



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and
Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 7 June 2007

To: All OSCE Delegations
Partners for Co-operation
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Subject: Introductory note for the Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015, Dushanbe, 23-24 October 2007.

Attached herewith is a document consisting of the introductory note for the Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015, to take place in Dushanbe on 23-24 October 2007 (SEC.GAL/101/07).



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities

Vienna, 7 June 2007

**Conference on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit
transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015
Dushanbe, 23-24 October 2007**

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on the “Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE”, the OSCE Secretariat together with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and with the support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, is organizing on 23-24 October 2007 in Dushanbe a *Conference on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015*.

The Conference, which is open to all 56 OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation, aims at strengthening political co-operation with regard to transit transportation issues across the region. To achieve this objective, the Conference will bring together High Level representatives (Ministers or Deputy Ministers) of the relevant Ministries and Government Agencies (i.e. customs, transport and trade) from landlocked developing countries in Central Asia and South Caucasus, as well as elsewhere in the OSCE region. It will also involve representatives of transit neighbours, in particular OSCE Asian Partners for Cooperation, relevant UN system organizations, International Financial Institutions, development partners as well as other international, regional and sub-regional organizations. In addition, the Conference should promote increased co-operation between the public and private sectors in managing transit transport related issues and will also involve the academic community and civil society.

The Conference concept builds on the assumption that regional integration and collaboration will allow the dismantling of trade barriers, cut transaction costs and encourage economies of scale; all contributing to mutual economic growth of both landlocked and transit developing countries and thereby bringing about increased regional stability and security. This is fully in line with the 2003 *Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Co-operation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries*, which emphasizes that efficient transit transport systems can only be established through genuine partnerships between the aforementioned actors.

In short, the Conference aims at:

- Raising awareness and enhancing political dialogue on the development of transit transportation in and through Central Asia, including the adjacent OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation.
- Taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of the APA and contribute to the (2008) APA mid-term review process.
- Identifying ways and means to further improve the current situation in OSCE landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours by addressing both physical as well as none physical barriers to transport and trade.
- Assessing the prospects for developing trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015.
- Enhancing regional ownership and generate cooperation in trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation, which should continue into 2008 and beyond.

A possible outcome of the Conference could be a political statement (i.e. Memorandum of Understanding or Declaration) of the Governments concerned, which could also involving relevant International Organizations and International Financial Institutions, willing to undertake activities aimed at improving the regional transit transport situation.

CONTACTS

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Roel Janssens
Economic and Environmental Adviser
Tel: +43 1 514 36 6221
Fax: +43 1 514 36 6251
E-mail: roel.janssens@osce.org

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg
Senior Programme Officer
Tel: +1 212 963 7703
Fax: +1 917 367 3415
E-mail: erdenebileg@un.org