

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group -2 constituted by
the International North-South Transport Corridor Coordination
Council on Customs and Documentations matters
26th - 27th ,April, 2003**

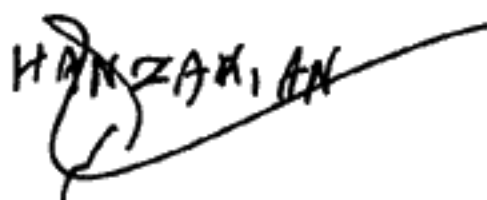
The second meeting of the expert group on Customs and documentations , in accordance with the statute of the co-ordination council of the international NORTH-SOUTH transport corridor and the minutes of the meeting of the co-ordination council of the international NORTH-SOUTH transport corridor was held in the office of the Transport and Terminals Organization in Tehran, Iran.

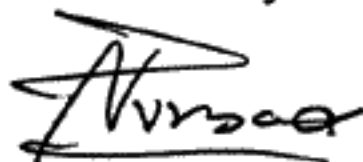
The names of the members of the delegation are attached as Annexure.

1- In the meeting of 26th and 27th April 2003 in Tehran ,after extensive discussions ,it was decided that the use of TIR CARNET should be promoted instead of guarantee systems as is practiced in some member countries .The insurance bond accepted by I.R.I.Customs within Iranian territory, is considered as facilitation of transit trade,particularly for shipment which are not moved under TIR CARNET. Other member countries are urged to create identical systems facilitating transit trade through their territory. Furthermore, customs administration of member states to identify reliable forwarders in their countries whom they can trust and accept their letter of undertaking instead of guarantee systems or insurance bonds.

2-The Expert Group felt that the customs procedures for transit could be further liberalized and I.R.I.Customs may like to explore whether an export document of the customs administration of the country of exportation or that of the shipping lines can be accepted by them as a valid customs document to permit the transit of goods through Iran. For this purpose the Russian, Kazakhstan and Indian delegations agreed to study the format of the Transit Document supplied by IRICA and to submit their proposals by 1st of July. This form once approved by all parties is to be considered as a common valid document for transit of goods through North-South Corridor.

3- It was decided to ensure that a copy of the ships manifest carrying transit goods into the ports of the member countries be sent in advance in electronic form to the customs and port authorities at the port of discharge. It was felt that the responsibility of furnishing the manifest is with the shipping line and they should be persuaded to submit the

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desired information in advance, either electronically or through hard copy. If necessary local customs laws could provide for some penal action in case of failure of the shipping line to provide this information in advance.

4-The Iranian Delegation suggested that the working hours of the three Customs Administrations should be harmonized. It was observed that there was a time gap of two (2) hours between Iran and India, which will make such harmonization difficult. It was stated by the Indian delegation that difference in time gap between India and Iran will not affect the trade through this corridor since the sailing time for the ships between the two countries is minimum five days. However, countries having common borders should harmonize the working hours of Customs. The Indian delegation intimated that their ports are working on all seven days of the week and there would be no delay for goods meant for the North-South Corridor.

5-The Iranian Delegation suggested that the latest changes in rules and regulations of customs and port including port charges and fees might be notified to the other parties. The Expert Group felt that the concerned websites of the Customs and port authorities of the three parties should be updated with all information relevant for users of North-South Corridor. The three parties should notify the addresses of the concerned websites to the other parties so as to popularize the use of the websites among all concerned persons. The three parties should hyperlink the websites of the other parties in their own websites. It was decided that the member countries should either have a separate site for the North-South Corridor or a separate page in their existing websites. The addresses of the Customs organisations of the member countries are as follows:-

Web – Site address Of Russian Customs

www.customs.ru

Web – Site address Of Indian Customs

www.cbec.gov.in

Web – Site address Of Kazakhstan Customs

www.mgd.kz

Web – Site address Of Iran Customs

www.irica.org

E-mail address of Irica transit Department

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Arisee

John Payne

E-mail: G.D.S.T.@irica.org

Web-site address of Ports and Shipping Organisation of Iran


www.ir-pso.com

All the member countries should also provide, within one month, the website addresses of the Port authorities to the Secretariat of the Council and the member countries.

6-The Iranian Delegation informed that they have established a special problem-shooting office at IRICA at 98-911-2326842 and 98-911-2307027 and 98-21-8808692. The Expert Group recognized the usefulness of such an office and it was decided that all member countries should give their contact details of the customs offices enroute the whole North-South corridor. All the member countries to also appoint a nodal officer for all matters relating to the movement of goods on The North-South Corridor and intimate the name and address of this officer to the other, within one month.

7. The Expert Group also suggested that the Secretariat of the Council should monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this Expert Group as accepted by the Council as also the bottlenecks in Customs formalities, procedures and documentations.

The Expert Group decided to make the above recommendations to the Council.


A.K. Prasad
(on behalf of Indian delegation)

M. Hanzakian
(on behalf of Iranian delegation)


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Okunev Alexander
(on behalf of Kazakhstan delegation)



For Marina Kuzmenko
(on behalf of the Russian delegation)



Tehran, dated 27th April, 2003


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**Documentation and Customs
Expert Group of
North – South Transport Corridor**

ANNEX.2

Iranian Delegation:

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1- Mr. Hanzakian | Customs of I.R.I
(Head of Iranian Expert'S Group) |
| 2- Mr. Mirmohammadali | International Transport Companies Association |
| 3- Mr. Khajehnoori | International Transport Companies Association |
| 4- Mr. Kheyri | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 5- Mr. Mazloom | Transport and Terminal Organization |
| 6- Mr. Karimi | Transport and Terminal Organization |
| 7- Mr. Yoosefi | Customs of I.R.I |
| 8- Mr. Dastmardi | Customs of I.R.I |
| 9- Mr. Kiani | Customs of I.R.I |
| 10- Mrs. Fard Esfhani | Translator |
| 11- Ms. Niazadeh | Translator |

Russian Delegation:

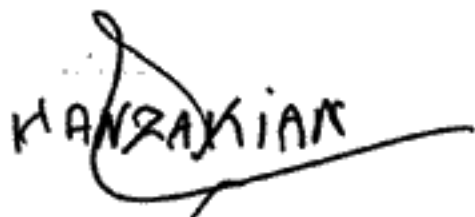
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|------------------------|---|
| 1- Marina Kuzmenko | Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of
the Russian Federation
(Head of Russian Expert'S Group) |
| 2- Guennadi Kaziouline | Ministry of Railway Transport of the Russian
Federation |
| 3- Viacheslav Petrenko | Ministry of Railway Transport of the Russian
Federation |
| 4- Oleg Karakchiev | JSC SOVFREIGHT |
| 5- Vitaly Shashko | Russian Trade Representation In I.R.I |

Indian Delegation:

- | | |
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| 1- A.K. Prasad | Ministry of Finance
(Head of Indian Expert'S Group) |
| 2- R. Sainivasan | Chairman Clear ship Group, W.India Shippers
Association |

Kazakh Delegation:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1- Okunev Alexander | Ministry of Transport and Communications
(Head of Kazakh Expert'S Group) |
| 2- Nurlan Mustafin | Kazakh Railway |


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