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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Round table on the role of best practices at border crossings
in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention**

Best practices at border crossings in the ECO region

Transmitted by the Economic Cooperation Organization

Annex 1

Action Plan for the Establishment and Operationalization of the ECO Road Corridor between the Kyrgyz–Tajikistan–Afghanistan–Iran

On 24 February 2012, the Coordination Meeting of the enroute countries of Kyrgyz-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran Road Transport Corridor was held in Herat, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Meeting was attended by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the ECO Secretariat and IRU.

Under its Agenda Item No. 9, the Meeting agreed on the following Action plan for the establishment and operationalization of the Corridor:

- i. The TIR would be used as the transit system along the Corridor. IRU will continue providing technical assistance to Afghanistan to assure effective application of the TIR under this Corridor.
- ii. The proposed ECO Permit mechanism will be considered for application along this Corridor. IRU will provide technical advice in this regard. Once the document is circulated by the Secretariat and commented on by the enroute Member States, the Secretariat will propose a draft Letter of Intent to be signed by the enroute countries for activation of the Permit.
- iii. The vehicle weight, dimensions and other technical specifications will be governed under Articles 3–5 of Annex IV to TTFA. The ECO Secretariat would circulate the latest versions of the approved specifications at the earliest. The concerned authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic will provide their comments and views in this regard.
- iv. The working hours of the designated border crossing points would be according to the tables provided to the ECO Secretariat. Other matters related to Custom Clearance will be observed according to the customs-related provisions of the TTFA.
- v. Close contacts will be maintained among the concerned authorities of the enroute member states to assure security measures for the safe passage of trucks and goods along the Corridor. The construction of model TIR Parking places along the Corridor will be followed up as a top priority issue in this regard.
- vi. IRU will provide technical assistance in introducing the IRU's Model Highway Initiative as a best practice to be used in this Corridor. IRU will organize an Awareness Workshop for the Member States.
- vii. The ECO Secretariat will align the ECO White Card so as to be applicable along this Corridor and circulate it to the enroute Member States. A Meeting of the Insurance authorities of the enroute Member States will be convened on the sidelines of the Insurance Committee of the TTCC (April 2012, Islamabad) to finalize ways and means for application of the White Card along this Corridor.
- viii. The Secretariat will approach the Embassies of the enroute Member States in Tehran to convene a Working Group Meeting to consider necessary arrangements for implementation of the ECO Unified Visa Sticker for drivers and other persons involved in transit transport.
- ix. A High Level Working Group (HLWG) of the enroute Member States will be established to coordinate and ensure effective monitoring of the corridor. The Meeting dated 24 February 2012 will be regarded as the first Meeting of the HLWG. The ECO

Secretariat will propose the dates, venue and agenda of the next meeting in consultations with the enroute member states.

x. The enroute Member States will provide the ECO Secretariat with the profiles of projects for infrastructure development along the Corridor.

xi. The enroute Member States would make preparations for application of the above mentioned items on the approved routes for the Corridor, which includes: Bazargan-Dogarun, Bandar Abbas- Dogarun, Chabahar-Dogarun (Islamic Republic of Iran) - Islamgala-Heart-Mazare Sharif-Shirkhan Bandar (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan)- Nijni Pyanj-Karamyk-Dushanbe-Vahdat-Karmic (the Republic of Tajikistan) - Karamyk-Sarytash-Osh-Bishkek (The Kyrgyz Republic).

xii. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will take all necessary measures to expedite the construction of the missing link between Herat to Mazare Sharif. Regular progress reports would be provided to other enroute member states through the ECO Secretariat.

xiii. The ECO Secretariat will explore the possibilities of connecting the corridor to Europe through Turkey and to China through Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Annex 2

Minutes of the Meeting

Action Plan for the establishment of the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor (ECO ITI Road Corridor)

On 16th April 2012, the Coordinating Meeting of the member states enroute Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor (ECO ITI Road Corridor) was held in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Meeting was attended by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Turkey, the ECO Secretariat, ECO-CCI, and IRU.

Under its Agenda Item No. 10, the Meeting agreed on the following Action Plan for the establishment and operationization of the Corridor:

1. Under the auspices of an ECO/IRU Pilot Project, the global TIR System will be implemented on test basis along the ITI Corridor. The Pilot Project will be commenced upon a written communication of the competent authorities of Pakistan addressed to the ECO Secretary General informing about the reaffirmation of Pakistan to join the TIR Convention until a certain date as well as establishment or adjustment of contractual relations between all concerned parties. Other prerequisites and activities required for test application of the TIR along this Corridor are specified under Sub-Item 1, Agenda Item 7 of the Report of the abovementioned Meeting.
2. ECO License for the ITI Corridor will be developed for regulating permits along the ITI Road Corridor based on the same license prepared and circulated for the whole ECO under the aegis of the Road and Transit Committees of the TTCC. The ECO would coordinate this pilot project with technical assistance of IRU.
3. The number of permits to be issued by each country under the above framework will be specified on consensus basis. The ECO Secretariat will coordinate this issue in cooperation with IRU. Other requirements for this action are specified under Sub-Item 2, Agenda Item 7 of the report of the abovementioned Meeting.
4. The provisions of the TTFA regarding vehicle weight, dimensions and other related specifications and criteria (inter alia tables under articles 3–5 of the TTFA and subsequent revisions of the tables by the TTCC) would be applied along this corridor.
5. For early modernization of the designated border crossing points, modernization projects, with emphasis on common border points, single window, and other modernized systems would be designed and implemented by the enroute member states. The ECO Secretariat will keep contact with the enroute member states and international financial institutions to expedite such projects. Other priority investment projects will also be proposed by the enroute member states in this framework.
6. The border crossing points designated for this corridor would be given priority in the ongoing study of ECO\UNCTAD on implementation of the customs provisions of the TTFA. The study team would start their missions to the enroute member states as soon as possible.
7. The ECO Third Party Motor Vehicle Insurance Scheme (ECO White Card) would be applied on this corridor as a regional system for Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability Insurance Scheme, with possible connection to the ECO Road Corridor on Kyrgyz-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran.

8. The ECO Secretariat would follow up measures to convene the meetings of the working groups of the relevant consular officials of the member states for consideration of the application of the ECO Unified Visa Sticker for Drivers along this Corridor.
9. The enroute Member States, except Turkey, would expedite the process of accession to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR).
10. A feasibility study would be initiated with the technical assistance of IRU to implement IRU Model Highway Initiative principles along the corridor.
11. The ECO Secretariat would utilize all possible ways and means for studying the feasibility of developing logistic centers in all enroute member states.
12. All the enroute member states stressed that they would take all necessary measures to assure security of the drives, trucks and cargos in traffic along this corridor.
13. The ECO Secretariat would prepare and distribute a scheme of the routes, which were considered by the abovementioned meeting, are to be approved by the member states within one month. The Secretariat would consolidate the technical and operational information regarding the border crossing points and roads along the specified routes. The Secretariat would also explore the possibilities of connecting the corridor to Europe through Turkey.
14. The ECO Secretariat, with cooperation of the enroute member states, and in partnership with IRU and other interested international institutions, organizing a demonstration/test run of truck caravan along the corridor in 2012.
15. The ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry would coordinate, in consultation with the ECO Secretariat, the work of the private sector of the enroute member states to expedite the operation of this corridor.
16. The enroute member states would nominate their focal points for this corridor within one month.
17. The ECO Secretariat would prepare the TOR of the study to be conducted along the corridor. The same international and national consultants that were utilized in conducting the ECO\IDB Project for Corridor Management would be recruited for this study as well.
18. The next Meeting of the ITI Road Transport Corridor will be held in Tehran on a date to be specified in consultation with the ECO Secretariat.

Signed at Islamabad on 16th April 2012, by:

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