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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 5–7 September 2022

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Development of transport networks and/or links:

Euro-Asian Transport Links

Round Table to take stock of the operational rail freight capacity of the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Istanbul corridors

6 September 2022, 15:00 – 18:00 CET – Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXI

Submitted by the secretariat

I. Mandate

The [Inland Transport Committee \(ITC\)](#), at its eighty-fourth session in Geneva, in February 2022, acknowledged the ongoing efforts on the operationalization of Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL). ITC also noted endorsement by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) of the initiative of the Governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Türkiye, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine to develop and implement an EATL Route 3 Corridor Coordination Management Mechanism (CCMM) and Corridor Performance Review (COPR) Mechanism and invited these Governments and the secretariat to provide an update on progress made at the next ITC session in February 2023.

It is with the above mandate in mind that the UNECE secretariat jointly with the secretariat of the [Economic Cooperation Organization \(ECO\)](#) is organizing a **Round Table discussion to take stock of the operational rail capacity of the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Istanbul corridors**. Working document [ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2022/1](#) has been prepared as a background analysis for these discussions.

II. Objectives

The Expert Round Table will gather senior railway, transport, and customs officials from countries on both corridors and will be expected to lead to a prioritized list of actions to be taken in relation to the harmonization of existing tariffs, services, and time schedules and already documented physical/ non-physical challenges and bottlenecks.

It will provide a platform for participants to:

- To discuss the availability of reliable corridor-wide agreed timetables and tariffs as well as en route border crossing point efficiency for rail freight transport on both the Trans-Caspian and the Almaty-Istanbul corridors.
- To agree on a prioritized list of actions to be taken in relation to harmonization of existing tariffs, services, and time schedules and to overcome remaining physical/non-physical challenges and bottlenecks.
- To facilitate the regular container block train operations on both corridors.

III. Draft programme

15:00-15:10 - Welcoming Remarks:

Mr. Yuwei Li, Director, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE

Mr. Akbar Khodaei, Director, Transport and Communications Department, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

15:10 – 15:20 –Setting the scene – Current state-of-affairs of Euro-Asian inland transport connectivity

Mr. Roel Janssens, Secretary, Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE

15:20 – 16:45 – Panel discussion I – Concrete next steps towards reliable, corridor-wide agreed timetables and tariffs

Discussion kick-off by:

Mrs. Sandra Gehenot, Freight Director, International Union of Railways (UIC)

Mr. Alberto Grisone, Director, HUPAC Intermodal SA

Co-facilitators: *Mr. Roel Janssens, UNECE Sustainable Transport Division and Mr. Rati Devadze, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia*

Panellists:

Mr. Aibek Kapar, Deputy CEO for logistics, KTZ Express JSC, Kazakhstan

Mr. Natiq Jafaerov, Director, ADY Container LLC, Azerbaijan Railways

Mr. Mikheil Ukleba, Head of Business Development and International Relations, Georgian Railways

Mr. Naci Özçelik, Head of Department, State Railway Transport Company (TCDD), Türkiye

Mr. Morteza Jafari, Vice President for Commerce and Operations, (Islamic Republic) of Iran Railways

Mr. Otabek Irkabaev, Head, Railway Transport Development Department, Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan

16:45 – 17:45 – Panel discussion II – Concrete next steps towards efficient, harmonized en route border crossing and customs services

Co-facilitators: *Mr. Roel Janssens, UNECE Sustainable Transport Division and Mr. Rati Devadze, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia*

Panellists:

Mr. Javad Gasimov, Deputy Chairman, State Customs Committee, Azerbaijan

Mr. Burak Serkan Yaşar, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Trade/ Directorate of Customs, Türkiye

Mrs. Irina Sigua, International Relations Department, Revenue Service of Georgia

Mr. Azamjon Ergashev, Head of Division, General Department of Customs Control and Clearance, State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan

Mr. Seyed Ziaeddin Moosavi, TIR & Transit Expert, Customs Administration, (Islamic Republic of) Iran

17:45 – 18:00 – Conclusions and next steps

18:00 – End of Round Table
