Role of the UNECE Transport Division in the Balkans

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The UNECE

A regional - and increasingly global - centre for international legal instruments

- 57 UNECE international conventions and agreements
  - Road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport

- 33 UNECE trade facilitation recommendations
Infrastructure: road, railway, inland waterways, combined transport (AGC, AGR, AGN, AGTC)

Legal framework for the development of international infrastructure networks
Traffic rules, road signs and signals

• A set of internationally agreed:
  - Road traffic regulations
  - Road signs
  - Signals and markings
  - Safety requirements for motor vehicles

• Decade of Action for Road Safety
  Belgrade 27 - 29 April, 2011
Border Crossing Facilitation (TIR Convention)

- International transport of goods by road without frontier checks
- Over 3 million TIR carnets used annually
Transport of Dangerous Goods (ADR, RID, ADN)

Uniform requirements to ensure a high level of safety of international transport of dangerous goods
The main input by UNECE into developing transcontinental road transport operations is its legal "acquis" covering every element of the international road transport system from infrastructure related conventions to those governing private law contracts between the haulier and shipper.
Hours and Conditions of Work (AETR)

Uniform working conditions for drivers of commercial vehicles engaged in international road transport
Consignment Notes, Legal Liability (CMR, e-CMR)

Uniform conditions for a contract for international carriage of goods by road

Signing Ceremony of the e-CMR, Geneva, May 2008
Unification of railway law along Euro-Asian transport corridors

Vision and strategy: Short, medium and long term
Approach: Public-private partnership

**Short-term**
- Inter-Governmental Document (IGD) on General Terms and Conditions for Euro-Asian rail transport contracts (GTC EurAsia)
  - Time frame: March 2011 - March 2012

**Medium-term**
- Model law Regulations for international rail transport
  - Time frame: June 2012 - 2015 following evaluation

**Long-term**
- Convention on International Rail Transport
  - Time frame: as of 2015 following evaluation
Unification of railway law along Euro-Asian transport corridors

Short-term vision and strategy

- General terms and conditions for Euro-Asian rail transport contracts (GTC EurAsia)
  - International private law model contracts (non-commercial)
  - To be prepared by industry (OSJD-CIT Legal Group)
  - Content: Liability, documentation, claims handling, compensation, etc.

- Inter-Governmental Document (IDG) (MoU, Declaration, Resolution,...)
  - Political support for GTC EurAsia (policy framework for Euro-Asian rail transport operations)
  - To be prepared by UN member States (cooperation with ESCAP)
  - UNECE Expert Group (to be established)
  - Content and scope (to be decided)

- Coordination + cooperation (UNECE, OSJD, OTIF, CIT)
Trade Tools: Better information flows and documentary controls

UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

- The only global standard for Electronic Data Interchange
- UNECE trade facilitation recommendations
UNECE Legal Instruments

Total Number of Contracting Parties to UNECE Transport Legal Instruments

- Over 1,600 Contracting Parties, growing demand
- Almost one quarter from outside the UNECE region
- A solid foundation for any transport system - regional or global
Integrated Global Transport Systems: The role of UNECE

• The UN Secretary-General: Depositary of UN Legal Instruments

• Objective: « Seamless, safe and secure transport » across the world

• Regional Commissions to support and promote the existing UN legal framework

• Co-operation and co-ordination necessary among Regional Commissions
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation in the Balkans (RPTC)

- UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF)
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010-2014
  - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2010-2015
  - Serbia 2011-2015

- Delivering as One (« One UN »)
  - Albania
Thank you for your attention