

Transport infrastructure projects, activities and initiatives in SPECA countries

SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity

26th Session

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ESCAP regional transport activities

New approach to include an international dimension in the planning of transport infrastructure

Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, as well as a set of dry ports of international importance

Aggregating disparate infrastructure systems into a common regional network

General Assembly resolution 70/197 of 22 December 2015 and the Commission resolution 72/5

Support to GA resolution 70/1 of September 2015 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Committee on Transport

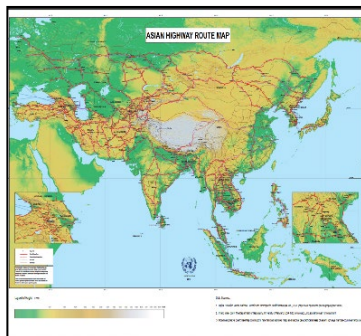
The ESCAP Committee on Transport at its sixth session held on 12 and 13 November 2020 supported:

- Further enhancement of the infrastructure and operational connectivity
- Improvement of road, rail and dry ports infrastructure
- Accelerated digitization and electronic data exchange, and other relevant measures
- Exchange of best practices

And reaffirmed the importance of Euro-Asian transport connectivity, including multimodal transport and logistics solutions

Infrastructure Connectivity

Asian Highway Network



- Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway network
- Entered into force in July 2005
- 30 Contracting Parties
- 145, 000 kms in 32 countries
- Working Group on the Asian Highway Network

Trans-Asian Railway Network



- Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network
- Entered into force in June 2009
- 21 Contracting Parties
- 117500 kms in 28 countries
- Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

Dry Ports



- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
- Entered into force in April 2016
- 16 Contracting Parties
- 269, including 181 existing and 88 potential dry ports,
- Working Group on Dry Ports

SPECA countries take an active part in the Working Groups, submitting amendments to the respective agreements and pursuing activities in support of the infrastructure development of along the Asian Highways, Trans-Asian Railway and Dry Ports Networks.

Infrastructure Connectivity (cont'd)

	Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network	Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network	Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
Afghanistan	party		party
Azerbaijan	party	signatory	party
Kazakhstan	party	signatory	party
Kyrgyzstan	party		
Tajikistan	party	party	party
Turkmenistan	party	party	party
Uzbekistan	party	party	

Sustainable road transport

The ninth Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway convened on 16-17 June 2021. It focused on:

- **Improvement of infrastructure quality:**
 - More than 50% of Class III and below in some SPECA countries
 - Upgrade and maintain all AH routes to at least Class II
- **Decarbonization, improving social inclusiveness, tackling road safety and gender mainstreaming:**
 - The use of ICT, new technologies and ITS for efficient cross-border and transit transport, reducing road crashes and traffic congestion, increasing resilience and mitigate negative environmental externalities

Sustainable Railways

The seventh Meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network convened on 20-21 May 2021. It focused on:

- Implementation of the Agreement and approval of amendments proposed
- Missing links and break-of-gauge
- Electronic information exchange

Sustainable Railways (cont'd)

The working group recognised:

- Rail has an important role to play in the national and international transport
- Greater utilization of rail transport increases sustainability of transport networks
- Railways is the most resilient mode of transport during external shocks like pandemics
- The 2030 Development Agenda gives priority to more environmentally sustainable transport, including railways

Dry ports

The fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Dry Ports was convened on 2-3 June 2021. It emphasized the need to:

- Address infrastructural and institutional inefficiencies
- Include dry ports in the international intermodal transport and economic corridors
- Increase efficiency of multimodal transport operations, including harmonization of related legal frameworks
- Application of modern ICT, digital solutions and innovative business models
- Practical measures for establishment of a regional network of dry ports

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