

**United Nations**  
**Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia**  
**(SPECA)**  
**Protocol of the second session**  
**of the PWG-Transport and Border Crossing**

Astana, 7 – 8 June 1999

**General observations**

The Project Working Group (PWG) held its second session in Astana from 7-8 June 1999.

**Attendance**

The session was attended by the delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan. The two other participating countries of SPECA, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, did not take part in the session. The session was also attended by the representatives of UN ECE, ESCAP and of the Office of the UN/UNDP Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan. Representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank and the Kazakhstan Freight Forwarders Association attended the session as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

**Agenda**

The suggested agenda of the session was adopted unanimously. The text of the Agenda is attached as Annex 2.

**Discussion and recommendations**

The participants of the session have discussed in detail all the Agenda issues and the Plan of work of the PWG for 1999- 2000. Appropriate recommendations were adopted.

*Analysis of the current practices of border crossing in SPECA countries*

It was noted that not all the participating SPECA countries had submitted requested information on the issue. The information received does not give a complete picture of the existing situation with border crossing. Therefore the Chairman of the PWG was requested to continue the relevant work. However, absolutely inadequate provision of the border crossing points with the means of telephone, telex and facsimile communication was noted as a common feature of such points. For this reason there is no possibility for operative communication between the customs units both within a given

state and with the customs units in the neighboring countries.

#### *Current state of accession to international conventions*

The representative of ESCAP submitted the latest information on the accession of participating SPECA countries to international conventions provided for in the ESCAP Resolution 48/11. Participating national delegations also informed the session on their work to access international conventions. The representative of the UN ECE suggested to select additional international conventions, in addition to the ones indicated in the Resolution 48/11, which were important for the creation of the legal basis for the organization of international traffic. The general list of those conventions is attached as Annex 3.

It was noted, in particular, that the awareness of the existing international conventions in the areas of transport and trade were of importance for successful activities of the actors of various levels of responsibility both in governmental and private sector structures.

#### *Establishment of national committees for the facilitation of border crossing and the development of international traffic*

The participants have reconfirmed that there was a great need to establish national committees, with the participation of the representatives of both the bodies charged with the regulation of international trade and of the providers and users of transport services. In Kazakhstan the advances in the creation of such a committee are most impressive. The sample list of state and private sector bodies, recommended for the inclusion to the above mentioned committee, is provided in Annex 4.

#### *Establishment of the data base of relevant projects and activities in the field of transport infrastructure and border crossing facilitation*

Participating SPECA countries provided information on their bilateral and multilateral agreements in the area of transport and on their implementation. It was suggested to continue the work aimed at the creation of a data bank on all international agreements, including those dealing with border crossing issues.

#### *Work programme for 1999-2000 and resource mobilization*

The participants of the session have in detail considered the proposed draft of the Programme of work for 1999 – 2000 and recommended to communicate the draft to all SPECA participating countries for their comments and suggestions, so that the Programme of work could be finalized and adopted at the next session of the PWG, with due regard to the positions of all interested parties. The draft of the Programme of work is attached as Annex 5.

The session noted a cardinal importance of the issue of resource mobilization and has recommended that a policy in this regard be developed at the level of top management of SPECA. The policy should provide for the attraction of resources of donor countries and organizations. It was noted that the resources were needed both for the organization of sessions of the PWG, with the participation of all SPECA member countries, and for the development and implementation of specific projects. The participants of the session took note with satisfaction of the readiness of the UN Resident Representative and UNDP Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to act as the coordinator of assistance of international organizations represented in Kazakhstan as far as it concerned the assistance in organizing the sessions of the PWG.

In order to keep the travel expenses of the representatives of the participating SPECA states as low as possible, it was recommended to resume the practice of holding the sessions of the PWG in

Almaty.

The session also recommended that ESCAP look into a possibility of establishing a post of a Regional Advisor on transport, with SPECA transport and border crossing facilitation activities being among the areas of his/her responsibilities.

The session noted the importance of the participation in the work of the PWG of relevant international organizations, such as the ECO Secretariat, OSShD etc.

On the specific project of a study of inland transport corridors, connecting Central Asia and Europe, it was suggested that Kazakhstan, as the lead country in the PWG, addresses its request for financing the project (Attachment 6) on the transport corridor TRACECA to the Economic Commission of the European Union.

*Date and place of the third session of the PWG*

It was decided to hold the third session of the PWG in Almaty, from 18-19 October 1999.

Chairman of the  
Project Working Group

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K. S. Karibjanov