



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**The Secretariat**

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE  
Economic and Environmental Activities**

**Ashgabat, 6 March 2008**

**Second Preparatory Conference  
for the 16<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**

**“Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area:  
Increasing security and protecting the environment”**

**Ashgabat, 6-7 March 2008**

**Conference Venue:  
President Hotel  
Archabil Shayoly 54  
744036, Ashgabat**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**Thursday, 6 March 2008**

09.30 - 10.30      **Opening Plenary Session** (Open to Press)

**Moderator:** **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Introductory Remarks:**

- **H.E. Rashid Meredov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan
- **Ambassador Aleksi Härkönen**, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland/ OSCE Chairmanship
- **Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**, Secretary General of the OSCE

**Keynote Address:**

- **Ambassador Pierre Morel**, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia

10.30 – 11.00      Tea/Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00 **Plenary Session I – Opportunities and challenges in the Caspian region and in Central Asia**

**Moderator:** **Mr. Khoshgeldi Babaev**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Head of the State Enterprise for the Caspian Sea under the President of Turkmenistan

**Rapporteur:** **Mr. Jan Olsson**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Astana

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Maktumkuly Akmuradov**, Minister of Nature Protection, Turkmenistan
- **Ms. Galiya Karibzhanova**, Head of Administration of International Co-operation, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Alexander Zlenko**, Director, Federative State Enterprise "North Caspian Salvage and Rescue Underwater & Technical Operations", Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation

**Discussion**

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 16.30 **Plenary Session II – Addressing the challenges of landlocked countries**

**Moderator:** **Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE

**Rapporteur:** **Ms. Kimberley Bulkeley**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Bishkek

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Poul Hansen**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, SITE UNCTAD
- **Mr. Abdulla Khashimov**, Head of Transportation Department, Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade, Republic of Uzbekistan
- **Mr. Dzhamshed Khaitov**, Head of Road Technical Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Tajikistan
- **Mr. Turdaly uulu Janybek**, Chief of Road and Waterways Transport Department, Ministry of Transport and Communication, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. Elmar Farajov**, Head of TRACECA and International Projects Unit, Department of International Relations, Ministry of Transport and **Mr. Orkhan Zeynalov**, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan

**Discussion**

16.30 - 17.00 Tea/Coffee break

17.00 - 18.30

**Plenary Session III – Experiences in maritime co-operation in the Mediterranean region**

**Moderator:** Mr. Marc Baltes, Senior Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Raul Daussa, Environmental Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Stephen Stec**, Senior Legal Specialist, Head of Environmental Law Programme, Regional Environmental Centre, Adriatic Sea Partnership Coordinator
- **Mr. Robert Kojc**, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia
- **Mr. Alp Kenanoğlu**, Captain (Navy), Head of Strategy and Treaties Department, Turkish Naval Forces

**Discussion**

19.00

Reception

**Friday, 7 March 2008**

09.00 - 10.30

**Parallel Working Groups**

**Working Group I Maritime environmental challenges**

**Facilitators:**

- **Ms. Esra Buttanri**, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA
- **Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Baku

**Panelists:**

- **Mr. John Ostergaard**, Director, Oil Spill Training Company Ltd., United Kingdom
- **Mr. Tharald Brekne**, former Director of the Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies (NOFO)
- **Mr. Stephen Stec**, Senior Legal Specialist, Head of Environmental Law Programme, Regional Environmental Centre, Adriatic Sea Partnership Coordinator

**Discussion**

**Working Group II Challenges in transit transportation**

**Facilitators:**

- **Mr. Robert Nowak**, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Mr. Kilian Strauss**, Senior Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

**Panelists:**

- **Mr. Roel Janssens**, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA
- **Mr. Poul Hansen**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, SITE UNCTAD
- **Mr. Igor Rounov**, Permanent Delegate to the CIS, International Road Transport Union (IRU)

**Discussion**

10.30 - 11.00            Tea/Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30            **Parallel Working Groups**

**Working Group III River basin co-operation****Facilitators:**

- **Mr. Ari Mäkelä**, Technical Adviser, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE
- **Ms. Saba Nordstrom**, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

**Panelists:**

- **Mr. Subhonkul Davlatov**, Head of External Relations Department, Ministry of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of the Republic of Tajikistan
- **Mr. Amir Khan Kenshimov**, Deputy Head of the Water Resources Committee, Republic of Kazakhstan

**Discussion****Working Group IV Port, ships and container security****Facilitators/Panelists:**

- **Mr. Poul Hansen**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, SITE UNCTAD
- **Mr. Roel Janssens**, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

**Panelists:**

- **Mr. Kilian Strauss**, Senior Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA
- **Mr. Alexander Ratnikov**, Technical Attaché, World Customs Organization (WCO)
- **Mr. Dani Appave**, Team Leader, Maritime Team, Social Dialogue, Labour Law, Labour Administration and Sectoral Activities Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Discussion**

12.30 - 14.00            Lunch

14.00 - 15.30            **Plenary Session IV - Good governance in maritime and inland waterways transportation: economic and environmental aspects**

**Moderator:** Mr. John Ostergaard, Director, Oil Spill Training Company Ltd., United Kingdom

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Gabriel Leonte, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

**Speakers:**

- **Ms. Sabrina Mansion**, Scientific Affairs Officer, Transport Division, Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Mr. Isto Mattila**, Captain (Navy), Deputy Head, Border and Coast Guard Division, The Border Guard Headquarters, Finland
- **Mr. Tor Christian Sletner**, Associate Director, Det Norske Veritas AS, Norway
- **Ms. Kaisha Atahanova**, Chairperson, Ecological Forum of NGOs, Kazakhstan

**Discussion**

15.30 - 16.00            Tea/Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30            **Closing Debate: the role of the OSCE**

**Moderator:** Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Gabriel Leonte, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

**Reports and recommendations from the Sessions and Working Groups**

**Discussion**

**Concluding statements by:**

- **Ms. Tuula Yrjölä**, Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland/ OSCE Chairmanship
- **H.E. Rashid Meredov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan

## ANNEX

### **Second Preparatory Conference for the 16<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**

“Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area:  
Increasing security and protecting the environment”

**Ashgabat, 6-7 March 2008**

#### **Thursday, 6 March 2008**

#### **Plenary Session I – Opportunities and challenges in the Caspian region and in Central Asia**

The general objective of Plenary Session I is to provide a framework for exchanges of information and ideas concerning the situation and developments in the Caspian region and in Central Asia, in particular with regard to increasing security and combating various environmental threats. Recent regional developments such as the Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), as well as the activities conducted under various regional initiatives, such as the work of the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP), will be highlighted. Countries in the region will be invited to share their views with regard to priorities, needs and further developments.

The session could address issues such as: the management of regional ecological resources; environmentally sustainable development; the impact of economic activities such as transport, oil and gas extraction, etc.; threats to biodiversity, including through the introduction of alien species by ballast waters; maritime and land based pollution; developments in the coastal hinterland; the interaction between landlocked countries and the Caspian region; etc.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- What are the most important transboundary challenges in the region, what are the main hot spots, and what could the OSCE do, in co-operation with partners, to tackle them?
- What could be the OSCE’s added value to increasing maritime and inland waterways co-operation and security in the region?
- What should be done in order to strengthen, at regional level, the participation in various regional and international conventions, to improve enforcement and compliance, and what could be the OSCE role in that regard?
- How could the OSCE contribute to raising awareness, enhancing multi stakeholders’ co-operation and strengthening civil society participation for purposes of environmentally sustainable development?
- Could the Caspian Sea region benefit from other regional co-operation experiences in the OSCE area and could the OSCE be instrumental in facilitating inter-regional exchanges and co-operation? Could the Caspian Sea region offer successful examples for other regions?

## **Plenary Session II – Addressing the challenges of landlocked countries**

Plenary Session II will build upon previous OSCE activities aimed at assisting landlocked developing countries in its region to overcome their transit transportation challenges. Further to the Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE, the OSCE Secretariat together with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) organized on 23-24 October 2007 in Dushanbe a Conference on Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transport Development through Central Asia. The Conference led to enhanced political awareness with regard to transit transportation issues across the region.

Plenary Session II should provide an opportunity to revisit some of the issues discussed previously and to elaborate more in detail with regard to possible solutions. It will focus on ensuring and facilitating the access to sea for landlocked countries, by addressing both transit transport policy and infrastructure related issues. It should also allow Government officials from the region to exchange experiences and to highlight the progress made as well as to identify the areas where improvement is still needed. Finally it will offer a platform bringing about increased co-operation with regard to future activities.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- What is the current status of affairs and what are the main bottlenecks for the development of well functioning and efficient regional multi-modal transit transportation systems in and through Central Asia and adjacent regions? Therefore, what should be the priorities for future action?
- How can existing partnerships and co-operation between landlocked and transit countries and other members of the international community be improved?
- To what extent can the OSCE add value to already existing structures and mechanisms of co-operation? What forms of co-operation with other key players should be sought?
- How can the OSCE, both at headquarter and field levels, provide support to OSCE landlocked developing countries in the region?

## **Plenary Session III – Experiences in maritime co-operation in the Mediterranean region**

Plenary Session III should provide an opportunity for sharing information and experiences regarding maritime co-operation in the Mediterranean Sea region, both with regard to combating various environmental threats and to increasing maritime security. Topics to be discussed during this session may include addressing marine and land based pollution, emergencies preparedness and response, ballast waters management, coastal zone management, as well as combating illegal activities such as trafficking and smuggling, maritime security co-operation, etc.

Various regional instruments, initiatives and co-operation mechanisms, such as the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, the Mediterranean Action Plan, the EU Marine Strategy, the Adriatic Sea Partnership, etc., could be discussed and assessed, in view of streamlining priorities. Countries in the region will also be invited to express their views.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- How could the OSCE provide support to environment and security co-operation in the Mediterranean Sea region and what could be the ways and means of future co-operation with existing regional initiatives?
- What are the gaps regarding maritime co-operation at regional level and what could the OSCE do, in co-operation with partners, to address these gaps?
- What are the positive regional co-operation experiences that could be relevant for other sea regions and how could the OSCE contribute to the transfer of experience and expertise?
- Could the Mediterranean region benefit from other regional co-operation experiences in the OSCE area and could the OSCE be instrumental in facilitating inter-regional exchanges and co-operation? Could the Mediterranean offer successful examples for other regions?

## **Friday, 7 March 2008**

### **PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS**

#### **Working Group I Maritime environmental challenges**

The Working Group I will focus on the experiences with various regional initiatives and mechanisms in place to address maritime environmental challenges. In doing so, the Working Group is expected to benefit significantly from, and build upon, the outcomes of the discussions in Plenary Sessions I and III. The Working Group could also make use of the discussions and outcomes of the Helsinki Preparatory Conference and the Vienna Segment of the Forum. Discussions in the working group are expected to focus on the Caspian Sea and Mediterranean Sea regions.

The Working Group will address current mechanisms and opportunities for inter-regional co-operation and sharing of experiences; strengthening emergency response capacities; enhancing partnerships and co-operation between governments and private sector; and ensuring stakeholder involvement in addressing maritime environmental challenges.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- What are the current mechanisms for ensuring better co-operation and sharing of experiences, lessons learned and best practices among different regional initiatives addressing maritime environmental challenges and how could the OSCE provide support to such initiatives?
- What should be the next steps to promote sustainable development and environmental protection in the Caspian and Mediterranean Seas, and what could be the OSCE's contribution to these efforts?
- What are the major legal, institutional and capacity development needs and bottlenecks for strengthening the emergency response capacities of countries,



individually and jointly, as it relates to maritime environmental protection, particularly in case of oil spills?

- How to ensure enhanced partnership and co-operation between a variety of stakeholders in addressing maritime environmental challenges, particularly between the governments, private sector and NGOs, and what could be the OSCE role in that regard?

## **Working Group II Challenges in transit transportation**

Whereas Plenary Session II should contribute to identifying the main bottlenecks for the development of well functioning and efficient regional multi-modal transit transportation systems in and through Central Asia and adjacent regions, Working Group II should ideally contribute to formulating feasible solutions to the identified problems. In doing so, both physical as well as non-physical barriers to transit transportation, including at border-crossing points, should be addressed.

The Working Group will address current mechanisms – both of a political as well as of a technical nature – for intra- and inter-regional co-operation regarding transit transportation. Members of the Working Group will exchange views on how to further enhance partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries on the one hand and other members of the international community on the other hand as well as on how to promote public private partnerships. In addition, deliberations will also focus on a number of existing international legal instruments that when implemented properly, prove to be useful tools for transport and trade facilitation.

Regarding the tackling of non-physical barriers to transit transport operations, the session is also expected to discuss harmonization of customs and border-crossing procedures and the introduction of Integrated Border Management measures. Also, the difficult balance, the achievement of an optimal combination between ‘securitization’ and ‘facilitation’ of border crossings of goods will be elaborated upon.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- What are the main bottlenecks to transit transportation? Are they situated more at the technical or at the political level? To what extent can the OSCE as a political organization contribute to improving the current situation?
- How can existing partnerships between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours be enhanced and what could be the OSCE contribution in this area?
- What are the most effective customs and border crossing practices that could facilitate trade and transit transportation and how could the OSCE, in co-operation with partners, facilitate their dissemination and implementation?
- Would there be a need for enhanced capacity-building and training programmes? What could the OSCE do, in co-operation with partners, to assist countries to strengthen their capacity to fully implement the provisions of international legal instruments they have signed?

## **Working Group III River basin co-operation**

Working Group III will, building on Plenary Sessions I-III, bring the discussion from the marine environment towards inland priorities and towards information and communication gaps of a transboundary nature, with a focus on Central Asia.

The Working Group will in more detail discuss current mechanisms, initiatives and opportunities for inter-regional co-operation through highlighting current transboundary collaborations and initiatives as well as highlight cross border impacts. This could include ongoing and deepening work of the Chu and Talas Commission, protection from invasive species in mountain lakes and awareness and competence building within border control as well as recent developments on assessing environment and security links in the Amu Darya.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- Are there current gaps in river basin management and what could be the OSCE's contribution to these efforts?
- What are the current mechanisms for ensuring better co-operation and sharing of experiences, lessons learned and best practices among different regional initiatives addressing river basin environmental challenges and how could the OSCE best provide support to such initiatives?
- What are the major legal, institutional and capacity development needs and bottlenecks for strengthening river basin co-operation and what could the role of the OSCE be in strengthening these needs?
- How can one ensure enhanced partnerships and co-operation between a variety of stakeholders in addressing river basin challenges, particularly between the governments, private sector and NGOs, and what could be the role of the OSCE in that regard?

#### **Working Group IV Port, ships and container security**

The discussions in Working Group IV are expected to build further on existing OSCE activities and commitments in the area of port, ships and container security. The OSCE's mandate in enhancing container security is based on two Ministerial Council Decisions: No. 9/04 on "Enhancing Container Security" and No. 6/05 on "Further Measures to Enhance Container Security". By adopting the above Decisions in 2004 and 2005 respectively, the 56 OSCE participating States firmly committed to act without delay in accordance with their domestic legislation and to make the necessary resources available to enhance container security, based on best practices and on norms and standards agreed internationally. Ever since, the relevant units within the OSCE, in co-operation with partner organizations such as the WCO, IMO and ILO have assisted the participating States in living up to their commitments. Also in the area of port and ship security, the OSCE has acquired relevant expertise, among others work has been done on improving the implementation of the ILO/IMO Code of Practice on Security in Ports, the IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and the WCO's SAFE Framework of Standards.

The Working Group will discuss current political framework with the focus on international legal instruments that regulate security issues with regard to ports, ships and containers and will identify measures that should lead to an improved capacity to implement them.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- What needs to be done in order to strengthen the political will in the OSCE participating States to address and improve co-operation with regard to maritime security issues and how could the OSCE support such efforts?
- How could inter-agency co-operation, both at the national as well as at the international and regional level, through involvement of representatives of Customs, Police, Port Authorities and State Security be enhanced and what could be a possible role for the OSCE in that regard?
- How could the OSCE contribute to building up partnerships between governments and the private sector to raise the overall security level, how could a multi stakeholder dialogue be promoted and how could the capacity of various stakeholders to address port, ship and container security issues be strengthened?
- What are the policy areas that should be prioritized and which are the international instruments, standards and guidelines whose implementation and enforcement needs to be enhanced? How could the OSCE, in co-operation with partners, contribute to that end?

#### **Plenary Session IV - Good governance in maritime and inland waterways transportation: economic and environmental aspects**

The session should discuss, in an integrated and comprehensive manner, both economic and environmental aspects related to maritime and inland waterways transportation. The overall objective is to identify ways and means through which good governance could be strengthened in this sector. To that end, participants and speakers should attempt to focus on how co-operation and partnership at various levels – international, regional, national and local – could be enhanced. Possible models for regional co-operation as well as for public-private partnership will be presented. Experiences from various regions in the OSCE area would be brought into discussion with the aim of exchanging best practices and looking for synergies.

Topics that could receive special attention during this session include: the transport of dangerous goods, in particular in view of the UNECE legal instruments governing these activities; oil spills prevention, response and remediation activities; emergency preparedness and response; mechanisms and tools to coordinate national and cross-border efforts; ways and means to enhance public awareness and participation.

Topics and questions for discussion may include *inter-alia*:

- What are the priorities and needs at national and regional level and how could regional initiatives and international organizations, including the OSCE, contribute to tackling them more effectively?
- What are the most adequate responses and actions, from both the public and the private sectors perspective, with regard to reducing the risks associated with the transport of dangerous goods, including oil, and how could the OSCE contribute to strengthening co-operation, including public private co-operation, in this area?
- What needs to be done to ensure the adoption and implementation of appropriate legislation and the establishment of effective institutions and how could a stronger role of the public and civil society be facilitated?

- What are the benefits of national, cross-border and regional co-operation, and how it can be enhanced? How could the OSCE support regional co-operation activities aimed at strengthening good governance? How could it facilitate the exchange of best practices, also with other regions?
- How could the OSCE and other organizations and stakeholders support the effective implementation of international conventions in these fields? Could the OSCE, in co-operation with partners, develop and implement training and capacity building activities?