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

18th Session
4-5 April 2013
Almaty, Kazakhstan

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2014-2015

(Item 6 of the Agenda)

Note by the UNECE / UNESCAP

1. This document presents the draft Programme of Work 2014-2015 of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC).
2. The draft Programme of Work 2014-2015 has been prepared by UNECE / UNESCAP in line with the Almaty Programme of Action (2003) and the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2006).

Issues for consideration

At its eighteenth session in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the PWG-TBC is invited to:

- (a) Review and, if necessary, modify the Draft Work Programme 2014-2015;
- (b) Adopt the Programme.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2014-2015

In line with the Almaty Programme of Action (2003) and the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2006)

1. Organization of regular sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC

Activity 1.1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MTC RK) / UNECE/ UNESCAP organize and convene the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

2. Bilateral consultations on border crossing issues between SPECA member states

Activity 2.1. UNECE/ UNESCAP organize and facilitate bilateral consultations on border crossing issues of interest to SPECA countries between the host country and its immediate neighbours at the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC with active participation of the SPECA member States.

3. Development and implementation of sub-regional project proposals of common interest to SPECA countries

Activity 3.1. Subject to funding availability, UNESCAP/ UNECE/ MTC RK / NIITK and SPECA countries develop / implement subregional projects of common interest.

4. Development and maintenance of SPECA PWG-TBC databases on road routes of international importance; rail routes of international importance; intermodal transport infrastructure and border crossing

Activity 4.1. UNESCAP/ UNECE/ MTC RK / Research Institute on Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan (NIITK) establish and maintain the databases with inputs of necessary data/information from SPECA countries. Interaction between UNESCAP/ UNECE/ MTC RK/ Research Institute on Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan (NIITK) is strengthened and progress made on the development of Geospatial Data (GIS database) by UNESCAP is shared with SPECA countries.

Activity 4.2. SPECA countries provide data and national focal points for the relevant WebCoQ jointly managed by UNECE/EUROSTAT and OECD/ITF.

5. Identification and isolation of major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient international transport in the SPECA region

Activity 5.1. Subject to availability of resources, UNECE/UNESCAP provide assistance to SPECA countries upon request in identifying / isolating / addressing major bottlenecks for international transport.

Activity 5.2. SPECA countries employ UNESCAP Time/Cost-Distance methodology to perform time and cost analysis of selected routes and border crossings

for international transport in the SPECA region. Reference is widely made to the UNECE/OSCE handbook on best practices at border crossings – a trade and transport facilitation perspective.

6. Establishment or strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for improved collaboration between all stakeholders involved in international transport from the public and private sectors

Activity 6.1. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA countries, upon request, in the form of workshops, seminars or advisory services, in establishing or strengthening national facilitation coordinating mechanisms.

7. Enhancement of legal frameworks for international transport to reflect suitable legal regimes for international land transport facilitation

Activity 7.1. UNESCAP reviews implementation of Commission resolution 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures and considers inclusion of additional conventions, if necessary.

Activity 7.2. UNECE/ UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA countries, upon request, in the form of workshops, seminars or advisory services, on accession to, and implementation of, major international facilitation conventions.

Activity 7.3. SPECA countries take steps to sign or accede to facilitation instruments, not only the important international conventions recommended for accession at the 2nd session of SPECA PWG-TBC but also Conventions relating to specific transport, such as dangerous goods or perishable foodstuffs.

Activity 7.4. SPECA countries start implementing the six common targets and seven modalities to support international road transport as developed in the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport adopted by the UNESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport in March 2012.

8. Accession to multilateral agreements on infrastructure including AGR, AGC, AGTC, Intergovernmental agreements on Asian Highway and Trans Asian Railway Networks, and the upcoming Intergovernmental agreement on Dry Ports to prioritize infrastructure development of international importance

Activity 8.1. UNESCAP organizes meetings of the Working Group on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks to ensure coordinated development of each of the networks. A working group meeting on Dry Ports might also be organised.

Activity 8.2. SPECA countries, which have not already done so, sign/ ratify/ accept/ approve/ accede to the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway intergovernmental agreements as well as sign the upcoming Intergovernmental agreement on Dry Ports, and participate in the Working Groups.

Activity 8.3. SPECA countries, which have not already done so, sign/ ratify/ accept/ approve/ accede to key UNECE infrastructure agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC) and participate in the relevant Working Groups.

9. Increased collaboration and interactions at the regional and national level to address transport issues in and across the SPECA region and to promote investment in transport infrastructure

Activity 9.1. UNECE/UNESCAP organize investment forums, with the participation of international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, international organizations and the private sector, for the development and upgrading of the SPECA road and rail networks and intermodal interfaces (i.e. dry ports and ICDs) along the networks.

Activity 9.2. UNECE/UNESCAP organize capacity-building activities related to the establishing and strengthening of public-private partnerships and user charging systems.

Activity 9.3. SPECA countries actively participate in the meetings of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies, UNESCAP Committee on Transport, Asian Forum of Ministers of Transport, as well as other international fora that will assist the integration of the SPECA region transport systems into that of other subregions as well as harmonization with existing international standards, norms, agreements and conventions.

Activity 9.4. SPECA countries regularly report on transport infrastructure developments and operations, including those within the SPECA region and those linking to neighbouring countries. They commit themselves to actively participate in the Euro Asian Transport links project (EATL Phase III), on the basis of the Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links signed in Geneva on 26 February 2013.

Activity 9.5. SPECA countries take steps to improve the business environment for strengthened public-private partnership and establish and manage special funds in transport infrastructure development and maintenance.

Activity 9.6. National transport planning authorities in the SPECA countries recognize the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks as a priority.

10. Operationalization of transport corridors in the SPECA region and promotion of demonstration runs through the SPECA road and rail networks

Activity 10.1. SPECA countries actively participate in coordinating mechanisms for operationalization of international intermodal transport corridors and organize demonstration runs through the SPECA road and rail networks with the support from UNESCAP if required.

11. Simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology

Activity 12.1. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical support to the SPECA countries, upon request, in the simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology. The three transport facilitation tools developed by UNESCAP (i.e. the Secure Cross-Border

Transport Model, the Efficient Cross-Border Transport Models and the Model on Integrated Control at Border Crossing) could serve as a reference in that respect.

Activity 12.2. SPECA countries take an active part in the work carried out towards unified railway law, on the basis of Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law, signed in Geneva on 26 February 2013.

12. Increased awareness and understanding of road safety issues and potential interventions, and improved collaboration in the SPECA region

Activity 12.1. SPECA countries take steps to address road safety issues in line with relevant General Assembly resolutions on improving global road safety, particularly in the context of the Decade of Action for Road Safety launched worldwide in April 2011.

Activity 12.2. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA countries in supporting their efforts to improve road safety and in setting regional / national goals, targets and indicators on road safety based on best standards and existing related international agreements, including those developed under the auspices of the UNECE.
