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**Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)**

14<sup>th</sup> session  
17-18 March 2009  
Almaty, Kazakhstan

**ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA  
FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF SPECA PWG-TBC**

**1. Opening of the Session**

The session will be opened by H.E. Mr. Azat Bekturov, Vice - Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the lead country of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC). Opening statements will be delivered by the representatives of UNECE and UNESCAP.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Working Group will be invited to adopt the agenda presented in documents SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/L.1 and L.2.

**3. Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the PWG-TBC**

Kazakhstan, as the lead SPECA country in the field of transport and as the host of the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the PWG-TBC held on 12-13 March 2008 in Almaty, will report on the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of PWG-TBC (SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/1). The Working Group may wish to endorse the report.

**4. Mid-term Review of the Almaty Programme of Action: status and problems of implementation with particular reference to activities relating to PWG-TBC Transport infrastructure issues in relation to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action**

The Working Group will have before it document SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/2, prepared by UNECE/UNESCAP. UNECE will introduce the document and additional remarks will be made by UNESCAP. Countries are invited to comment and/or ask for further information. The Working Group is invited to reflect on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action and on UNECE/ESCAP activities relating to its implementation, as presented in the outcome document of the regional preparatory expert group meeting of Euro-Asian landlocked developing and transit countries for the mid-term review of the Almaty Programme of Action, Bangkok, 22-23 April 2008.

**5. Review of national transport issues and initiatives of the SPECA countries**

Representatives of SPECA member countries will report on new transport projects and initiatives in their respective countries. The Working Group may wish to take note of the new projects and initiatives.

*5.1. Accession to and effective implementation of international conventions recommended by the Group (UNECE / UNESCAP)*

The Working Group will have before it document SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/3, prepared by UNESCAP/UNECE, on the accession to and effective implementation of international conventions recommended by the Group. The Working Group may wish to reaffirm the importance of the conventions recommended, encourage regular consultation with the business community on the issues related hereto, and acknowledge the technical assistance received from regional commissions.

*5.2. Establishment and functioning of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation (UNESCAP / UNECE)*

The Working Group will have before it document SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/4, which reports on the progress achieved since the 13th session of the Working Group with respect to the establishment and functioning of National Trade and Transport facilitation mechanisms. SPECA member countries are invited to report their progress in the establishment / strengthening / operation of such coordination mechanisms.

There will be two additional presentations under this topic:

- Presentation on project for the implementation of the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (Representative of the EU Commission)

This presentation is linked with the technical visit to be made on Wednesday 18, March 2009 from 11.00 a.m. to 3 p.m. The presentation might therefore be done during the visit or under this item of the agenda.

- Presentation on the ways to improve international trade through facilitation of trade and transport (representative of USAID)

**6. Review of transport projects, activities and initiatives of common interest to SPECA countries**

*6.1. Progress report on the development of the SPECA PWG-TBC transport databases (NIITK /UNECE/UNESCAP)*

The Research Institute of Transport and Communications (NIITK), Almaty, which provides technical support to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field of transport, should report on the progress achieved since the 13<sup>th</sup> session in developing the four priority transport databases for the SPECA region that were selected by the Working Group (rail routes, road routes, border crossing points, intermodal transport). The Working Group is invited to review the progress achieved and to request SPECA countries to provide missing information for the database. The Project working Group may also wish to request UNECE and UNESCAP to share the information collected under the EATL, AH and TAR databases to be used as input to the development of the SPECA-PWG-TBC databases. Finally, the group may wish to decide to include in the Agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session the NIITK information note about the progress achieved in developing the PWG-TBC database.

*6.2. Progress report on sub regional project proposals adopted by SPECA PWG-TBC (NIITK/Kazakhstan /UNECE/UNESCAP)*

The Research Institute of Transport and Communications (NIITK) will provide information on the current status of the projects adopted by earlier sessions of the Working Group.

*6.3. Progress report on the SPECA Guide for road wayside facilities (NIITK/UNECE/UNESCAP);*

The Working Group may wish to take note of the progress reported and the need for assistance in this regard. It may wish to remind all parties concerned that the availability of information

pertaining to the location of wayside facilities along international highways of the SPECA network is crucial for the development of the Guide, and, should the implementation of the activity be continued, to request SPECA countries to provide such information to NIITK on a regular basis.

**7. UNECE/ UNESCAP regional and interregional transport activities of interest to SPECA countries (UNECE/ UNESCAP)**

The Working Group will have before it document SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/6. UNECE/UNESCAP representatives will inform the Working Group on the latest developments, progress and achievements of regional and interregional transport activities of UNECE and UNESCAP.

The Working Group may wish to encourage those SPECA member States that have yet done so to take measures towards acceptance, approval or ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network; to promote the corridor-based approach to the operationalization of SPECA road and rail networks through establishment of collaborative mechanism such as planning and organizing of demonstration runs along specific transport corridors, and to continue their efforts in improving road safety.

The Working Group may also wish to encourage SPECA member countries to actively participate in the UNECE/UNESCAP regional and interregional transport activities including the work of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links established under the WP5 to monitor and coordinate the future work, as well as the secretariat's activities related to the implementation of the Busan Declaration and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), including the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport.

In addition to these three documents which may be subject to comments from participants and would be taken note of, there will be two additional interventions.

- Monitoring of Transport Corridors in the Republic of Kazakhstan by the Forum of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan
- An analysis of selected routes using the UNESCAP Time-Cost Distance Methodology by UNESCAP

SPECA Member countries will be invited to comment and provide additional information: Other international organizations might also provide information on their activities in the SPECA region.

**8. Programme of Work 2010-2011**

The Working Group will have before it document SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/7. The Working Group is invited to consider and provide further ideas for an efficient programme. The Project Working Group is invited to adopt its Programme of work 2010-2011.

**9. Bilateral consultations on border-crossing issues of interest to the host country (Host country/ UNESCAP / UNECE).**

Following the recommendation of the 10th session of SPECA PWG-TBC to establish the practice of conducting bilateral consultations on border-crossing issues amongst the SPECA countries, four rounds of bilateral consultations on border-crossing issues between Kazakhstan and its immediate SPECA neighbors, i.e. Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, are planned to be held on Wednesday morning, prior to the technical visit and resumed if necessary on Wednesday afternoon after the adoption of conclusions /recommendations, with support of UNECE and UNESCAP.

**10. Review of the draft agenda for the 15th session of the SPECA PWG-TBC.**

The Working Group may wish to review the draft agenda of the 15th session of the Project Working Group (SPECA/PWG-TBC(14)/8) and agree on the tentative date and venue of the 15th session.

**11. Other business.**

The Working Group may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

**12. Adoption of the Report.**

The Working Group will consider and adopt the report on its 14<sup>th</sup> session.