

OSCE activities aimed at facilitating transport and trade across the region

**Presentation by
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**Third Expert Group Meeting and Inter-Regional Workshop
on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Links
(11-13 November 2009, Istanbul)**

The OSCE

- **Regional security organization that includes 56 participating States from Europe, Central Asia, South Caucasus and North America;**
- **Comprehensive concept of security, including economic and environmental aspects;**
- **Promotes dialogue and acts as a catalyst on various security related aspects in order to build confidence and strengthen co-operation.**



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



Outline of the Presentation

- **18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**
- **Relevant OSCE documents**
- **OSCE role and activities - specific examples**



The 18th Economic and Environmental Forum

THEME:

“Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region”

Priority of the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE

DATES:

- 1st Preparatory Conference: 12-13 October 2009, Astana
- **18th EEF, Part I: 1-2 February 2010, Vienna**
- 2nd Preparatory Conference: 15-16 March 2010, Minsk
- **18th EEF, Part II: 24-26 May 2010, Prague**

The 18th Economic and Environmental Forum (2)

The **agendas** of the two segments of the Forum **would focus on:**

- Best practices and **good governance at border crossings and in customs procedures**, as part of border management, including the aspects of rule of law, transparency, integrity, co-ordination and harmonization;
- **Facilitation of international land-transport** and cross-border operations, paying due attention to the specific needs of **landlocked developing countries**, in order to strengthen economic co-operation during the current economic downturn;
- Safeguarding of the **security of the international transport circuit**, including the fight against transnational crime, terrorism and trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings;
- Impact of transportation on **environment** and security;

The Forum will also **review** the implementation of OSCE commitments related to the facilitation of international transport and the security of inland transport



The 18th Economic and Environmental Forum (3)

Astana Conference - Preliminary recommendations:

- There is a need for Governments to rationalize and harmonize their approaches at the regional level;
- Legislation, policies and agreements have to be reflected in day to day practices;
- Container block trains, vehicle caravans are practical tools to assess and stimulate transit potential of the region & at the same time raise political will;



The 18th Economic and Environmental Forum (4)

- Public Private Partnerships are instrumental both for fundraising and policy co-ordination & information exchange purposes;
- Prevention of corruption in customs and border agencies is a key element;

TO BE ELABORATED at the First Part of the Forum in Vienna!



OSCE Transport Dialogue

- **2006 - 14th OSCE Economic Forum under Belgian Chairmanship, focused on transport security and development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability;**
- **Led to the adoption of Ministerial Council Decision 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 transportation 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

- Encourages the promotion of dialogue and exchanges of good practices on transport and broader transport-related issues;
- Supporting ongoing coordination mechanisms such as the EATL, TEM/TER, TRACECA etc.



OSCE Border Security and Management Concept

- **Adopted by the Ljubljana Ministerial Council in 2005, provides a framework for the OSCE to assist its participating States (pS) in enhancing Border Security and Management 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 Role and Activities

- **Regional & national capacity-building/awareness raising activities on the UNECE Harmonization Convention & Annexes 1-9, WCO materials, other transport facilitation issues: Moscow, Belgrade (2006), Almaty, Tbilisi, Kyiv (2007), Astana (2009);**
- **Conference on Transit Transportation through Central Asia (Dushanbe, October 2007);**
- **Opening of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe in May 2009 (regional scope);**



OSCE Role and Activities (2)

- **Regional South Caucasus seminar on the promotion of good governance in the field of transport infrastructure development (5-6 November 2009);**
- **OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan: training of customs / border officials;**
- **Conduct border assessment missions, raise awareness, develop capacity building programmes/ promote dissemination of good practices;**
- **OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (in preparation).**



Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings

The goal:

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



Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (2)

- **Currently being drafted by a team of international experts, under overall co-ordination of the OSCE Secretariat + UNECE;**
- **Finalization is expected by the beginning of 2010;**
- **Capacity Building follow up is foreseen upon request and permitting funding!**



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 co-operation with partners;**
- **Transport dialogue will be a priority in 2010 under the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE.**



Thank you for your attention!

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