

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group (1) constituted by the
“International North – South Transport Corridor” Co- ordination Council
On “Commercial & Operational Matters”
26th – 28th April 2003**

The second meeting of the Expert Group on “ Commercial & Operational Matters“ in accordance with the Statute of the Co-ordination Council of the “International North- South Transport Corridor” and Minutes of the first Meeting of the Co-Ordination Council of the “International North – South Transport Corridor” was held in Transport & Terminal Organization of Iran in Tehran on 26th – 28th April 2003.

The names of the delegates of the participating in countries are annexed .

The meeting was also attended and the minutes were agreed to by the delegates of Kazakhstan, pending completion of formalities regarding accession.

2- Confirmation of minutes .

The recommendations of the Expert Group’s first meeting at Mumbai on 17th – 18th December 2002 were confirmed and adopted by the group.

3- Introduction of additional ports.

While deliberating the matter further, the Russian side desired that in addition to Astarakhan , the ports of Makhachkala and Olya be included and Kazakhstan side desired to include the port of Aktau. Similarly the Iranian side desired to include the port of Amirabad and Nowshahr in the Caspian Sea in addition to Anzali and the ports of Bandar Imam Khomeini and Chahbahar in the Persian Gulf in addition to Bandar Abbas, to be a part of the North – South Transport Corridor. It was agreed.

3/5/03



4- Transit time comparison for the tributary routes.

It was decided that a table giving comparative position of transit times , as already given for the main route in the minutes of the first meeting under para 2(a) , be given by the respective countries for the tributary routes as decided at para (3) above.

5- Formation of special container terminals in the corridor.

It was agreed that the respective transit countries will work towards formation of special container terminals in the corridor to facilitate a smooth and effective movement of transit containers.

6- "Out of turn" berthing priority in the Caspian Ports

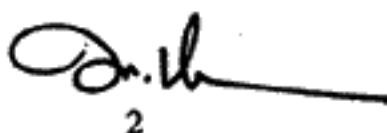
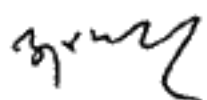
It was mutually agreed among Iran, Russia and Kazakhstan that vessels carrying transit containers, even if on non- liner basis, will be given "out of turn " berthing priority by both the countries in their respective Caspian Ports earmarked for the North- South transport corridor, provided that the entire cargo on the vessel is transit cargo.

7- Liner container shipping services.

The port authorities will provide favorable conditions in Russian, Iranian and Khazakh ports for development of liner container shipping services among Caspian Ports .The liner ships will be berthed according to their scheduled timings.

8- Caspian port authorities to create conducive environment

It was agreed that the authorities of the individual ports in the Caspian Sea earmarked for the North-South Transport Corridor, would help to create a conducive environment for growth and development of liner transit trade.



9- Computerized manifest dispatch

It was decided that electronic communication facilities would be utilized by the Shipping Lines and their Agents for dispatch of cargo documents such as manifests.

10- Tracking of containers

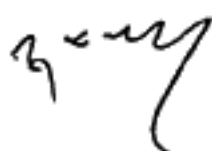
It was agreed that this matter will be left to the service providers, such as Shipping Lines, Railways, Road transporters and Container terminals. It was recognized that the information should be kept available and disseminated by them as and when required. However, it was agreed that heavy investments in this area are not warranted at this stage, keeping in view the low volumes of container movements.

11- Return of empty containers

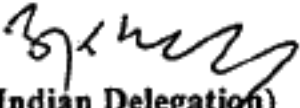
It was recognized that this is the most crucial issue for making this route economically viable. It was agreed that the respective governments may be requested to create a conducive environment for return of laden containers via this route so that there is a balanced trade. This will, inter alia, include re-looking at the issue of weight limitation on the Iranian Roads.

12-Formation of a small business group

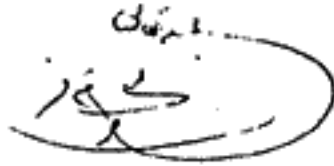
It was unanimously decided that a small business group would be constituted comprising of experts from the existing operators on this route to make an "on the spot study" of various bottlenecks on the route in terms of time, cost, efficiency, risks, information flow, customs, requirements, other procedures, etc. and suggest practical solutions to overcome these difficulties and a report in this regard may be submitted before the next meeting of the Expert Group. The expenditure in this regard will be borne by the individual operators.




The Expert Group will put up these minutes to the Coordination Council for their next meeting scheduled in Tehran on 29th-30th April 2003 for their advice in the matter.


(Indian Delegation)
Mr. S.R. Gaur

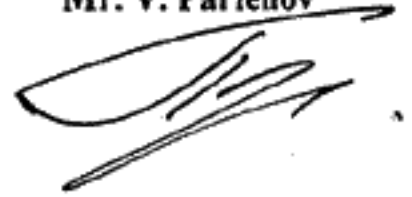
(Iranian Delegation)
Mr. Mohsen Sadeghifar



(Kazakhstan Delegation)
Mr. Zhengis Kassymbek



(Russian Delegation)
Mr. V. Parfenov



**Commercial and Operational
Expert Group of
North – South Transport Corridor**

ANNEX.1

Iranian Delegation:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1- Mr. Mohsen Sadeghifar | Ports and Shipping Organization
(Head of Iranian Expert Group) |
| 2- Mr. Mohammad javad Atrchian | Head Secretariat "north- south" corridor |
| 3- Mr. Gholamreza sasani | Ports and Shipping Organization |
| 4- Mr. Mehran Jadidian | I.R.I Railway |
| 5- Mr. Zabihullah Naderi | Ministry Of Foreign Affairs |
| 6- Mr. Ahmad Parto-azam | Iran & India Shipping Lines |
| 7- Mr. Mohammad Safinezhad | Caspian Sea Shipping Lines |
| 8- Mr. Reza Saeed | Irsotr Company |
| 9- Mr. Reza Rastegar | Caspian Sea Shipping Lines |
| 10- Mr. Aliakbar Dabirian | Representative of Shipping Association |
| 11- Mr. Amir Mohammadi | Transport and Terminals Organization |
| 12- Mr. Ramezan Hajezadeh | I.R.I Railway |
| 13- Mr. Dejam Salehpour | Translator |
| 14- Mr. Ali Fathollahi | I.R.I Railway |
| 15- Mr. Aref Zarrin-ghalami | I.R.I Railway |
| 16- Mr. Ali Sharafi | Translator |
| 17- Mr .Behrooz Bolandi | Translator |

Indian Delegation:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1- S.R. Gaur | Ministry of Shipping
(Head of Indian Expert Group) |
| 2- P.K. Mahapatra | Ministry of Commerce & Industry |
| 3- S.S. Rangnekar | Shipping Corporation of India |
| 4- Capt. H.J. Treasuryvala | JM Baxi & Co. |

Russian Delegation:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1- Viacheslav Parfenov | Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation
(Head of Russian Expert Group) |
| 2- Boris Sitkov | Ministry of Railway Transport of the Russian Federation |
| 3- Vasily Bogoslovskiy | Administration of Astrakhan |
| 4- Alexander Litvinov | Makhachkala Sea Merchant Port |
| 5- Vladimir Mozes | Makhachkala Sea Merchant Port |
| 6- Alexander Melnikov | Vagna Shipping Company |
| 7- Andrey Dolgov | Makhachkala Sea Merchant Port |

Kazakh Delegation:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1- Zhengis Kassymbek | Ministry of Transport and Communications
(Head of Kazakh Expert Group) |
| 2- Talgat Abylogazin | Aktau Sea Trade port |
| 3- Zafar Yusupaliev | Kazakh Embassy |
| 4- Alexander Okunev | Kazakh Railway |

