

Regional Review Meeting for the implementation of the ALMATY Programme of Action

Addis Ababa 16-18 July , 2013

Regional and Sub regional initiatives in the areas of Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation

By Ecowas Commission.

I. Protocols and Conventions

-a) Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Goods and Services

- Right of free entry
- Right of Residence and
Right of Establishment .

b) Interstate Road Transit Convention

c) Ecowas Trade Liberalisation Scheme

- Ecowas Common External Tariff adopted by Council of Ministers (to be signed 18/07 2013) by Heads of States.

c) Protocol on the Third Party Insurance Scheme (Ecowas brown Card)

II. Infrastructure

Roads

The road network is made up of:

- a) The Transcoastal Highway : Abidjan-Dakar
- b) The Trans Sahelian Highway : Dakar- Ndjamena
- c) The Interconnecting Road network (linking coastal States to Landlocked States.

The network is in fairly good condition but needs major rehabilitation and expansion on several portions. Some portions on the Abidjan Lagos corridor are currently undergoing rehabilitation

-The Ivorian and Burkina Faso Government have decided to construct a Highway between Yamoussoukro and Ouagadougou. This will complete the Highway currently being constructed between Abidjan and Yamoussoukro.

-A 6 (2x3) lane highway will be constructed between Abidjan and Lagos On the Transcoastal.

Heads of States have instituted a Project Steering Committee headed by Nigeria to oversee the construction process. The legal framework is under finalisation.

Rail.

An Ecowas railway master plan has been adopted, linking all the member States, mostly coastal states to landlocked states..

A study to link Niamey and Ouagadougou to the ports of Abidjan and Cotonou is under way and will be finalised in December 2013. A Steering Committee of concerned member states is in place and met 15th July 2013 to formalize the setting of a permanent secretariat to conduct the project.

Air Transport

The Ecowas Commission has facilitated the creation of the regional private airline that now links almost all the capital cities of the sub region. This gives an opportunity to cities like Niamey to have direct air connections with her neighbours . The airline is planning to introduce a cargo service to help export of perishable goods from Burkina Faso.

- Energy

- Ecowas has established a specialized institution, the West African Power Pool(WAPP) to coordinate the interconnection of power systems in the region. The programme has allowed landlocked countries to be connected to their coastal neighbours and make up for energy deficit in these countries.

III. Regional Transit and Transport Facilitation Programme

Programme funded under 9th EDF

Comprises soft and infrastructure components:

Soft component

- Capacity building for National Transport and Transit Facilitation committees,
- Capacity building for civil society and transport and transit operators,
- Preparation and finalisation of the legal framework for the operation of OSBPs,
- Preparation and finalisation of the regulation on Axle load limits
- Customs interconnectivity (Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana customs interconnected, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso interconnected)

- Infrastructure component

- Seven(7) Joint Border Posts envisaged under the programme
- a) Noe –Elubo (Cote d'Ivoire –Ghana) : to be funded by Ecowas Commission
- b) Noepe (Ghana-Togo) under construction to be completed in September 2013.
- c) Sanvecondji-Hillacondji(Togo-Benin) to funded by AfDB

- d) Malanville(Benin-Niger) construction completed
- e) Seme-Krake(Benin-Nigeria) under construction
- f)Paga(Ghana-Burkina Faso)
- g) Kouremale(Guinea-Mali)
- A needs assessment study for the equipments of the OSBPs is to be launched soon.

- **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Appeal to Member States to effectively and collectively implement the ISRT Convention,
- Implement the Axle load regulation by first putting in place the necessary equipments,
- Improve road governance by eradicating corruption and illegal perceptions from road users,
- Reform the road transport industry and make it more professional than its current informal state.