



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**24th session of Working Party on
Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)**



**EATL Project
Progress Report
September 2011**

**Michalis Adamantiadis
Chief, Transport Facilitation and Economics Section**



Historical Review

Phase I

Project's foundation and first steps of implementation

- 18 countries involved
- 4 EGM (Almaty 2004, Odessa 2004, Istanbul 2005, Thessaloniki 2006)
- Common methodology, prioritization of EATL routes and projects
 - Non-physical obstacles addressed
- Part of UNDA project- integration into global interregional links
 - UNECE-UNESCA Study published
- Ministerial meeting 70th session of the ITC

Phase II


Update, extension, further development

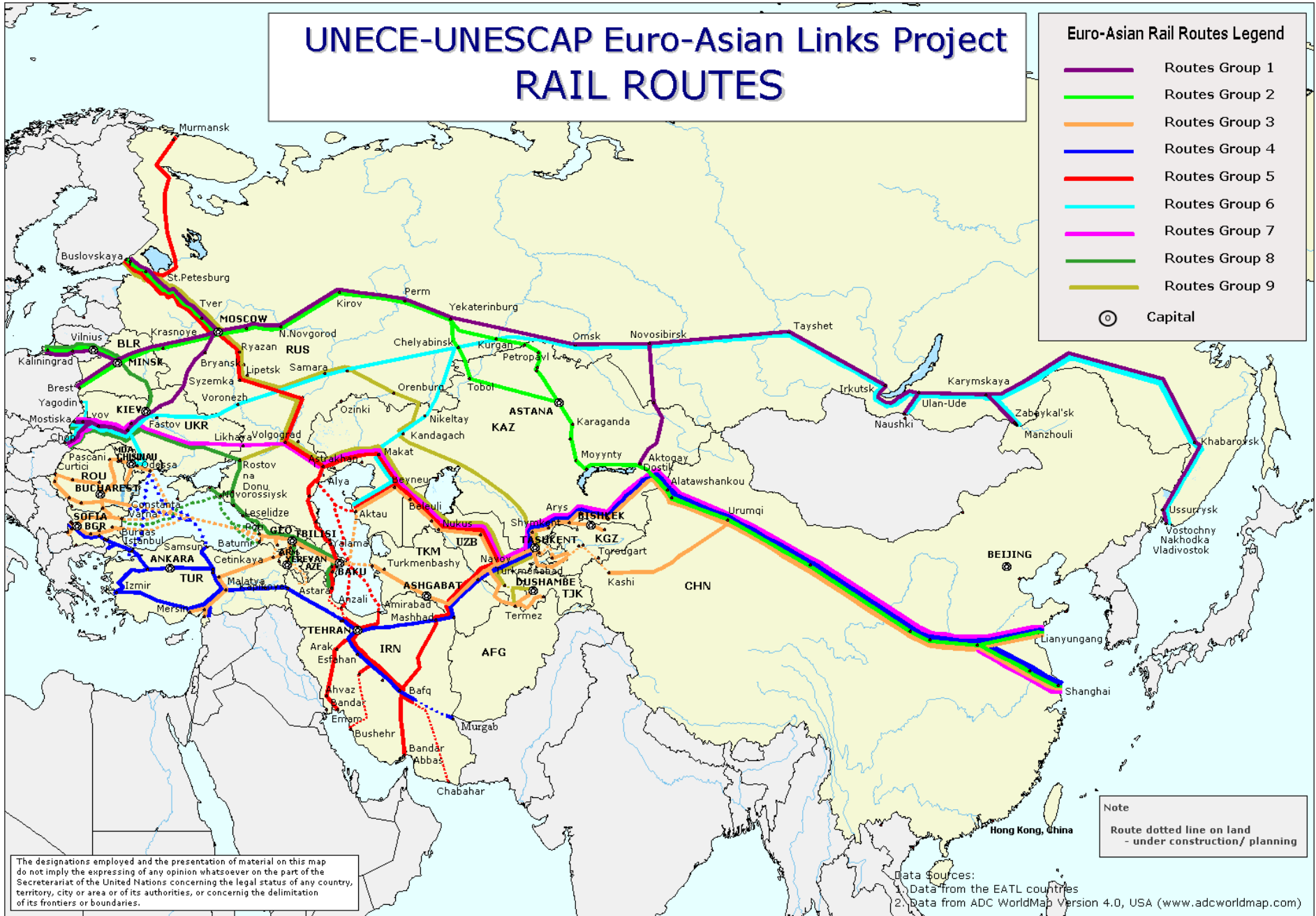
- EG established 2008-2010
- Mandate extended till February 2012
- 27 NFP nominated
- Funding from the Russian Federation
- 6 EGM (Geneva, 2008, 2009, 2010, Istanbul 2009, Tashkent 2010, Almaty 2011) - 7th EGM Astrakhan, 13-14 October 2011
- 1 sub regional workshop with ECO, Tehran 2009,
- 2 interregional workshops with BSEC, Istanbul 2009, and with OSCE Turkmenbashi 2010,
- Work based on agreed and focused work plan

UNECE-UNESCAP Euro-Asian Links Project RAIL ROUTES

Euro-Asian Rail Routes Legend

- Routes Group 1
- Routes Group 2
- Routes Group 3
- Routes Group 4
- Routes Group 5
- Routes Group 6
- Routes Group 7
- Routes Group 8
- Routes Group 9

 Capital



Note
Route dotted line on land
- under construction/ planning

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expressing of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Data sources:
1. Data from the EATL countries
2. Data from ADC WorldMap Version 4.0, USA (www.adcworldmap.com)



EATL Phase I - Prioritization of projects

- In total 230 projects were included in Phase I for a total value of \$ 43 bill. of which:
 - 230 projects – Total value 43 bill. \$
 - 112 **road** projects / about 13 billion \$
 - 68 **rail** projects / about 23 billion \$
 - 37 **maritime** projects / about 7 billion \$
- 50% projects had secured funding (Priority I-implementation by 2010) representing 50% of total cost

15 countries involved



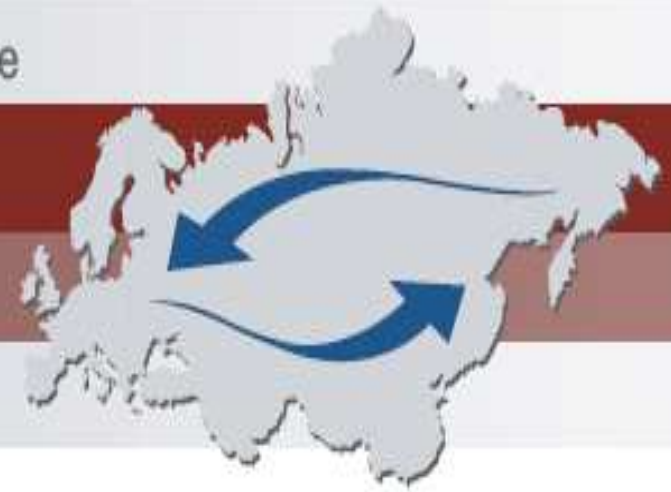
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

70th Session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee



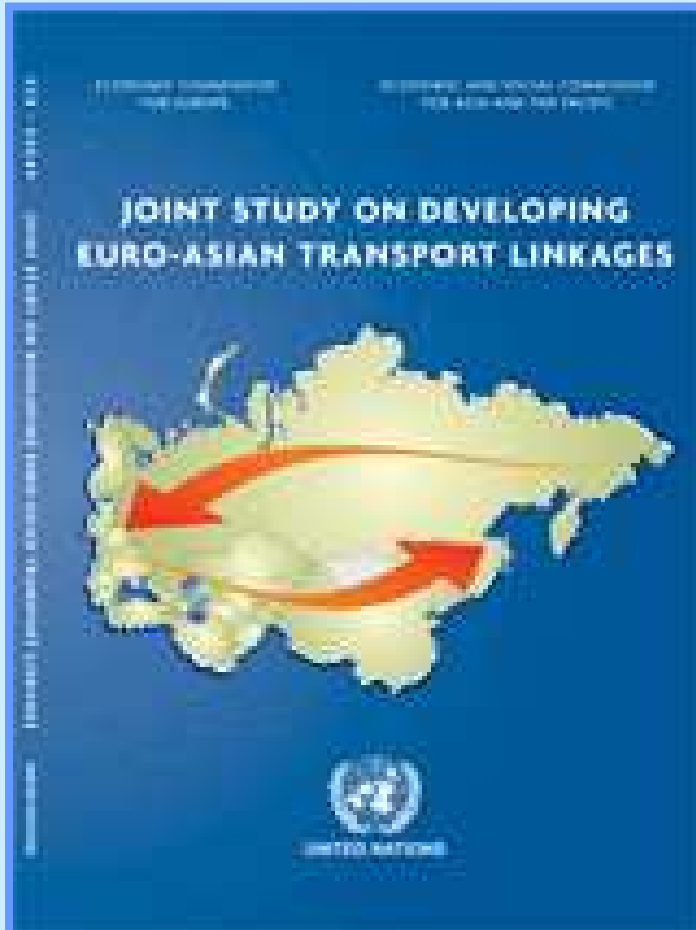
Euro-Asian Transport Links Ministerial Meeting

19-21 February 2008 | Geneva, Switzerland





Joint Study on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages



Presents in-depth evaluation of major land and land-cum-sea transport corridors between Asia and Europe and attempts to determine their potential viability;

Country reports on highway, railway, and inland water transport networks, with relevant details on seaport connections for multimodal transport operations;

Conclusions and recommendations;

Prepared by ECE-ESCAP based on inputs from National Focal Points and support from external consultants;

English - Russian

Interregional transport linkages

UNDA funded global capacity-building project (2003-2007)

ECE-ESCAP/ESCWA-ECA

Priority Interregional rail transport and maritime linkages





Main tasks of the EATL EG

Monitor and coordinate EATL developments

- Wider geographical coverage;
- Continue projects' prioritization and implementation
- Put emphasis on facilitation aspects;
- Further develop and update GIS database;
- Compare inland transport options with maritime;
- Promote harmonized legislation and procedures;
- Strengthen capacities of national officials;
- Improve operational performance, including border crossing.



EATL Phase II achievements

Phase II

Update, extension,
further development

1. *SWOT Analysis: Useful information on strong and weak points of EATL inland transport links, potential for further development and threats;*
2. *Study transport statistics, flows and trends showed: Rapid growth of Europe- Asian trade, increasing inter Asian trade trends;*
3. *Phase I priority projects reviewed: 54 % completed, 23 % with longer implementation time-frame, now part of EATL Phase II);*
4. *EATL priority routes and EATL ports, transshipment points and terminals: Extended to include the 9 newly involved counties;*
5. *404 projects proposed - total cost US\$ 246 billion.*
 - *287 projects along EATL routes with US\$ 189 billion cost and*
 - *117 projects are of national importance with US\$ 57 billion cost;*



EATL Phase II achievements, (cont'd)

Phase II

Update, extension,
further development

6. Comparison study of Euro-Asian maritime routes with selected rail routes: *In five out of the nine scenarios, rail transport performs better than maritime for both the cost and time!*
7. Collection and processing of huge volume of GIS data finalized and web based GIS application is ongoing: *New GIS maps prepared for the EATL region and each country involved.*
8. Analytical work on non-physical obstacles to transport along the Euro-Asian Transport routes is ongoing. *One thousand questionnaires have been sent to EATL road, rail and combined transport operators, supply chains managers, forwarders and important shippers seeking inputs on existing problems and potential solutions along the EATL routes used.*

UNECE Euro-Asian Links Project Phase II Extensions of Road Routes



UNECE Euro-Asian Links Project Phase II Extensions of Rail Routes



UNECE Euro-Asian Links Project Phase II Rail Routes



Legend

- Route Group 1
- Route Group 2
- Route Group 3
- Route Group 4
- Route Group 5
- Route Group 6
- Route Group 7
- Route Group 8
- Route Group 9



EATL Phase II work plan review

Expected Accomplishment	Main Activity	Detailed description of actions	2008	2009	2010 (tentative)	2011 (tentative)
<p>1. An appropriate mechanism for coordination and monitoring of the development of the Euro-Asian transport links among countries, transport related international governmental and non governmental organizations</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Armenia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>EC, ITF, BSEC, IRF, TRACECA, ECO, OSCE, CAREC, EurAsec, OASEA, OHRLL, WB, EBRD, EIB, EIB, ADB, IsDB, UIC, IRU, ICC, FIATA, UIRR, IRF, Europlatforms, OSZhD, SCO, WCO, WTO</p>	1.1. Establish the Expert Group of National Focal Points and Experts from ECE-ESCAP countries and international organizations concerned.	<p>(i) Invite all ECE countries and ESCAP countries involved in Phase I and organizations to designate National Focal Points and Experts</p> <p>(ii) Establish, update and disseminate the list of NFP & Experts involved</p> <p>(iii) Encourage participation of more countries, such as Poland, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Scandinavian and Baltic countries, Pakistan, India, USA, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea</p>	X	X	-	-
	1.2 Develop EATL overall coordination and monitoring with the participation of all parties concerned	<p>(i) Invite countries to submit information about their transport investment plans and implementation;</p> <p>(ii) Based on country inputs develop a consolidated status report;</p> <p>(iii) Subject to available funding study and analyse the implementation rate, reasons of progress or lack of progress</p>	-	X	X	X
	1.3 Organize meetings of the Expert Group (EGM) and other interregional meetings with the participation of NFPs and other parties concerned.	<p>(i) 1st EGM Geneva, Sept. 08</p> <p>(ii) 2nd EGM Beijing, June 09 (combined with interregional workshop).</p> <p>(iii) 3rd EGM Geneva Sept. 09</p> <p>(iv) 1-2 EGMs per year in 2010 and 2011</p>	X	X	X	X
	1.4 Explore synergies and coordinate actions with other initiatives that are implemented by international regional and sub-regional organizations and bodies concerned. Promote and share best practices of national governments and international organizations in the area of international transport and border crossing facilitation.	<p>Identify areas for possible cooperation with all parties concerned, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EurAsec, CAREC, OSCE, TRACECA, ECO, SCO, BSEC with regard to regional integration transport activities - TEM, TER and EU TEN-T with regard to transport corridor and networks - Subject to available funding study the feasibility for revised road, rail and intermodal transport network agreement (AGR, AGC, AGTC, AH, TAR) 	-	X	X	X

2. Coordinated planning and development of efficient, safe and secure land and	2.1. Review, extend and update priority routes and projects identified in Phase I while using the	(i) Collect country information on priority routes through uniform questionnaire (ii) Subject to country inputs revise the EATL priority routes	-	-
land-cum-sea Euro-Asian transport links; evaluated and prioritized infrastructure projects along main Euro-Asian transport routes.	best available methodology and considering links to major national transport axes	Subject to country inputs update the list of EATL priority projects based on country inputs through uniform questionnaires and templates with a view to developing an interregional investment plan.	-	X
	2.2 Conduct/consolidate studies to identify and analyse economically viable inland transport options; examine non-physical obstacles and recommend ways to improve them; collect and analyse statistics on transport flows	(i) Conduct a SWOT analysis for EATL inland connections with inputs from the members of the Expert Group	-)
		(ii) Collect and consolidate data on transport flows, statistics trends on EATL from the countries and other international bodies using uniform questionnaires offering synergies to the E-road and E-rail censuses	-)
		(iii) Study, compare and analyse EATL inland transport options that complement existing maritime routes	-)
		(iv) Study and analyse non-physical obstacles to international transport along the EATL routes and recommend ways to eliminating them (activity in conjunction with those under 3.1)	-)
2.3 Present a list of priority projects for gradual implementation by the countries involved, in cooperation with IFI's, international organizations, including IRF and TRACECA, and donors primarily based on EATL Phase I results	Take part in such meetings aimed at promoting priority projects	-)	

<p>3. Strengthened national capacities to facilitate international transport and transit including border crossing, share experience and best practice along the Euro-Asian transport routes</p>	<p>3.1 Organize sub-regional workshops to promote project's objectives, improve the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement international conventions, and the Almaty Plan of Action Plan, exploring possibilities to holding them back to back with other related meetings (SPECA, BSEC, TRACECA, etc.)</p>	<p>(i) 1st Workshop, Teheran for ECO region, April 2009 (ii) In BSEC region, 2009-2010 (iii) 2 workshops in 2010-2011</p> <p>(i) Identify and recommend the most relevant international transport facilitation conventions to which respective countries should accede in order to facilitate interregional transport of passengers and goods. (ii) Introduce indicators of project success e.g. harmonization Convention accepted by all EATL countries by 2011 (iii) Contribute to their implementation monitoring</p>
	<p>3.3 Provide advisory services to EATL participating countries with transition economies on border crossing facilitation</p>	<p>Advisory missions to EATL countries with transition economies combined with sub-regional workshops when possible for follow-up of national actions in promoting project's objective, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assistance in formulation of national transport facilitation action plans – when possible as part of trade and transport plans - support of establishment of national transport and trade facilitation committees.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consultation about the OSCE-UNECE border crossing performance measurement methodology and its piloting out - capacity building on investment planning, investment project appraisal methodologies (see UNECE methodologies).
	<p>3.4 Support and cooperate with initiatives to promote identified EATL routes with the aid of demonstration runs of block trains etc.</p>	<p>(i) Develop cooperation in support of ongoing initiatives with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECO Istanbul -Teheran - Almaty rail route, and its possible extension to China; - BSEC Ring Highway; - Analysis/corridor performance; - North South rail route; - DB pilot rail route China-Germany; - TRACECA; Other <p>(ii) Analyse results in collaboration with respective countries and partners and disseminate/publish findings</p>



EATL Phase II work plan review

<p>4. Further developed and updated Geographic Information System (GIS) database</p>	<p>4.1. Review, update and extend the existing GIS database, including technical specifications of the transport infrastructure and related facilities (border crossing, priority projects and their implementation status, investment plans) based on country contributions</p>	<p>Collect required contributions from countries on the GIS database</p> <p>Subject to quality of information update of the GIS database and the updated list of priority projects.</p>
<p>5. Project results are disseminated</p>	<p>5.1 Reporting and disseminating project results, recommendations and long-term strategies based on lessons learned</p>	<p>(i) Elaborate and publish the final report of the work</p> <p>(ii) Constantly update the existing WP.5/EG.2 (EATL Phase II) webpage with information about the progress and results of the work</p> <p>(iii) Disseminate information through participation and/or organizing under UNECE auspices of a final interregional event to promote the results, share best practices and experience and ensure sustainability of the work</p>



Issues for consideration

1. Conclusions and strategic objectives set clearly indicate that there is considerable merit in continuing the work in a new Phase III;
2. Ensuring political commitment and obtaining strong impetus seems essential;
3. Organizing a EATL Meeting of Minister of Transport that would endorse the work of Phase II – wider disseminate results – give political support
4. A country should host and support it;
5. Partial funding for the continuation beyond 2010 has been ensured from the Government of the Russian Federation;
6. OSCE, BSEC, ECO cooperation and contribution is expected to continue since additional funding would be required;
7. Ways and means for closer links and interaction with TEM and TER Projects should be identified and promoted;
8. UNESCAP more active participation is highly desirable



Decisions taken by the EG 6th EATL EGM, Almaty, July 2011

(1/2)

1. Request WP.5, and through it, the ITC to **approve the extension of the EATL Group of Experts for 2 more years** with possibility of further extension in order to allow the group to **continue its work in a new EATL Phase III**;
2. **Thank the Government of the Russian Federation for funding the EATL** work throughout the whole Phase II of the project and for its readiness to continue funding it beyond 2010.
3. **Seek political support** and commitment from participating governments for the continuation of the EATL work in a new Phase III **through the organization of a meeting of Ministers of Transport of EATL counties**, and invite UNECE secretariat **to organize it in 2012 in one EATL member country** that would be ready to host and support it.
4. **Thank OSCE for its political support** and co-funding some of the activities of the project in the course of the last two years, and **invite it to consider continuing and further strengthening its support in future**, in close cooperation with UNECE secretariat.



Decisions taken by the EG 6th EATL EGM, Almaty, July 2011)

(2/2)

5. Invite the **Steering Committees of the TEM and TER Projects** and UNECE secretariat to explore practical ways **ensuring operational interaction of the TEM and TER Projects with EATL** for developing joint activities, elaborating studies and organizing joint events and initiatives aimed at promoting common objectives, for the benefit of the projects and their member counties.
6. Invite **governments, international governmental and non-governmental organization, IFIs, businesses and donors to consider co-funding future project activities.**
7. Invite **UNESCAP secretariat to take an active role in future work of the Expert Group in close cooperation with UNECE secretariat.**

WP.5 is requested to consider and support these decisions



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Thank you!

<http://live.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>