

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP ON
TRANSPORT AND BORDER CROSSING¹**

18-19 June, 2014
Almaty, Kazakhstan

¹ This report has been issued without formal editing

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Following the presentation and consideration of the session documents as stipulated in the Agenda of the 19th session of SPECA PWG-TBC, the Project Working Group arrived at the following conclusions and recommendations:
2. The SPECA PWG-TBC adopted the report of the 18th session.
3. The PWG encouraged those SPECA countries that have not yet done so to take measures towards acceptance, approval, accession or ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway (AH) network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) network. The PWG invited SPECA countries that are parties to the agreements to consider proposing amendments to the AH and TAR networks in order to reflect the latest developments of infrastructure development planning at the subsequent meetings of the respective Working Groups.
4. The PWG also encouraged SPECA countries to take necessary actions to become Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and to participate actively in the UNESCAP secretariat's activities related to the development of dry ports of international importance.
5. The PWG invited SPECA countries to exchange information with the UNESCAP secretariat on a regular basis on the latest status of key national and regional road and rail infrastructure projects, and provide the secretariat with information on ongoing and/or planned initiatives aiming at developing dry ports of international importance in their respective countries, including issues and challenges.
6. The PWG gave its support to the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) work plan; it encouraged Governments to participate more actively in the activities of the EATL Group of Experts and invited them, as well as other donors, to contribute to the EATL budget, preferably on a project basis.

7. The PWG reaffirmed the importance of the international legal instruments and invited SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede to and effectively implement them.
8. The PWG encouraged concerned SPECA countries to proceed swiftly with the signing of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Agreement on Facilitation of International Road Transport. It also advised SPECA countries to conceive and plan the facilitation measures in line with the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport to achieve synergies among facilitation measures.
9. The PWG invited SPECA countries to delegate members to the UNESCAP Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation and to further participate in its activities.
10. The PWG invited SPECA countries to think about introducing new technologies in the implementation of the UN Conventions by joining those allowing electronic information processing (Additional protocol to CMR [e-CMR], e-TIR).
11. The PWG highlighted the need to identify any outstanding issues related to the accession to and implementation of the transport-related international legal instruments, and requested UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats to provide assistance in assessing the implications of acceding to and implementing them.
12. The PWG encouraged the relevant government authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to support further implementation of the UN Development Account (UNDA) Project on the application of the transport facilitation toolkit and, in particular, to support the clusters' activities for practical implementation of action plans on transport facilitation at both national and corridor levels. It encouraged SPECA countries to use other UNESCAP transport facilitation tools and took note of the handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings, jointly published by UNECE and OSCE.
13. The PWG welcomed the initiative of the Kazakh Transport Research Institute (NII TK) on the preparation of the overview of the transport sector in the SPECA countries

and requested SPECA countries to provide basic statistical data on road transport flow through key border crossing points one month before the annual meeting of the PWG-TBC. The PWG also welcomed further capacity building initiatives on transport statistics for the SPECA region.

14. The PWG was provided with information on developments in Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in SPECA countries (revised legislation, institutional arrangements and so on) and on specific transport projects, including development of infrastructure at border-crossing points, procured through this mechanism. It encouraged SPECA countries to pursue policy measures to create the appropriate environment for the development of public-private partnerships and to strengthen the training programmes for government officials and other relevant stakeholders by taking advantage of training materials on PPPs prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP.
15. The PWG invited SPECA countries to take actions to respond to the Decade of Action for Road Safety and to continue to mobilize resources for road safety activities. It also emphasized the need for collection of quality road safety data to facilitate the regular monitoring of progress in improving road safety at national and regional levels.
16. The Project Working Group noted with great interest the presentations made by the representatives of SPECA Member States on transport infrastructure and facilitation projects, activities and initiatives at the national level implemented and being implemented in line with the Almaty Programme of Action. It requested such presentations be made regularly, if possible during each session of the PWG, in view of making SPECA Member countries and other stakeholders in the region aware of the activities undertaken for the facilitation of transport in their immediate neighborhood. The PWG was also informed of the activities undertaken by national associations and international organizations aiming at facilitation of international transport and integration.
17. The PWG adopted the Draft Agenda for the 20th session of the SPECA PWG-TBC.
18. The PWG agreed that the date and the place of the session would be decided later. Stressing the vital role of availability of financial support for its efficient functioning,

the PWG expressed its appreciation to the IDB for its continuous support to its activities. Highlighting the importance of border crossing issues in the framework of its sessions, the PWG-TBC requested the IDB to consider supporting the participation of representatives from each of the SPECA countries, which would allow for a more intensive representation of the agencies involved in transport and border crossing at the sessions of the PWG.

19. The PWG expressed its deep gratitude to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan for its leadership in the PWG and excellent arrangements made for the session, and to NIITK as a supporting institution.
20. The conclusions and recommendations of the 19th session of SPECA PWG-TBC were unanimously adopted on 19 June 2014 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.