

**Sixth session of the  
Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links  
Almaty 5 - 7 July 2011**

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**LIST OF MAIN DECISIONS**

At its sixth session, the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links decided the following:

1. Approve the review, update and extension of the EATL priority routes and related maps prepared by the secretariat on the basis of country inputs covering twenty-seven countries involved, as reflected in Informal document No. 1 – Corr.2 and the maps circulated to the national focal points present and posted on the UNECE website before the session, as amended.
2. Approve the results of the projects prioritization exercise presented by the consultant and the related maps prepared by the secretariat on the basis of country inputs, as reflected in of the EATL Expert Group Report dated 1 July 2011 that was circulated to the national focal points and posted on the UNECE website before the session, as amended.
3. Adopt the draft report of the Group of Experts on implementing Phase II dated 1 July 2011, circulated to the national focal points and posted on the UNECE website before this session, as amended and improved.
4. Request the national focal points to communicate to UNECE secretariat, by 5th August 2011, at the latest, their final specific comments on the priority routes and maps; the results of the projects prioritization exercise and related maps; and the Draft Report of the Group of Experts on Implementing Phase II, together with the updated - or new country reports as appropriate (1000 words) - on the basis of the model sent by the secretariat.
5. Request UNECE secretariat to inform the national focal points of the countries that were not present, to also communicate their specific comments (above para. 4) to the secretariat by the set deadline.
6. In the absence of such comments (above para. 4) by the national focal points by the set deadline (5 August 2011) the related drafts to be considered as accepted.
7. Request UNECE secretariat to incorporate the comments and inputs received, together with any further improvements to be introduced by it, into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft report of the Expert Group and submit it to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) - copy to the national focal points - for its consideration and approval at its 24th session, 6-7 September 2011.
8. Following the next WP.5 session, a further elaborated and complete (3<sup>rd</sup> version) of the Draft report of the Expert Group to be submitted by the secretariat to the Expert Group for consideration and approval, at its 7<sup>th</sup> session.
9. Request WP.5, and through it, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to approve the extension of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links for two more years with possibility of further extension in order to allow the group to continue its work in a new EATL Phase III.

10. 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.
11. 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 countries, and invite UNECE secretariat to organize it in 2012, preferably in one EATL member countries that would be ready to host and support it.
12. Stress that in such a meeting, Ministers of EATL countries could reaffirm their support and commitment to the project by signing a possible joint statement endorsing the project results and pledging their support to the future development of the Euro-Asian transport links.
13. Thank OSCE for its political support and for co-funding and co-organizing 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, including with regard to the above mentioned Ministerial Meeting.
14. 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 countries.
15. Invite governments, international governmental and non-governmental organization, IFIs, businesses and donors to consider co-funding future project activities.
16. Invite UNESCAP secretariat to take an active role in future work of the Expert Group in close cooperation with UNECE secretariat.
17. Welcome the valuable work done by the OSCE-UNECE secretariats on the joint Handbook on best practices in border crossing, and invite OSCE to consider the an official launching of the Handbook at the next session of the group.
18. Welcome the offer by the Russian Federation to host the next session of the group in Astrakhan and decide to hold its seventh session in Astrakhan (Russia), tentatively scheduled on 24 – 25 October 2011.
19. Express its sincere gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan, the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for hosting this meeting in Almaty in such excellent conditions and providing the resource and financial support.
20. Adopt the list of main decision of its sixth session and request the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report to be circulated to the members of the group for comments on items other that those contained in the list of main decisions.

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