2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TRANSEUROASIA

Resolution

Almaty (Kazakhstan), 19-20 May 1998
The delegations of 25 states, representing government and private sectors working in the area of transport, along with representatives of the UN and other international organizations and financial institutions have taken part in the 2nd International Conference "TRANSEURASIA-98", organized by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 19-20 May, 1998 in Almaty. The list of participants is reflected in Appendix I.

The participants of the Conference have listened to the National Statement of the Republic of Kazakhstan, named "Global integration of transport - transport without boundaries" and presentations related to development of transport links between Europe and Asia, exchanged opinions and plans for future actions, and

Expressed satisfaction with the fact, that the resolution of the I International conference "TransEurasia - 97" (Almaty, 22-23 May, 1997) had resulted in certain actions and decisions by the UN/ESCAP and ECE regional commissions, as well as the UNCTAD/UNDP, EC, OShD, IRU, FIATA and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO);

Welcomed the Action Plan for the Decade of Transport and Communications in the ECO region (1998-2007), approved at the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the ECO Member States, which includes measures relating to implementation of the Almaty Outline Plan for Development of the Transport Sector in the ECO region, the UN/ESCAP ALTID and EC TRACECA projects, specifically as follows:

a) improvement of operational efficiency of the existing transport corridors, first of all, by eliminating non-physical barriers for moving transport, freight, passengers and luggage along "East-West" and "North-South" Corridors, particularly at border crossings;
b) construction of missing links and reconstruction of existing highway and railway mainlines and ports of Aktau, Baku and Turkmenbashi of these transport corridors;

Noted with satisfaction the fact of signing of the Tashkent Declaration (26 March, 1998) on the UN Special Program for the Economies of the Central Asia (SPECA) by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Executive Secretaries of the UN/ESCAP and ECE, which includes issues on transport infrastructure development and facilitation at border crossings as well as adoption of the Declaration of the I International Eurasian Conference on Transport (St.Petersburg, 12-13 May, 1998);
Welcomed the signing in Almaty on 9 May, 1998 of the multilateral Transit Transport Framework Agreement by the ECO Member States, prepared with the technical assistance of the UNCTAD/UNDP. This Agreement is open for signing/joining by other states, interested in development of transit traffic along the "East-West" and "North-South" Corridors, including the Trans-Caucasian Corridor;

Expressed a high opinion on running of a demonstration container train from Nakhodka to Brest in April 1998 under the ESCAP/OSShD project on the Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, and recommended the UN/ESCAP, ECE, EC, FIATA and OSShD together with the ECO and interested countries to organize running of demonstration container trains along the Central and Southern Corridors of the Trans-Asian Railway, aimed at identifying the potential as well as necessary measures to be taken for movement of container trains at the speed not less than 1000 km/day, taking into consideration that preparations for running of a demonstration train along Lianyuangang (China) – Druzhba-Presnogorkovskaya (Kazakhstan) – Russia Western Europe as well as on other routes of the Northern Corridor are underway;

Invited the UN/ECE, UN/ESCAP, EC, ECO and OSShD to jointly consider issues of linking Pan-European transport corridors with the Northern, Central and Southern Corridors of the Trans-Asian Railway under the ALTID and TRACECA projects;

Suggested to hold a meeting of representatives/experts of the ESCAP/ECE/EC/ECO/OSShD to develop a common approach in code-naming of the transcontinental corridors on the basis of the currently used classifications;

Recommended that states, situated along the Northern, Central and Southern Corridors of the Trans-Asian Railway, to introduce compatible systems of tracking wagon/freight movement, giving high priority to upgrading traffic control along transport routes, to improve operational efficiency of the corridors;

Stressed the necessity to continue detailed studies of all the land transport corridors between Central Asia and Europe, aimed at identifying physical and non-physical barriers for international container traffic, as well as elimination of these barriers, based on results of the ESCAP study on Asia-Europe land transport corridors (1996) and the TRACECA Trade Facilitation Study (1997);

Noted the increasing importance and reliability of satellite communications system in air traffic control and recommended the Central Asian States to consider the possibility of setting up an Association for introducing such a system;

Emphasized the importance of coordinating work among various international organizations in establishing transcontinental transport corridors and recommended in this regard to consider such possibility within the framework of the UN/ESCAP, ECE and TRACECA activities with the participation of representatives of interested countries, subregional and international transport organizations and associations. The work should also be conducted within the framework of the UN SPECA Program (ECE/ESCAP), as well as during the periodically held "TRANSEUASIA" conference. The possibility for
developing a special ECE/ESCAP program on developing transport links between Europe and Asia should also be considered;

Thanked the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the excellent organization of the Conference, warm reception and hospitality, rendered to its participants.