



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

**OSCE/UNECE/CIT  
Seminar on Increasing Co-operation at Railway  
Border Crossings in Central Asia**

**\*AUDIENCE: SENIOR RAILWAY AND CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES FROM KAZAKHSTAN,  
KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME (D.D. 08/06/2009)**

1-2 July 2009

Balkanabat, Turkmenistan

**WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY**

**09:00 – 09:30      REGISTRATION**

**09:30 – 10:00      OPENING REMARKS**

**Representative of the Government of Turkmenistan  
Representative of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat  
Representative of the OSCE Secretariat**

**10:00 – 11:00      SESSION I: THE ECONOMICS OF TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION**

*Representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
(UNECE)*

- The need to facilitate trade and transport operations
- The need to use a balanced approach, facilitating legitimate trade while reducing opportunities for illicit trafficking
- UNECE legal instruments
- Concrete examples and statistics
- Questions and Answers

**11:00 – 11:30      COFFEE BREAK**

**11:30 – 12:30      SESSION II: RAILWAY CO-OPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Moderator: UNECE**

**Selected topics:**

- Current initiatives, e.g. the Istanbul-Tehran-Ashgabad-Tashkent-Almaty and the Haydarpaşa container trains: identification of strengths and weaknesses
- The need to establish cross-border information systems, raise the overall level of cooperation and coordination and increase harmonization efforts;
- Using the advantages of railway transportation for international trade etc.
- The need to cut unnecessary transaction fees and balance security with facilitation efforts

*Statements and interventions by **National Representatives** from across the region and Representatives of the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) (max. 8 minutes each).*

**12:30 – 14:00      LUNCH BREAK**

**14:00 – 15:30      SESSION III: THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS**

**Moderator: OSCE**

**Proposed Annex 9 to the ‘Harmonization Convention’ of 1982, and other railways-specific international instruments and initiatives at the UNECE**  
*Representative of the UNECE*

**Introduction to the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards and the Revised Kyoto Convention as applied to railways**  
*Representative of the World Customs Organization (WCO)*

**Agreement on International Goods Transport by Rail (SMGS) and the Convention Concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF, Annex B CIM)**

*Representatives of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the Organisation for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD)*

**Rail transport interoperability: common CIM/SMGS consignment note**  
*Representative of the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT)*

**Questions and Answers**

**15:30 – 16:00**      **COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00 – 17:00**      **SESSION IV: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES FROM THE RAILWAY SECTOR**

**Moderator: International Union of Railways (UIC)**

**The Viking Container Block Train: cooperation between railway and customs authorities from Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine**

*Representative of Lithuania/Belarus*

**The Bosphorus Europe Express: cooperation between railways and customs authorities from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey**

*Representative of Bulgaria/Turkey*

**Co-operation in Rail Border Crossing at the Russian-Finnish and Russian/Kazakh Border**

*Representative of Russian Railways*

**The UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project**

*TER Project Co-ordinator*

**Questions and Answers**

**17:00 – 18:00**      **SESSION V: PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Facilitators: OSCE/UNECE**

- Discussion with participants based on the sessions of the first day
- Identification of preliminary recommendations and priorities for future work

**18:00 – 18:30**      **PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS DAY 1**

**UNECE  
UIC / CIT  
OSCE**

## **THURSDAY, 2 JULY**

### **09:30 – 10:30      SESSION VI: ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OPTIMIZING THE CENTRAL ASIAN RAILWAY CORRIDORS**

**Moderator: Representative of the Government of Turkmenistan (tbc)**

**The UNECE Euro-Asian Transport Links project**  
*Representative of the UNECE*

**The UNESCAP Asian Railway Project**  
*Representative of the UNESCAP*

**The role of the ECO in Promoting Railway Co-operation across Central Asia**  
*Representative of the Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO)*

**The OSCE/UNECE Handbook on Best Practices at Borders**  
*Representative of the OSCE Secretariat*

**Questions and Answers**

### **10:30 – 11:00      COFFEE BREAK**

### **11:00 – 12.00      SESSION VII: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN MAKING RAILWAY BORDER-CROSSINGS MORE EFFICIENT**

**Moderator: OSCE**

**Modernization of Border Crossing Points in Turkey: Public-Private Partnerships**  
*Representative of Customs and Tourism Enterprises, Turkey*

**Potential for Public Private Partnerships in the Railway Sector in Central Asia**  
*Representative of Central Asian Consulting Agency, Kazakhstan*

**Questions and Answers**

### **12:00 – 13.00      SESSION VIII – PANEL DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK AND FOLLOW-UP**

**Facilitators: OSCE/UNECE**

- Discussion with participants

- Identification of recommendations and priorities for future work and follow-up, among others in the framework of the 2010 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process

**13:00 – 14:30**      **LUNCH BREAK**

**14:30 – 15.30**      **SESSION VIII – PANEL DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)**

**Facilitators: OSCE/UNECE**

- Discussion with participants
- Identification of recommendations and priorities for future work and follow-up, among others in the framework of the 2010 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process

**15:30 – 16:00**      **CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS**

**Representative of the Government of Turkmenistan**  
**Representatives of UNECE / CIT**  
**Representative of the OSCE**