

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Committee on Transport
Fifth session
Beirut, 2-4 March 2004

AIDE-MEMOIRE*Background to the session*

The fifth session of the Committee on Transport will continue the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to develop the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM), which was approved by member countries at the twentieth ESCWA session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 May 1999. The System was proposed by the Committee on Transport with a view to facilitating trade and transport between the countries of the region and achieving regional integration.

If ITSAM is to be successful, timely and well-considered action will be required. Similarly, the finalization of recommendations relating to general policies on trade at the regional level will require the consideration of many issues. Such issues include the development of infrastructure, involving implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq; the signing of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq; and the adoption of a memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the region. In order to facilitate the movement of transport and trade at the regional and international levels and at all the land, sea and air border points in the region, it will also be necessary to increase the efficiency of transport movement and operations by harmonizing laws, and standards and by ratifying regional and international agreements. Recommendations should be implemented regarding the facilitation of transport and trade in the region and, in particular, the establishment of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade.

The ESCWA Transport Section began to develop ITSAM during the 1998-1999 biennium, and has continued those efforts in its programmes of work for the 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 bienniums and the current 2004-2005 biennium. In the forthcoming session, a review will be conducted of achievements since the fourth session of the Committee on Transport, which was held in Beirut from 14 to 16 January 2003.

1. Preparations for the Fifth session of the Committee on Transport

Pursuant to the recommendations of the previous sessions of the Committee on Transport and the approval given by member countries to the adoption and development of ITSAM, as referred to above, and as part of the preparations for the fifth session of the Committee on Transport, transport experts in the ESCWA Globalization and Regional Integration Division prepared studies and organized a meeting at which those studies were presented and discussed. The most important of the findings of those studies were

consolidated in the outcomes and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Building in Transport and Trade Facilitation, which was held in Beirut from 2 to 4 December 2003. Of particular significance were the plan proposed for implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq; the memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the region; and the establishment and re-activation of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the region, all of which will be submitted to the fifth session of the Committee on Transport for discussion, adoption of those suggestions it considers appropriate, and finalization of plans for their implementation.

2. The provisional agenda of the session

The provisional agenda of the fifth session of the Committee on Transport is contained in document E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/IG.1/L.1.

3. Participants

In view of the multiplicity of concerns and ESCWA activities relating to transport and trade facilitation, arising from the variety of means and systems of land, sea and air transport and the range of related aspects, Governments of member countries should send delegations comprising specialists in the various relevant fields. In particular, the delegations should include experts in road transport, to discuss and adopt the proposed programme of work for the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq. It should also include experts on maritime transport and ports, in order to discuss and adopt the proposed memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the region; and experts on trade and customs, with a view to discussing and adopting the necessary measures to finalize the establishment or re-activation of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade. In accordance with United Nations practice, member countries are responsible for the travel and subsistence expenses of their representatives. A number of representatives of regional and international organizations will also be invited to attend.

4. Time and venue

The session will be held at United Nations House, ESCWA headquarters in Beirut, from 2 to 4 March 2004. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 March 2004, and the inaugural meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on the same day. The session will conclude at 12 noon on Thursday, 4 March 2004.

5. Accommodation and transportation

Arrangements have been made with a number of hotels in Beirut for rooms to be made available at reduced rates, some of which include breakfast and transport to and from Beirut International Airport. Others may or may not include the 10 per cent value-added tax. Appended hereto is a list of those hotels and of prices. You may contact the hotels directly to make reservations. In order to ensure that you receive the ESCWA discount, please mention at the time of reservation that you will be attending the fifth session of the Committee on Transport.

6. Entry visas

Any participant who experiences difficulty in obtaining a Lebanese visa in his own country may request assistance from ESCWA. If such assistance is required, please supply ESCWA with a copy of your passport, including the relevant information, by 10 February 2004.

7. Correspondence

All session-related correspondence should be directed to:

Ms. Thouka Al-Khalidi
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For the attention of:

Mr. Nabil Safwat
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Globalization and Regional Integration Division
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LIST OF HOTELS
BEIRUT - LEBANON
2004 SPECIAL UN RATE

CATEGORY : 5*****

PHOENICIA INTER-CONT 5*****	Single room rate:	\$110.00
Ain El-Mreisseh - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-369100, Fax: 01-363537	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: beyha-resvn@interconti.com	Transportation:	Not included
Breakfast rate: \$18/person		

MARRIOTT 5*****	Single room rate:	\$65.00
Jnah district - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-840540, Fax: 01-840345	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: mhers.beylb.dors@marriotthotels.com	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	included for 7 persons/shuttle
Breakfast : Included		

LE MERIDIEN COMMODORE 5*****	Single room rate:	\$65.00
Hamra street - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-350400, Fax: 01-345806	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: sales@lemeridien-commodore.com	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	included for groups
Breakfast : Included		

GEFINOR ROTANA HOTEL 5*****	Single rm. special rate - weekend \$43	\$62.00
HAMRA, CLIMENCEAU STREET	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-371888, Fax: 01-360831	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: res.gefinor@rotana.com	Transportation:	Not included
Breakfast : Included		

SHERATON CORAL HOTEL & RESORT 5*****	Single room rate:	\$62.00
Jnah - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-859000, Fax: 01-859026	Government tax (VAT 10%)	included
E-mail: coral.beach.reservations@sheraton.com	Transportation:	Not included
Breakfast : Included		

LIST OF HOTELS
BEIRUT - LEBANON
2004 SPECIAL UN RATE

CATEGORY : 5*****

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL 5***** Hamra - Beirut Tel: 01-754755, Fax: 01-749555 E-mail: info@cpbeirut.com Breakfast : Included	Single room rate:	
	Applicable for Group rate:	\$66.00
	Individual rate:	\$66.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Included
	Transportation:	Not included

METROPOLITAN HOTEL 5***** Horsh Tabet, Sin El-Fil - Beirut Tel: 01-496666, Fax: 01-502502 E-mail: reservations@metpalace-beirut.com Breakfast : Included	Single room rate:	
		\$90.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Not included

MÖVENPICK 5***** Raouche -Beirut Tel: 01-869666, Fax: 01-809326 E-mail: reservations03@moevenpick-beirut.com Breakfast : Included	Single room rate:	
	Applicable for Groups of (10-30 rooms)	\$75.00
	Individual rate (Garden View):	\$100.00
	Individual Rate (Sea View):	\$140.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Not included

SAFIR 5***** Raouche -Beirut Tel: 01-810555, Fax: 01-814888 E-mail: reserve@safirheliopolitan.com Breakfast : Included	Single room rate:	
	Applicable for Groups of (10-30 rooms)	\$60.00
	Individual rate:	\$65.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Included for groups

LIST OF HOTELS
BEIRUT - LEBANON
2004 SPECIAL UN RATE

CATEGORY: 4****

HOLIDAY INN DUNES 4****	Single room rate:	\$60.00
Verdun street - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-792111, Fax: 01-792333	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not Included
E-mail: info@holidayinn-dunes.com	Transportation	Not included
Breakfast : Included		

MARTINEZ HOTEL 4**** (Individual rate)	Single room rate:	\$60.00
Ain El Mreisseh - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01- 368111 Fax: 01-370333	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: reservations.beirut@radissonsas.com	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	included for groups
Breakfast : Included		

BAYVIEW 4****	Single room rate:	\$65.00
Ain El Mreisseh - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-373090, Fax: 01-373091	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: bayview@dm.net.lb	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	included for groups
Breakfast : Included		

THE LANCASTER HOTEL 4****	Single room rate:	\$65.00
Roucheh, Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-790810, Fax: 01-790820	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: lancasterhotel@lancaster.com.lb	Transportation:	Not included
Breakfast included		

THE MAYFLOWER 4****	Single room rate:	\$45.00
Hamra - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-340680, Fax: 01-342038	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: mayflo@dm.net.lb	Transportation:	Not included
Breakfast: Included		

CAVALIER HOTEL 4****	Single room rate:	\$45.00
Hamra street - Beirut	Services Charges (16%):	Included
Tel: 01-353001, Fax: 01- 347681	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: cavatel@terra.net.lb	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	included for groups 15 persons
Breakfast : Included		

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CATEGORY: 4****

SOFITEL LE GABRIEL 4****	Single room rate:	\$86.00
Acrafieh - Beirut Tel: 01-203700, Fax: 01- 320094 E-mail: legabriel@inco.com.lb Breakfast : Included	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Not included

ALEXANDRE HOTEL 4****	Single room rate:	\$50.00
Achrafieh - Beirut Tel: 01-325736, Fax: 01- 203940 E-mail: alexandre@hotelalexandre.com Breakfast : Included	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Not included

SEAROCK HOTEL 4****	Single room rate:	\$50.00
Raouche - Beirut Tel: 01-788488, Fax: 01- 788588 E-mail: searock@cyberia.net.lb Breakfast : Included	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Not included

LIST OF HOTELS
BEIRUT - LEBANON
2004SPECIAL UN RATE

CATEGORY: 4****

BRISTOL HOTEL 4**** Hamra - Beirut Tel: 01-351400, Fax: 01-351409 E-mail: bristol@dm.net.lb Breakfast : Included	Single room rate:	\$55.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off	included for groups

RIVIERA 4***** El-Manar-Beirut Tel: 01-373210, Fax: 01-365239 E-mail: sales@rivierahotel.com.lb Breakfast : Included	Single room rate: <u>Garden view</u>	\$60.00
	<u>Sea view</u>	\$70.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation:	Not included

MONROE 4**** Ain El-Mreisseh, Kennedy street Tel: 01-371122, Fax: 01-371112 E-mail: info@monroebeirut.com Breakfast : Included	Single room rate:	\$65.00
	Services Charges (16%):	Included
	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	Included

LIST OF HOTELS
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2004 SPECIAL UN RATE

CATEGORY: 3***

CONCORDE 3***	Single room rate:	\$30.00
Bliss street - Beirut	Services Charges (14%):	Included
Tel: 01-740678, Fax: 740667	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: concorde@cyberia.net.lb	Transportation	Not included
Breakfast : Included		

MARBLE TOWER 3***	Single room rate:	\$35.00
Hamra - Beirut	Services Charges (14%):	Included
Tel: 01-354586, Fax: 01-346262	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not Included
E-mail: marble@marbletower.com.lb	Transportation	Not included
Breakfast : Included		

BELLA RIVA 3***	Single room rate:	\$45.00
Manara - Beirut	Services Charges (14%):	Included
Tel: 01-754343, Fax: 01-754349	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Not included
E-mail: info@bellarivahotel.com	Transportation: Airport pick-up and drop-off. Shuttle from/to ESCWA	Included
Breakfast : Included		

DUROY 3***	Single room rate:	\$50.00
Raoushe - Beirut	Services Charges (14%):	Included
Tel: 01-798800 Fax: 01-798600	Government tax (VAT 10%)	Included
E-mail: duroy@duroyhotel.com	Transportation	Not included
Breakfast : Included		

