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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links

Seventh session

Astrakhan, Russian Federation, 24–25 October 2011

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh session*

to be held in Astrakhan, Russian Federation, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday,
24 October 2011

I. Provisional agenda

1. Technical visit to the Olya port.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Matters arising from the twenty-fourth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5).
4. Recent developments related to the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Phase II:
 - (a) Information related to the Russian Federation;
 - (b) Information related to other EATL countries;
 - (c) Information related to other international organizations;
 - (d) Trans-Eurasia-Logistics Rail Service connecting China and Germany through Kazakhstan – Russian Federation – Belarus – Poland.
5. Study on non-physical obstacles to transport.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (anastasia.barinova@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039).

6. Adoption of the final version of the report of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links on implementing Phase II of the EATL Project.
7. The way ahead:
 - (a) Developing EATL routes:
 - (i) North-South rail-sea route (Russian Federation, India, Islamic Republic of Iran);
 - (ii) Other related projects, plans and initiatives.
 - (b) Issues concerning the development of EATL Phase III Project in 2012–2015;
 - (c) Issues concerning the meeting of EATL countries' Ministers;
 - (d) Strengthening cooperation and interaction with UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects, UNESCAP, OSCE, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
8. OSCE-UNECE Handbook on best practices in border crossing.
9. Other business.
10. Date and place of next meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Technical visit to the Olya port

The purpose of this visit is to familiarize the delegates with the technical possibilities and capacities of the port freight traffic within the international transport corridor "North-South" and other EATL routes.

2. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

3. Matters arising from the twenty-fourth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)

The UNECE secretariat will inform the Expert Group about main decisions taken during the twenty-fourth session of WP.5 (5–7 September 2011) which concern the EATL.

4. Recent developments related to the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Phase II

(a) Information related to the Russian Federation

The Russian Federation will inform the Expert Group about recent developments and plans for the future related to the EATL.

(b) Information related to other EATL countries

The Expert Group will be informed by other participating and interested countries about recent developments related to transport in the ECE region.

(c) Information related to other international organizations

The Expert Group will be informed by other international organizations about recent developments related to transport in the ECE region.

(d) Trans-Eurasia-Logistics Rail Service connecting China and Germany through Kazakhstan – Russian Federation – Belarus – Poland

The Expert Group will be informed about the emerging rail service connecting China and Germany through Kazakhstan – Russian Federation – Belarus – Poland.

5. Study on non-physical obstacles to transport

The Expert Group will be informed about the progress/finalization of the study and related survey on non-physical obstacles to international transport along the EATL routes. The Group will also discuss definitive ways and means of collecting missing data.

6. Adoption of the final version of the report of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links on implementing Phase II of the EATL Project

The Expert Group will discuss and consider accepting the revised final report on implementing Phase II of the EATL Project.

7. The way ahead**(a) Developing EATL routes****(i) North-South rail-sea route (Russian Federation, India, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

The Expert Group will discuss the challenges and opportunities of the North-South rail-sea route (Russian Federation, India, Islamic Republic of Iran).

(ii) Other related projects, plans and initiatives

The Expert Group will discuss other EATL projects, plans and initiatives.

(b) Issues concerning the development of EATL Phase III Project in 2012–2015

The Expert Group will consider issues related to the continuation of the EATL Project in Phase III (2012–2015) and consider the adoption of EATL Phase III Draft Work Plan prepared by the secretariat.

(c) Issues concerning the holding of the Meeting of EATL countries' Ministers

The Expert Group will consider issues related to the organization of the meeting of Ministers of countries involved in EATL Phase II.

(d) Strengthening cooperation and interaction with UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects, UNESCAP, OSCE, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations

The Expert Group will discuss issues related to further strengthening cooperation and interaction with various international public and private stakeholders related to the EATL project.

8. OSCE-UNECE Handbook on best practices in border crossing

The OSCE-UNECE secretariats will brief the Expert Group on the progress in preparing the joint Handbook.

9. Other business

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other issues of interest.

10. Date and place of next meeting

The Group of Experts will decide the date and venue for its next meeting.
