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

18th session
4-5 April, 2013
Almaty, Kazakhstan

**ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA
FOR THE 18TH 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 Project Working Group will review and adopt the draft agenda as contained in documents SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/L.1 and L.2.

3. Adoption of the report on the 17th Session of the PWG-TBC

The report of the 17th Session of the PWG-TBC, held on 5-6 June, 2012 in Almaty, which is available in English and Russian, will be presented by Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field of transport and the host of the 17th Session. The Project Working Group is invited to adopt the report.

4. Review of transport projects, activities and initiatives in line with the Almaty Programme of Action.

4.1. Transport infrastructure projects, activities and initiatives at national and international level

Background documents: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/1;

Under this topic, it is proposed to link items 4.1 and 4.5 of the draft agenda. Representatives of UNESCAP and UNECE will present their respective initiatives and efforts for promoting the development of transport infrastructure and facilitation in the SPECA sub region.

The Project Working Group may, inter alia, wish to support UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats in their initiatives for ensuring funding for the continuation of the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) project's activities beyond 2013, with Governments and potential donors; and also encourage SPECA countries to actively participate in the UNESCAP Intergovernmental Agreement on the TAR network and the AH network.

4.2. Accession and implementation of International Conventions and Agreements

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/2

After a presentation made by the UNECE representative, delegates of SPECA member countries will update the Project Working Group on their status with regard to accession and implementation of international conventions and agreements. The Project Working Group may wish to request the states to identify problems for implementation of the conventions and also any further assistance needed from UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats in assessing the implications of acceding to and implementing the transport-related international legal instruments.

4.3. Establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation

No background document

Delegates of SPECA member countries will inform the Project Working Group on the progress in the establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport facilitation; share best practices and lessons learnt; and suggest possible further actions required.

4.4. Development of dry ports to facilitate intermodal transport in SPECA countries

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/3

After a presentation made by the UNESCAP representative, SPECA member countries will provide information on existing experience and issues related to the development of dry ports in the region.

The Project Working Group may, in conclusion, encourage member countries to take the necessary actions for being able to sign as soon as possible the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports.

4.5. Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL)

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/4

It is proposed this agenda item be linked with agenda item 4.1

4.6. Identification, isolation and elimination of major bottlenecks along international transport routes

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/5

The UNESCAP secretariat will inform the Group on the progress achieved in cooperation with UNCTAD and UNECA, in the implementation of the Development Account Project entitled “Capacity Building for Control Authorities and Transport Operators to Improve Efficiency of Cross-border Transport in Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries” from 2012. UNESCAP secretariat will also briefly outline the three facilitation tools that were developed to support countries in addressing major bottlenecks.

UNECE will make available for each SPECA Member country the Russian version of “The Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective”.

4.7. Progress report on the development of the SPECA PWG-TBC transport databases

No background document

The Research Institute of Transport and Communications, Almaty (NIITK), will report on the progress achieved in developing the four priority transport databases for the SPECA region that were selected by the Project Working Group (rail routes of international importance, road routes of international importance, border crossing, and intermodal transport infrastructure).

UNECE Secretariat will inform the Group on the results of the triennial Programme of Workshops on Web Common Questionnaire on Transport Statistics carried out from 2010 to 2012 and particularly aimed at SPECA Member countries.

The Project Working Group may discuss on the possibilities to make better use of the data and information accumulated over years by the Research Institute of Transport and Communications, Almaty (NIITK), in the framework of its activities.

4.8. Establishment and strengthening of public-private partnerships in the SPECA region

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/6

UNESCAP secretariat will introduce this topic and the background document. The Project Working group may wish to take note of the potential benefits of PPP modalities and share their experience in PPP. The PWG could also encourage SPECA member countries to strengthen the training programmes for government officials and other relevant stakeholders by taking advantage of training materials on PPPs prepared by UNECE and UNESCAP.

4.9. Road safety issues and policy interventions in the SPECA region

Background documents: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/7; IRF Vienna Manifesto on ITS

UNECE and UNESCAP representatives will make a presentation on their activities as regards the implementation of the UN GA Resolution on a decade of action for road safety. Representatives of SPECA countries will report on the national activities in addressing road safety issues.

A representative of IRF will introduce the IRF Vienna Manifesto on ITS and inform the Group on the activities developed by IRF as regards road safety.

The Project Working Group may indicate whether the organization of a regional workshop on the subject is opportune to share best practices and lessons learned in the area of road safety and foster improvements in the region on this subject.

4.10. UNECE/UNESCAP regional transport activities with focus on SPECA countries

Background documents: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/217/Annex IV; the Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law

UNECE Representative will inform the Group on the road map on how to set up the administrative structures required for implementation of ADR

She will also inform the Group on the progress achieved in the development of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note and the Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law, signed on 26 February 2013 by 37 countries.

UNECE Representative should also inform the Group on the progresses achieved in the UNDA 7th tranche Project on “Development and implementation of a monitoring and assessment tool for CO₂ emissions in inland transport to facilitate climate change mitigation (For FITS).

The Project Working Group may wish to host a regional Conference towards accession and implementation of the Conventions relating to the international transport of dangerous goods. The PWG may wish to encourage its Member countries to actively participate in the work carried out towards unified railway law.

5. Implementation of, and amendments to, the guidelines to improve the efficiency of the PWG-TBC

Background document Annex 3 to the Report of the 10th session of the PWG-TBC

Based on the guidelines set up at its 10th session, the Project Working Group may wish to discuss and select ways for improving its working methods, with a view of the Group becoming a key component towards greater efficiency of inland international transport in the region.

Major amendments and guidelines identified will be reflected in the main conclusions of the meeting.

6. Programme of Work 2014-2015

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)/8

The Project Working Group will be invited to consider the background document and provide further ideas if needed: The PWG may wish to consider adopting the Programme of work 2014-2015.

7. Bilateral consultations on transport and border-crossing issues between SPECA countries

In the absence of written requests, this topic might not be discussed during this session. The questions raised meanwhile will be addressed afterwards to the countries concerned for follow-up actions. Notwithstanding the above, interested SPECA countries may take the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest informally as done at the 17th session of the Project Working group.

8. Review of the draft agenda for the 19th session of the SPECA PWG-TBC.

Background document: SPECA/PWG-TBC(18)9

The Project Working Group will be invited to review the draft agenda of the 19th session of the Project Working Group.

9. Other business.

The Project Working Group may wish to consider any other matter not included in the agenda, in particular the date and venue of the 19th session.

10. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations.

The Project Working Group will consider and adopt the major conclusions and recommendations of its 18th session.