





The OSCE's Role in Trade and Transport Facilitation

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14th OSCE Economic Forum

Belgian 2006 OSCE Chairmanship



- **Theme:** "Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability"

14th OSCE Economic Forum

Specific Problems of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries

- 2006 Economic Forum process highlighted, *among others*, the special needs of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) i.e. in Central Asia and South Caucasus

14th OSCE Economic Forum

Specific Problems of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries

- A lack of direct access to the sea, dependence on transit facilities and policies of their neighbors, additional border crossings, excessive distances to major markets, inadequate infrastructure and cumbersome procedures

14th OSCE Economic Forum

Specific Problems of OSCE Landlocked Developing Countries

- In response, the government of Tajikistan offered to host in fall 2007 a Conference on transit transport in Central Asia
- Proposal was supported by a joint statement of the five Central Asian states at the Economic Forum in Prague

Brussels Ministerial Council

December 2006

Decision No. 11/06

Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- OSCE participating States decided to support the Almaty Programme of Action (APA) with a view to improving the transit potential of LLDC by strengthening the regional political dialogue and by supporting the relevant UN structures in their capacity-building Programmes

Brussels Ministerial Council

December 2006

Decision No. 11/06

Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- To strengthen cooperation with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Brussels Ministerial Council December 2006

Decision No. 11/06 Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- To convene in fall 2007 an OSCE Conference on the prospects for development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia

Preparatory Expert Workshop

Vienna, December 2006

- Expert Workshop on the Specific Problems of Landlocked Countries Regarding Transit and Transportation
- Co-organized by OSCE and UN-OHRLLS in cooperation with relevant partners such as UNECE, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, ADB, IRU, WCO, EC, ICG TRACECA, ECMT, EurAsEC, UNDP and others

Preparatory Expert Workshop

Vienna, December 2006

- Improving inter-institutional co-ordination of activities regarding the implementation of APA
- Offering the opportunity to exchange views and share experiences on all issues related to transit and transportation in landlocked countries
- Identifying priority areas/topics to be dealt with at the Dushanbe Conference

Preparatory Expert Workshop Vienna, December 2006

CONCLUSIONS

Four priority areas were identified:

1. Transport corridors and infrastructure development
2. Trade, transit and transport facilitation measures
3. Financing
4. The role of the private sector

Preparatory Meetings (1)

- Two regional Conferences on promoting Good Governance in Customs: 14-15 May, Tbilisi (South Caucasus focus), 25-26 July, Almaty (Central Asia Focus)

Preparatory Meetings (2)

- 18 May, Poti, Georgia: IRU/OSCE round table on “Public Private Partnership in addressing transit transport issues in landlocked countries and their neighbours”
- More than 60 representatives of national road transport associations and business people from the Black Sea region, South Caucasus and Central Asia

Preparatory Meetings (3)

- 28 July, Almaty, "Expert Meeting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action"
- Participation: 30 senior officials of Ministries of Transport, Trade and Finance (i.e. customs) from the region
- Recommendations and conclusions to be presented at the Dushanbe Conference

The Dushanbe Conference

23-24 October 2007

- To raise awareness and enhance political dialogue on the development of transportation in and through Central Asia including the neighboring OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Cooperation

The Dushanbe Conference

- To take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the APA and contribute to the APA mid-term review process
- To identify ways and means to further improve the current situation in OSCE LLDC's and their transit neighbours
- Expected outcome: a conference declaration or joint statement between the Governments concerned committing to undertake certain actions and improve regional transit transport cooperation

The Dushanbe Conference

- The Dushanbe Conference should be seen as part of a process of enhanced regional cooperation in trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation continuing into 2008, in line with the MC Decision

Thank you for your attention

The image shows three vertical flags on poles against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Each flag is white with a blue vertical band containing the letters 'OSCE' in white. The flags are positioned at different heights and are slightly tilted. A white rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing two lines of black text.

www.osce.org/eea
www.un.org/ohrlls