

OSCE activities aimed at facilitating transport and trade across the region

Presentation by

Mr. Roel Janssens, Economic and Environmental Adviser

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

UNECE TER/TEM Master Plan Meeting, Bad Gastein, 21-24 April 2009



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Outline of Presentation

- **The OSCE approach**
- **Future Transport Dialogue / Border Security and Management Concept**
- **OSCE role and activities**
- **Concrete examples**
- **Development of an OSCE/UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Borders**

The OSCE Approach

- **Regional security organization incl. West and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Caucasus and North America**
- **Comprehensive concept of security, including economic and environmental aspects**
- **Promoting dialogue on various security related aspects in order to build confidence and strengthen co-operation, act as a catalyst**

OSCE Transport Dialogue

- **Started in 2006 in the framework of the 14th OSCE EF under Belgian Chairmanship**
- **Focus on transport security and on development to enhance regional economic cooperation and stability**
- **Led to the adoption of MC Decision No. 11/06 on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE**

OSCE Transport Dialogue (2)

MC Decision No. 11/06 Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- **Recognizes that OSCE landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) face unique transit transportation challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea**
- **Stresses the role of the OSCE in supporting the adoption and implementation of relevant international legal instruments, conventions, standards and norms**
- **Recognizes the need to promote good governance and public private partnerships in the transport sector**

OSCE Transport Dialogue (3)

Decision No. 11/06

Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE

- **Emphasizes the need for enhanced cooperation and exchanges of good practices among OSCE participating States**
- **Encourages the promotion of dialogue on transport and broader transport-related issues, among others in the context of conflict settlement processes in the OSCE area**

OSCE Border Security and Management Concept

- **Provides a framework for the OSCE to assist its pS in enhancing BSM in all three OSCE dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental and human**
- **Annex A lists possible OSCE Contributions**
- **Envisages a balance between security and facilitation facets of borders**

OSCE Role and Activities

- **Supporting ongoing coordination mechanisms such as the EATL, TEM/TER Master Plan and the adoption and implementation of existing legal instruments**
- **Provide support to pS in addressing all threats and challenges related to border management, promoting a balanced approach**
- **Conduct border assessment missions, raise awareness, develop capacity building programmes / promote dissemination of good practices**

OSCE Role and Activities: concrete examples

- **Examples of capacity-building/awareness raising activities: ‘UNECE Harmonization Convention’ & Annexes 1-9: Moscow (2006), Belgrade (2006), Almaty (2007), Tbilisi (2007), Kyiv (2007), Astana (2009)**
- **Railway safety and infrastructure development issues: Ashgabat (2008), to be followed by a study visit in 2009**
- **Future projects: Border-crossing facilitation along railway corridors: in Central Asia, possibility to involve TER/TEM member countries in a follow-up event**

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (1)

The aim is:

- To support OSCE countries in their efforts to make their BCPs more efficient, taking into account trade and transport facilitation as well as security aspects
- To become a reference document for national policy makers and senior customs and border guard officials when drafting their border and transit transportation facilitation policies

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (2)

More in specific, it should:

- **Support drafting of border management and transit policies**
- **Promote a balanced approach, paying due attention to facilitation and security aspects**
- **Highlight concrete and practical examples from across the OSCE region**
- **Foster further dialogue on these issues in the OSCE region**

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (3)

Rationale:

- Main focus will be on 'policy processes' preceding 'best practices' at the border
- It will pay particular attention to EU-CIS as well as intra-CIS borders (i.e. in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia)

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (4)

Envisaged structure:

- **Part I: Border Policies**
- **Part II: The need for an integrated approach**
- **Part III: Institutional and legal framework**
- **Part IV: Border Operations**
- **Part V: Border Infrastructure and resources**
- **Part VI: Performance measurement and Benchmarking**

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (5)

Partnership:

- **The Handbook is a joint endeavor of the OSCE and the UNECE. Other organizations such as the WCO, the World Bank, the ILO, the IOM, the EC, EurAsEC, BSEC and others have also been engaged and asked to provide input**
- **Senior international experts have been hired to draft the Handbook under the coordination of the OSCE/ECE**

Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings (6)

Timeframe:

- **Two “stakeholders meetings” involving the Customs/Border Guard and transport authorities in the region were held in October 2008 in Minsk and Bishkek**
- **Based on the input received, a decision was made on the overall structure and approach, a detailed Table of Contents has been agreed upon**
- **The Handbook is expected to be ready by mid 2009, capacity-building follow-up is foreseen**

In conclusion

- **Political dialogue and fostering regional co-operation are areas where the OSCE can add value and play a catalytic role**
- **The OSCE is well placed to raise awareness and disseminate experiences on issues related to trans-national co-operation (such as borders, customs, transport and trade)**
- **The OSCE stands ready to continue its fruitful cooperation with the UNECE, with other partner organizations and relevant agencies in pS**

Thank you for your attention!

- Contact: roel.janssens@osce.org
- Website: www.osce.org