



PREPARATIONS
FOR THE 11TH SESSION OF THE SPECA PROJECT WORKING GROUP
ON TRANSPORT AND BORDER CROSSING

Tentative dates: 29-30 March 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan

(for consideration by the SPECA Coordinating Committee Meeting
Baku, Azerbaijan, 7 December 2005)

Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (2003) with particular reference to transport infrastructure development and simplification of border-crossing procedures is the recognized priority programme area for cooperation in the SPECA sub-region. Transport plays a crucial role in addressing specific challenges faced by the SPECA member countries resulting from their landlocked status.

The 11th session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG on Transport) will review transit transport issues of Central Asia and the Caucasus region with the reference to the 2005-2006 Programme of Work of the SPECA PWG on Transport, the Action Programme for Transit Transport Cooperation for the SPECA member countries, and the Almaty Programme of Action.

The preparations for the 11th session will be carried out in accordance with the Guidelines to improve efficiency of SPECA, adopted at the last session of the Project Working Group, held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, on 24 March 2005. The Working Group will focus on the following thrust areas, as endorsed by the 10th session of PWG:

- Formulation of the SPECA road and rail networks;
- Establishment and functioning of National Transport Facilitation Committees/ Commissions;
- Accession to and implementation of international conventions recommended by the PWG on Transport;
- Development by the PWG on Transport of sub-regional project proposals of interest to all SPECA member countries for submission to potential donors, as well as the new joint UNECE/UNESCAP project proposal on capacity building in developing transit transport cooperation of landlocked and transit developing countries in Central Asia;
- Establishment of databases on international routes, major investment projects, and border crossing problems; and
- Analysis of major selected routes within the SPECA sub-region using the UNESCAP time/cost methodology.

At its 10th session, the PWG on Transport also agreed to establish the new practice of conducting bilateral consultations between the SPECA member countries on border-crossing issues. At the 11th session, the bilateral consultations will be held between Kyrgyzstan (pilot country) and its immediate neighbours: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.