

RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Roundtable on the Agreement between Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States regarding the creation of favourable conditions for international road transportation and its influence on Euro-Asian Road Transportation Connections

(13 May 2015, Ufa, Russian Federation)

Members of the Roundtable, organised by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in association with the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation:

RECOGNISING that in today's globalised economy, professional road transport is no longer merely a mode of transport but has become a vital production tool, driving economic, social and environmental progress throughout the SCO Member States;

WELCOMING the signing of the Agreement between Governments of SCO Member States regarding the creation of favourable conditions for international road transport (hereinafter "SCO Agreement") dated 12 September 2014 and signed in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan;

RECOGNISING the key role of UN international agreements and conventions to facilitate international road transport and simplify procedures at border crossings;

WELCOMING the innovative technologies and best practices which increase the efficiency and sustainability of international road transport;

WELCOMING the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/213 on the Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation for Sustainable Development as adopted on 19 December 2014

ASSIGNING high priority to the development of roadside auxiliary infrastructure aimed at increasing road safety and security for transport operators;

UNDERLINING the important role of the professional competence of transport companies' personnel to increase competitiveness of road transport services;

Recommend to competent authorities to:

1. Take practical steps to develop the SCO Agreement notably through:
 - Adhering, ratifying and implementing tried and tested UN Conventions that facilitate transport and thus trade;
 - Striving for a wide application of multiple-entry transport permits for transport operators;
 - Facilitating the issuance of long term, multiple-entry visas for professional drivers;
 - Implementing training programmes, as provided by the IRU Academy, to increase the professional competence of operators with the final aim to increase the EFFICIENCY, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE and competitiveness of road transport services in the SCO countries; and
 - Promoting latest ICT systems which facilitate transport and thus trade such as e-TIR, Real Time Safe TIR, TIR-EPD and TRANSPark).

- Harmonisation of dimensions and weight characteristics, including axial loads and other parameters of the vehicles used for international road transport.
2. Develop intermodal logistics in the SCO region notably taking advantage of the possibilities offered in this respect by the UN TIR Convention, 1975.
 3. Facilitate the efficient integration of the People's Republic of China into regional transport systems and maximise the potential of the UN TIR Convention, 1975, considering the current steps taken by the government of the People's Republic of China China's towards accession to this Convention.
 4. Assure proper functioning of the TIR system on the entire territory of all SCO Member States.
 5. Develop efficient trade and road transport corridors between all SCO Member States to promote regional economic integration and cooperation while enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating regional trade and investment.
 6. Continue Public Private Partnership, as an effective mechanism to accomplish the goal of the SCO Agreement, notably through the involvement of leading national transport associations from the SCO region and the International Road Transport Union in the work of related SCO transport forums.
 7. Support the 8th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference and Ministerial Summit to be held in St. Petersburg in 2016.
 8. Continue positive practice of holding joint roundtables and other events of the IRU and Transport Ministries of the SCO member states aimed at the development and implementation of the SCO Agreement going forward.

* * * * *