



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Executive Secretary

Under-Secretary-General

ECE/TRANS/376/2009/L

25 September 2009

Dear Madam Ambassador,

The secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has recently received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva. The note (enclosed upon the request of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan) concerns the "Joint Study on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages" published in 2008 (available in hard copy or in electronic format at http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/min_study.htm).

As you may be aware, the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) project was a joint undertaking between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The UNECE and UNESCAP, in turn, worked very closely with governments of the Euro-Asian area. In particular, the governments of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan each nominated a national focal point in order to fully participate in this initiative.

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Her Excellency
Mrs. Marie-Louise Overvad
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN Office at Geneva
1211 GENEVA 19
Switzerland



Between 2003 and 2008, the EATL project identified the main Euro-Asian inland transport routes, prioritized infrastructure projects, developed a GIS database, analyzed non-physical obstacles to transport, organized six national capacity-building workshops and published the "Joint Study on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages".

The "Joint Study" is an in-depth evaluation of major land and land-cum-sea transport corridors between Asia and Europe. It was a collaborative effort of the United Nations and national focal points nominated by the participating governments. More specifically, Annex I which contains country reports describing road, railway and inland water transport networks was prepared by the 18 national focal points and revised for structure and style by UNECE and UNESCAP staff. Throughout the "Joint Study" preparation process, all 18 national focal points were continuously kept informed and were requested to provide comments on each draft. The last pre-publication draft version of the "Joint Study" (including Annex I) was also submitted to the 18 national focal points for final approval.

Following the request of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the UNECE secretariat intends to post the enclosed note verbale and its attachments (in English and Russian) in the electronic version of the "Joint Study" and insert paper copies into the remaining, undistributed hard copies of the "Joint Study". The UNECE secretariat will also make these documents available at the next session of the Inland Transport Committee in February 2010.

Should you require more information, do not hesitate to contact Robert Nowak (by e-mail Robert.Nowak@unece.org or by phone at +41 22 917 12 67) who is responsible for the Euro-Asian Transport Links Phase II initiative.

I remain, dear Madam Ambassador,
Yours sincerely,


Ján Kubiš