

Enhancing operational connectivity along international transport routes in SPECA region

SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity

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Enhancing operational connectivity

The Working Groups on the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway networks and dry ports discuss not only infrastructure-related but also the operational issues

The Working Group on the Asian Highway on its 9th meeting (16 and 17 June 2021)

- Encouraged easing cross-border and transit transport measures
- Supported the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport Along the Asian Highway Network
- Emphasized the importance of new technologies, digitalization and smart transport solutions

Enhancing operational connectivity (cont'd)

The Working Group of Dry Ports at its fourth meeting (02-03 June 2021)

- Underscored the need to enhance the efficiency of transport corridors involving dry ports
- Supported application of modern ICT, digital solutions and innovative business models to improve interconnection along intermodal transport corridors
- Called for the harmonization of related legal frameworks,
- Requested to explore the possibility of formulating a new annex to the agreement on multimodal transport operations

Enhancing operational connectivity (cont'd)

The Working Group on Trans-Asian Railway network at its seventh meeting (20-21 May 2021)

- Supported the development of a regional strategy/framework on digitalization among the railways
- Recognized international railway's role in enhancing the transport sustainability, especially on Eurasian route
- Discussed electronic information exchange
 - ❖ New annex to the Agreement on the general principles on electronic information exchange/data interchange among railways and between railways and control agencies along the network

ICT, new technologies and digitalization

Capacity Building Webinar on Smart Road and Rail Solutions in the COVID-19 context* (30 November-01 December 2020)

- Discussed "smart" transport solutions deployed during COVID-19 pandemic with the potential to enhance smart connectivity along the Asian Highway Network and the Trans-Asian Railway Network

Expert group meetings (4 August and 11 November 2021) discussed a study on facilitating the deployment of highly and fully automated vehicles along the Asian Highway Network, which:

- Evaluated existing technologies for highly and automated road freight vehicles
- Assessed the infrastructure requirements for the operationalization of such vehicles
- Proposed policy recommendations for their development and implementation

- Presented a study report on Kazakhstan

*under the UN-wide UNDA project "Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics: Contactless, seamless and collaborative UN solutions".

Legal instruments and frameworks

Webinar on Road and Rail Transport Agreements in the Context of the COVID-19 Response (27-28 January 2021)

- Presented the findings of the study on the availability of clauses on crisis response and mutual assistance in emergency situations in the current agreements on international road and rail transport.
- Discussed next steps to bridge the gaps in the existing legal instruments on cross-border freight transport.

Second Expert Meeting on Legal Frameworks for Multimodal Transport Operations in Asia-Pacific (30-31 March 2021)

- Discussed a comparative analysis of different options on the harmonization of the legal framework for multimodal transport,
- Recommended to identify major direction of collaborative efforts for harmonizing the legal environment for multimodal transport

Eurasian transport connectivity

Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity Between Asia and Europe held on 05-06 October 2021

- Discussed and identified priority areas of concerted actions at inter-regional level in the coming years

Study project on Strengthening Capacity for Operationalizing Sustainable Transport Connectivity Along the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor*

- The Expert Group Meeting on 23 June 2021 was organized to present study findings of the project and discuss way forward

*Includes China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

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