

Border Crossing Facilitation and Good Governance in Customs: An OSCE-UNECE Round Table

The Office of Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine are organizing a Round Table: **Border Crossing Facilitation and Good Governance in Customs**.

The Round Table, to be held in Kiev on 19-20 December 2007, will bring together participants from international and non-governmental organizations, national transport associations as well as government representatives from Central Asia, South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and the European Union.

After two successful capacity building seminars regarding the *UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods*, organized jointly by UNECE and OSCE in the framework of the 2006 OSCE Economic Forum process, the Kiev Round Table will promote the forthcoming Annex 8 to this Convention. This Annex addresses issues such as visa facilitation for professional drivers, international road transport operations, vehicle inspection and border crossing points. It also foresees the establishment of a reporting mechanism.

Facilitation of border crossings, best practices in customs as well as promotion of integrated border management measures will also be discussed. The main focus of the Round Table, however, will be to explore opportunities for enhanced public and private sector co-operation in the area of border crossing facilitation.

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