**Ministry of
Industry and
Infrastructural
Development**

# SPECA Workshop on digitalization of transport services (eTIR and eCMR)

**Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan (online)
24 November 2021**

Development of sustainable transport systems and connectivity are important factors of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the SPECA sub-region. Effective, efficient, multimodal transport systems, developed in coordinated way and in synergy of all actors, are crucial ingredient for better competitiveness and economic development of SPECA landlocked countries (LLDC). Before pandemics, LLDCs paid more than double what coastal countries do to export their goods and COVID-19 related restrictions, lockdowns, and border closures caused serious disruptions of supply chains and citizen's mobility, which created additional costs. In that sense, enhancing connectivity and ensuring sustainable and efficient functioning of international transport corridors is of outmost importance.

One of the solutions for better regional and inter-regional transport connectivity and better efficiency of international transport corridors is efficient implementation of United Nations legal instruments on inland transport and border crossing facilitation, especially digital solutions for border crossing facilitation (e-TIR and e-CMR and other facilitation tools).

The aim of the Workshop is to strengthen knowledge of the national representatives of SPECA countries on digitalization of transport services, procedures and documents (eTIR and eCMR) highlighting the advantages that new electronic systems can bring on trade and border crossings facilitation in the region. UNECE will present case studies from countries that has already started implementing eTIR and participated in different pilot projects. Furthermore, the workshop will strengthen national capacities on how to improve regional transport connectivity and inland transport competitiveness.

# DRAFT AGENDA

## 24 November 2021

**10.30 - 11.00   Registration**

**11.00 – 11.20  Welcome/ Opening speech**

Mr. Seryk Bashimov, Director, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development, Kazakhstan
Mr. Nenad Nikolic, Regional Advisor, UNECE

**11.20 – 12.10 Session I. Deployment of eTIR International system**

Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Chief of Section, UNECE
eTIR
- Project overview (25 min)
- Project methodology (15 min)
- Brief technical introduction of the eTIR International system (10 min)
Q&A

**12.10 – 13.20 Session I. Deployment of eTIR International system – SPECA countries interventions**

National representatives – national legislation, state-ot-the-art in connection to eTIR International, benefits and obstacles, future actions (40 min)

Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Chief of Section, UNECE
- eTIR International – next steps in development (15 min)
Mr. Sandeep Raj Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP
- Digitalization of transport: regional agenda for Asia and the Pacific (10 min)
Q&A

**13.20 – 14.20  Lunch break**

**14.20 – 15.00 Session II. CMR and eCMR**

Ms. Rebecca Huang, Secretary ECE Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1)
CMR Convention and eCMR protocol
- History, Provisions, Accessions (20 min)
- The case for acceding to eCMR Additional Protocol (20 min)

**15.00 – 15.10  Short coffee break**

**15.10 – 16.10   Session II.   CMR and eCMR – SPECA countries interventions**

National representatives – national legislation, state-ot-the-art in CMR implementation, benefits and obstacles, future actions (40 min)

Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Chief of Section, UNECE
- Presentation of several pilot projects on eCMR (20 min)
Q&A

**16.15 Conclusions and Closing statements** (UNECE/ MIID RK)