

Republic of Tajikistan

A national report on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

Lack of access to the sea complicates the process of development and seriously hampers effective integration of the LLDCs' economies into the multilateral trading system, and has a negative impact on other aspects of development, including economic growth, poverty reduction and the achievements of the MDGs. We call for the removal of all artificial and economically unjustified barriers and obstacles in the transport and communication networks that do not contribute to the establishment and strengthening of cooperation and partnership.

Tajikistan is committed to the Almaty Programme of Action's decisions and recommendations on transit and believes that its full and effective implementation will promote regional trade and economic cooperation. The country is actively supporting the process of preparing for the comprehensive ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014. In preparation for the review of the Almaty Programme of Action, it is advisable to examine the state of trade and exchanges, as well as the expansion of mutually beneficial exchange between the countries of the group. We believe that the adoption of a new program of action for the countries that do not have access to the sea should open up additional opportunities to expand their transit potential.

In preparation for the comprehensive ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, Tajikistan has successfully held on 17-18 September 2013 in Dushanbe the following international events:

- Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of the International Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA);
- International High-Level Conference on the Development of Transit Potential of Central Asia for the period until 2023.

The main outcomes of these events are:

- Signing of the joint declaration between Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan to develop the "Model Highway" project;
- Signing of memoranda of understanding between the IGC TRACECA and IRU, between the IGC TRACECA and the European Civil Aviation Conference;
- Adoption of a high-level conference resolution.

In both events, decisions were taken on the establishment of more favorable conditions for transit, elimination of various barriers on the way of goods and international transport, improving transportation safety, environmental protection, harmonization of legislation, use of flexible tariff policy, as well as on the simplification of customs procedures.

Tajikistan is currently taking all possible measures to develop its transport and transit routes and communications. Particularly important attention is given to the improvement and development of the transport infrastructure to facilitate the expansion of the national, subregional and regional trade. Efforts are made to implement the "Single Window" system which, in turn, contributes to the simplification of customs rules. The country has successfully operated the National Commission on trade and transport facilitation. At present, there are four free economic zones, two of which are located in the border areas of the country.

In accordance with the provisions of the Almaty Programme, measures undertaken by the Republic of Tajikistan in recent years have focused on the improvement of public transport policy in the field of transit development and improvement of the transport infrastructure of international importance.

A key reference point in this direction is the target program "Development of Transport System of the Republic of Tajikistan" which was adopted in 2010 and includes a list of activities until 2025 aimed at creating an efficient transport infrastructure to enhance the competitiveness of the transport system of the Republic of Tajikistan and the transit potential of the country.

The activities included in the program include the preparation and implementation of large-scale complex investment projects in order to improve the quality of transport services, accelerate delivery, and improve traffic management processes. The main task is to create conditions for containerization and attract transit traffic on the international transport corridors passing through the territory of Tajikistan.

An important element of transport policy, which should have a significant positive impact on the development of transport links of the Central Asian states that do not have access to the sea, is the concept of establishing the Common transport space, approved in January 2008. Concept, in the development of which Tajikistan took a part, involves implementation of the total transit potential of EurAsEC Member States, removal of barriers in international traffic, mutual access expansion of participating countries' carriers to the markets of international transport, development of transport infrastructure and others.

On improvement of the legal framework since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2003, the Republic of Tajikistan entered following agreements in order to develop transit potential of the country and its integration into the international road and rail transport:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway (AH), signed in 2004 and approved in 2005;
2. Intergovernmental Agreement with Ukraine on international road transport, signed in 2005, approved in 2006;
3. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR), signed in 2006 and approved in 2007;
4. Intergovernmental Agreement with Turkmenistan on international road transport, signed and approved in 2007;

5. Intergovernmental Agreement with China on international road transport, signed and approved in 2008;
6. Intergovernmental Agreement on Multimodal Transport within TRACECA, signed in 2009 and approved in 2010;
7. Intergovernmental Agreement with Latvia on international road transport, signed and approved in 2009;
8. Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the cross-border transport of persons, vehicles and passengers, signed in 2010, ratified in 2011;
9. Intergovernmental agreement with Kyrgyzstan on international road transport, signed and approved in 2013;
10. Intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, signed in 2013 and approved in 2014.

It should be noted that these agreements form the legal basis for the development of transit potential of Tajikistan, which is essential to the Almaty Programme of Action. At the same time, the above-mentioned intergovernmental agreements UNESCAP (№ 1, №3 and №10) are aimed at creating an enabling environment for the development of road and roadside infrastructure, ensuring the smooth road, transit and rail traffic on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan is actively involved in international organizations, regional and international initiatives aimed at integrating the transport sector of the country.

To conform to international norms and standards, as well as to improve integration and transport conditions, in 2010 the Republic of Tajikistan joined the following five international agreements and treaties:

- Agreement on the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be installed and / or be used on wheeled vehicles, of 25 June 1998;
- International Convention on the harmonization of border controls of Goods, dated October 21, 1982;
- European Agreement on the work of crews of vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (ECTP = AETR), of 1 July 1970;
- European Agreement on the international carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR = ADR), of 30 September 1957;
- Agreement on the international carriage of perishable foodstuffs and on the special vehicles to be used for such carriage (ATP = ATP), of 1 September 1970.

On March 2, 2013, Tajikistan became the 159th member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). As a full participant in the multilateral system of world trade regulation, Tajikistan intends to continue to liberalize its trade regime and is in favor of granting the most favorable regime in trade to developing countries that do not have access to the sea.