

Distr.: Restricted
30 October 2012

English only

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 6–7 November 2012

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

Pan-European developments in intermodal transport and transport policies

Strengthening intermodal transport in Turkey

Transmitted by the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of Turkey

Turkey, which aims to increase its exportation to 500 billion USD in the year 2023, the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic, is aware of the fact that an efficient transport system is an essential prerequisite to achieve this goal. Located on the most significant logistics hubs and transit countries in the region, Turkey, with a dynamic transport industry, therefore, seeks for a more balanced and efficient transport system rather than one which is overly dependent on road transport.

There is a serious imbalance within the national transport system of Turkey heavily based on use of road transport. Share of road transport in passenger and freight transport is more than 90 per cent. There is an urgent need of a policy framework for balanced utilization of transport modes. Any transport system that is heavily dominated by road transport is unsustainable due to congestion, negative impacts on the environment and difficulty of providing road safety at a constant increase in traffic volumes.

Turkey recognizes the need to establish a more balanced transport system and launched significant infrastructure investments and regulations to promote rail, maritime and air transport.

The development of economical, environmentally-friendly, uninterrupted and sustainable transport chains is our main objective. In the last 9 years, total public investment used for transport and communications infrastructure amounted to 48.7 billion Euro. Among the total public investment, the share of the transport sector is 34%. All these investment projects provide contributions towards developing an inter-modal transport network in the west-east and north-south directions. With the support of the well developed road, rail and port infrastructures, the regular international ro-ro lines from Turkey to Italy, France, Russian Federation, Romania, Ukraine and Georgia are already operated for a long time and are good examples of motorways of the sea in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.

Unfortunately, permit requirement for the vehicles using ro-ro lines, high Ro-La and ro-ro charges, long loading/unloading times for vessels and trains, congestion at the ports

andin the Istanbul Strait, complex Customs procedures still remain as threats to intermodal transport.

Besides that, in order to promote a balanced, environment-friendly, safer and sustainable transport system in Turkey and to ensure alignment with EU legislation as well as strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Transport for intermodal/combined transport, Turkey initiated an EU funded project entitled “Strengthening Intermodal Transport in Turkey” in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport of Spain.

The project has three main objectives:

(a) A draft Turkish legislation to promote and facilitate intermodal transport will be prepared at the end of the project. Intermodal EU legislation and member State policies are being reviewed, Turkish legislation was complied and meetings with public and private institutions were held to identify the problems and bottlenecks as well as the demand for intermodal transport. Two workshops were held to get acquainted with best practices and with EU legislation.

(b) A Turkish Intermodal Transport Strategy paper will be prepared at the end of the project.

(c) Capacity building at the Ministry was undertaken and training seminars were held. Until now more than hundred staff have been trained in different fields of intermodal transport. Also, two study visits were organized to Spain with participation of Turkish policy makers in order to best practices in Spain.

The Project is executed by the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications, in coordination with stakeholders from other public and private institutions. The project has a budget of 1 million Euro. The kick-off meeting was on 12 December 2011 and the duration of the project is two years.

Pursuant to Legislative Decree No 655 on the “Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications”, a new institution, “the Directorate General for Regulation of Dangerous Goods and Combined Transport “has been established in 2012, as the responsible body in Turkey for developing intermodal transport.

At the next session of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) in October 2013, Turkey will share the results of the project with other the UNECE member States.