



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Secretariat**

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic
and Environmental Activities

5 November 2014

Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

(Vienna, 3-5 November 2014)

**Item 9 – General exchange of views – Statements by intergovernmental and other
organizations**

**Statement by Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden,
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on behalf of the
OSCE Secretariat**

Dear Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to take the floor under this agenda item on behalf of the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Being the world's largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and comprising of 57 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE pays particular attention to transboundary issues, including international transport. International transport is a key factor for trade, economic and social development. It contributes to increased positive interaction and co-operation among countries thus fostering regional security and stability.

Out of the 32 landlocked developing countries globally, one third are OSCE participating States or Partners for Co-operation. For these countries, it is vital to

secure efficient transit transport links, streamline border crossing procedures and develop effective transport and logistics networks in order to meet their specific economic and geographical challenges, foremost the lack of access to maritime ports.

Therefore, transport has remained high on the OSCE agenda, and the participating States have adopted a number of Ministerial Council Decisions on transport which provides us with a strong mandate and guidance for continued work in this field.

We have actively supported the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action by promoting political dialogue in the OSCE area on the transport and transit needs of landlocked developing countries and by organising capacity-building programmes on transport and trade facilitation issues for this group of countries in close co-operation with the UNECE and the WCO. We have conducted a series of seminars for Central Asia and South Caucasus countries as well as Afghanistan on the adoption of a risk management approach in customs based on selectivity and profiling of cargo, the use of non-intrusive inspection methods at border-crossing points and the development of Authorized Economic Operator or trusted trader programmes.

In addition to supporting the appropriate implementation of relevant international legal instruments and standards aimed at facilitating legitimate cross-border trade and transport operations, we have also produced knowledge and resource materials. In 2012 we published jointly with the UNECE a *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*. This is a unique reference book which has been translated into four other languages.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me assure you that the OSCE, in co-ordination with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, will continue to be actively

involved in assisting its landlocked developing participating States and Partners for Co-operation to overcome their transit transport challenges.

In this connection, I would like to highlight the importance for landlocked developing countries of capacity building and sharing of best practices in the transport and customs fields. The OSCE will continue to use its network of 15 OSCE Field Operations, facilities like the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, and expertise of specialized partner organizations to work steadily in this regard and provide, upon request, customized technical assistance and training programmes.

Thank you for your attention.