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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Inland Transport Committee**

#### **Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics**

##### **Thirty-sixth session**

Geneva, 4–6 September 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

##### **Inter-regional workshop on multimodal transport corridor management**

## **Inter-regional workshop on multimodal transport corridor management**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **I. Background**

1. This inter-regional workshop on “multimodal transport corridor management” is being held on 4 September 2023 (from 15:00-18:00 CET) as part of the WP.5 cluster of work on “development of transport networks and/ or links” and as per the request of the Working Party at its thirty-fifth session in 2022 inviting the secretariat to continue holding and facilitating consultations on targeted topics of interregional interest.
2. The workshop, which is gathering interested stakeholders, including from ministries in charge of transport, national railway undertakings, transport infrastructure managers and operators as well as private sector associations, NGOs, and academia is supported by the five United Nations regional commissions (ECE, ESCAP<sup>1</sup>, ESCWA<sup>2</sup>, ECA<sup>3</sup> and ECLAC<sup>4</sup>).
3. Considering the request by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eighty-fifth session to hold consultations with the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) on the establishment of coordination mechanisms for the management of international transport corridors, OSJD and OTIF as well as other relevant regulatory international and regional stakeholders will share their experience in this area.

#### **II. Rationale and scope**

4. A transport corridor is often described as a “coordinated bundle of transport and logistics infrastructure and services that facilitates trade and transport flows between major centers of economic activity” (World Bank, 2014). Efficient transport corridors tend to be

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<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

<sup>3</sup> Economic Commission for Africa

<sup>4</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

coordinated by a national or regional body constituted by public or private sector stakeholders or a combination of the two. Across the globe, interest in utilizing a corridor approach and the benefits this brings to transport and trade facilitation has increased significantly in recent years. Practically all regions of the world, developed and developing, tend to have trade and transport corridor initiatives underway, some more effective than others.

5. With the initiation of any transport corridor project, it is often necessary to establish what international, regional, or bilateral legal instruments the corridor countries are party to that could affect the operation and performance of the corridor as a whole. Sharing the same instruments contributes to shaping a common vision and achieving smooth or seamless corridor operations. Generally, being a contracting party to international legal instruments and properly implementing their provisions are important because they ensure a degree of harmonization and simplification that facilitates transport and trade processes.<sup>5</sup> Many of the sixty international legal instruments in the field of transport under purview of the ECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) contribute to corridor operationalization<sup>6,7</sup>.

6. While transport corridor management typically entails multiple inter-related activities including planning, financing, legislation, regulation, operation, monitoring, and promotion (Arnold, 2006), this workshop will focus only on legal, institutional, and regulatory aspects of corridor management. It will offer a platform for the exchange of valuable lessons learned in terms of corridor management approaches among policy makers and stakeholders in Europe, Asia, the Near and Middle East, Africa, and Latin America regions.

### III. Objectives

7. The workshop is expected to provide a platform for participants to:
- Exchange views on latest trends, opportunities, and challenges in the field of multimodal transport corridor management with a focus on legal, institutional, and regulatory aspects, across regions.
  - Discuss the role of introducing a formalized corridor management mechanism as a tool to reduce levels of regulatory and institutional fragmentation thereby boosting cross-country/corridor-wide operationalization efforts.
  - Identify universal recommendations and common principles for enhanced transport corridor management at regional and inter-regional levels.

### IV. Draft programme

**Moderator: Mr. Burak Aykan**, WP.5 Vice Chair and Director General for EU and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Türkiye

**15:00-15:30 – Setting the scene – Putting in place regulatory frameworks for multimodal corridor management**

**Speakers:**

**Ms. Iris Gries**, Senior Legal Advisor, Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)

**Ms. Diana Iurkovski**, Member of the Committee from Romania, Expert of the Commission for Transport and Strategy Development, Organisation for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD)

**15:30–16:30 – Lessons learned from corridor management approaches in the Euro-Asian region**

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<sup>5</sup> Source: World Bank Trade and Transport Corridor Management Toolkit (2014)

<sup>6</sup> A complete overview is available here: <https://unece.org/transport/legal-instruments>.

<sup>7</sup> Also see: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/1

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Salih Erdemci**, EU Expert, Directorate General for EU Affairs and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Türkiye

**Mr. Anton Kozlov**, Head, Foreign Projects and International Cooperation Department, JSC Russian Railways

**Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Representative of Uzbekistan (tbc)

**16:30–16:45 – Lessons learned from corridor management approaches in the Middle East/ North Africa region**

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Yarob Badr**, Regional Adviser on Transport and Logistics, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

**16:45-17:00 – Corridor management approaches in the Africa region**

**Speaker:**

**Mr. Mohamed Ayadi**, Secretary General, Trans-Saharan Road Corridor

**17:00-17:30 – Corridor management in the Latin America region**

**Speakers:**

**Minister João Carlos Parkinson de Castro**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil

**Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin**, Economic Affairs Officer, Infrastructure and Logistic Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America

**17:30-17:45 – Funding opportunities for multimodal transport corridor management**

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Nazar Mohamed Eltahir Diab**, Senior Regional Integration Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Other multilateral development banks

**17:45-18:00 – Discussion, wrap-up and next steps by WP.5 Vice-Chair/ secretariat**

**18:00 – End of workshop**

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