



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.

GENERAL

TRANS/WP.5/1999/9  
25 June 1999

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

(Twelfth session, 6-8 September 1999,  
agenda item 7)

### ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

#### Note by the secretariat

As part of the process of providing information, and further to previous data concerning ECE activities aimed at assistance to countries in transition, the secretariat reproduces below a summary of additional activities undertaken in 1998 and in 1999.

Please note that the distribution of documentation for the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents other than Reports and Agendas will be numbered as follows: TRANS/WP.5/year/serial number. Reports, Agendas, resolutions and major publications will retain their previous numbering system (i.e. TRANS/WP.5/21).

**Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)**

SECI is an effort to encourage cooperation among its member states and to facilitate their integration into European structures. The SECI participating states include: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. There are a number of SECI sectoral projects in two of which the ECE Transport Division staff and its Regional Adviser have assumed a leadership role:

(i) Project Group on Border Crossing Facilitation, chaired by Greece. The work of this Group resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of International Road Transport of Goods in the SECI Region, which was signed by the SECI member states in Athens on 28 April 1999.

(ii) Project Group on Transport Infrastructure Development along Main International Routes. Two meetings were held recently in Sofia under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of Bulgaria, on 14-16 September 1998 and on 1-2 June 1999. In connection with this Project the World Bank has undertaken to assist in the improvement of road border crossing in the SECI region. To date it has conducted fact finding missions to six SECI countries.

(iii) Ad hoc Working Group on the reduction of border stopping time of shuttle trains. Two meetings were held on 10 November and 8-9 December 1998. The activity of the Working Group has focused on data collection and the identification of existing border crossing problems of international rail traffic. One new meeting is foreseen in the autumn 1999, with the aim of developing proposals for the improvement of rail border crossing traffic.

**Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)**

On 26 March 1998, the Presidents of four Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - at their meeting within the framework of the Interstate Council of those States, signed jointly the Tashkent Declaration on the ECE/ESCAP Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), in which they have stated their intention to establish and implement the SPECA programme. Turkmenistan, not being a member of the Interstate Council, was not present at the meeting but is expected to join SPECA soon.

The Tashkent Declaration identified the following priority areas for cooperation:

- Development of transport infrastructure and cross-border facilitation;
- Rational and efficient use of energy and water resources of Central Asia;

- International Economic Conference on Tajikistan and a joint strategy for regional development and attraction of foreign investment;
- Regional cooperation on the development of multiple routes for pipeline transportation of hydrocarbons to global markets.

Kazakhstan is the lead state for the SPECA Project Working Group on the Development of Transport Infrastructure and Cross-border Facilitation Project. This Group has held two meetings thus far, in Almaty on 20-22 October 1998 and in Astana, new capital of Kazakhstan, on 7-8 June 1999. The meetings included representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, ECE, ESCAP, the office of the UN resident representative, and a number of IFIs and international organizations. The third meeting of the Group is scheduled to be held in Almaty on 18-19 October 1999.

#### **Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**

BSEC was established in 1992 with the aim of developing the Black Sea region into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. Economic cooperation is adopted as the main route to it.

Member states of BSEC include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellenic Republic, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

ECE participated at the International Round Table "BSEC at the Turn of the 21st Century", Tbilisi, 9-10 March 1999. The ECE Executive Secretary made the main contribution to the Round Table towards the formulation of BSEC's overall programme of work and strategies. The ECE Regional Adviser on Transport made a presentation on Transport Challenges in the Black Sea Region as a contribution to BSEC's programme of work and strategies in transport.

#### **The Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects**

ECE is a signatory to the TEM and TER Trust Fund Cooperation Agreements and is responsible for the technical and administrative backstopping of both projects. As part of this effort, assistance was provided to the TEM and TER countries through the organization and holding of meetings, preparation of documents, contacts with other Governments and institutions to work with or support the project and report on project developments to the ECE bodies as well as holding meetings with Governments or entities who could potentially participate in or be members to the Projects. Further details regarding the activities being carried out by the TEM and TER projects are being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/1999/15 and TRANS/WP.5/1999/11.

**Advisory missions by the Regional Advisers**

In the context of assistance to countries in transition, over the period June 1998 to June 1999, the ECE Regional Advisers on Transport conducted the following advisory missions:

July to December 1998

18-21 August, Sofia (Bulgaria); 5-12 September, Ankara (Turkey); 13-17 September, Sofia (Bulgaria); 18-22 October, Almaty (Kazakhstan); 21-24 October, Vilnius (Lithuania); 9-11 November, Sofia (Bulgaria); 17-20 November, Bangkok (Thailand); 7-9 December, Sofia (Bulgaria); 9-12 December, Vienna (Austria); 13-15 December, Vilnius (Lithuania); 17 December, Vienna (Austria);

January to June 1999

8-11 March, Tbilisi (Georgia); 25-26 May, Sofia (Bulgaria); 1-2 June, Sofia (Bulgaria); 7-8 June, Astana (Kazakhstan).

**UN/ECE TRUST FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION (TFACT)**

1. The integration of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, that are in transition to a market economy, into the international community depends to a considerable extent upon their capacity to participate in the meetings of international organizations and other international fora. These countries, particularly the new independent states, are encountering great difficulty in financing their participants in seminars, symposia, workshops and other informal fora organized within the framework of ECE.
2. The Trust Fund provides a channel through which Governments, international organizations, institutions and other donors may contribute funds to help the transition countries and new independent states defray the costs of their participation in seminars, symposia, workshops and other informal fora organized within the framework of ECE. The Fund may also cover other forms of technical assistance. It is intended to complement and not duplicate bilateral or multilateral assistance.
3. Donors may indicate the specific area of work, activities, informal meetings or purposes for which they wish their contributions to be earmarked within the broad framework of the Fund, or the country or countries for which the contribution is intended.
4. The funds in trust may be used to pay local costs at the venue of the informal meeting (per diem) or the transportation costs (air fare etc.) to and from the meeting, or both if available funds permit.
5. The ECE secretariat matches the requests received from transition countries for assistance with the funds contributed, taking into account the

conditions set by donors.

6. A programme support charge of 13 per cent to cover secretariat services is applied to contributions.

7. The opening of the UN/ECE Trust Fund is intended to relieve donors of the considerable work involved in matching requests with available donations, issuing travel documents, making payments, processing travel claims and in maintaining accounts.

8. The Trust Fund is administered and audited in accordance with United Nations financial regulations and rules.

9. Contributions to the Fund may be made either:

(a) All contributions in US Dollars should only be paid into the Chase account as follows:

Account number: 001-1-508629 (for contributions in US Dollars only)  
Bank Name: Chase Manhattan Bank, New York  
Account title: UNOG General Fund  
General Ledger: UN-0503456 (for UNOG/Finance reference only)  
Address: International Agencies Branch  
270 Park Avenue, 43<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New Your, N.Y. 10017, USA  
ABA: 021000021 (US Banking Code)  
Reference: "UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in  
Transition TFACT", Allotment account No. MEC-25-800;

(b) or all other currencies should continue to be paid into the UBS SA accounts as follows

Account number: 240-CO-590,160.0 (for contributions in Swiss Francs)  
Bank Name: UBS SA  
Account Title: UNOG General Func  
Bank Address: 2, rue de la Confédération  
Case Postale 2770  
CH-1211 Geneva 2  
Bank Swift Code: UBSWCHZ12A  
Reference: "UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in  
Transition TFACT", Allotment account No. MEC-25-800.

10. In either case, a communication should be sent by the donors, informing the ECE of the amount contributed, the date of payment and the purposes for which the funds are to be earmarked (see paragraph 3).

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TFACT

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