ashgabat (2008), to be followed by a study visit in 2009**
- **Opening of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe in May 2009, UNECE as a possible affiliate**



OSCE Role and Activities: food for thought

- **Project idea: A regional conference on border-crossing facilitation along railway corridors in Central Asia, possibility to involve TER/TEM member countries in a follow-up event in fall/winter**
- **OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan: training of customs officials (two projects in economic sphere, permitting funding)**



OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders (1)

The aim is:

- To support OSCE countries in their efforts to make their BCPs more efficient, taking into account trade and transport facilitation as well as security needs
- To become a reference document for national policy makers and senior customs and border guard officials when drafting their border and transit transportation facilitation policies



OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders (2)

Specifically, it should:

- **Support drafting of border management and transit policies**
- **Promote a balanced approach, paying due attention to facilitation and security needs**
- **Highlight concrete and practical examples from across the OSCE region**
- **Foster further dialogue on these issues in the OSCE region**



OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders (3)

Rationale:

- Main focus will be on 'policy processes' preceding 'best practices' at the border
- It will pay particular attention to EU-CIS as well as intra-CIS borders (i.e. in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia)



OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders (4)

Envisaged structure:

- **Part I: Border Policies**
- **Part II: The need for an integrated approach**
- **Part III: Institutional and legal framework**
- **Part IV: Border Operations**
- **Part V: Border Infrastructure and resources**
- **Part VI: Performance measurement and Benchmarking**



OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders (5)

Partnership:

- **The Handbook is a joint endeavor of the OSCE and the UNECE. Other organizations such as the WCO, the World Bank, the ILO, the IOM, the EC, EurAsEC, BSEC and others have also been engaged and asked to provide input**
- **Senior international experts have been hired to draft the Handbook under the coordination of the OSCE/ECE**



OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders (6)

Timeframe:

- **Two “stakeholders meetings” involving the Customs/Border Guard and transport authorities in the region were held in October 2008 in Minsk and Bishkek**
- **Based on the input received, a decision was made on the overall structure and approach, a detailed Table of Contents has been agreed upon**
- **The Handbook is expected to be ready by mid 2009, capacity-building follow-up is foreseen**



The way ahead: policy-level

- **The Handbook, and particularly the part on benchmarking and performance measurement could be brought to the attention of the Ministers and high-level policy makers at the 2009 May Forum in Leipzig**
- **Proposals, feed-back are welcome!**



In conclusion

- **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, with other partner organizations such as ECO**



Thank you for your attention!

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