

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group (2) constituted by the
Coordination Council of the International “North-South” Transport
Corridor on “Documentation, Customs matters and related issues” held on
20 – 21 October, 2005 at New Delhi, India**

The Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group on “Documentation, Customs matters and related issues” in accordance with the Statute of the Coordination Council of the “International North – South Transport Corridor” (INSTC) was held in the city of New Delhi, India on 20 – 21 October, 2005.

The list of delegates of the Participating countries is enclosed.

1. **Statement by the participating States (Parties) on the work implemented within the frames of the development of the INSTC**

The Parties exchanged information on the work implemented within the framework of the development of the INSTC and it was considered rational to resume the realisation of the activities within the frames of National Action Plans on the perfection and the development of the Transport Corridor.

2. **Implementation of the decisions taken at the Third meeting of the Expert Group of the Coordination Council of the INSTC (1 – 3 December, 2003 – Astrakhan)**

2.1 The Expert Group reviewed and noted the progress made in the implementation of the decisions taken at the Third meeting of the Expert Group and suggested the following course of action;

a) The decision taken at the previous meetings of the Expert Group regarding the need for having a single, standard ‘Customs Transit Document’ was revisited. During deliberations, it was felt that the need for having a single ‘Customs Transit Document’ was not feasible as different countries along the transit corridor have different EDI / Computer configurations and / systems. By introducing a single Document mentioned above, these system configurations may become incompatible for holding and transacting data. This could result in turning the clock back and going for manual system of data capture, which is a retrograde step and defeats the purpose of the corridor for providing smooth, seamless and faster service at lowest possible costs. Hence, in order to provide all this, it was decided to let the respective countries continue with their respective documentation systems and carry on with TIR CARNET System, CMR and Bill of Lading procedures that are currently being used in almost all of the transit countries in the North-South Corridor, especially, by Iran, which involves the largest transit leg in the corridor. However, it was decided to obtain inputs from the neighbouring transit countries bordering Iran as regards the transit customs documentation and procedures. For, transit by Rail, the SMGS Way Bill could be followed.

The Iranian side has put forth the following proposal for consideration of the Members and suggested that this could be discussed in the next meeting. The proposal is to have a common system / documentation for particular shipments

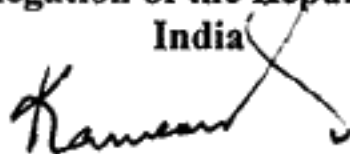
under the "North-South Corridor" like "TIR-CARNET". Then all legal consequences also should be considered / discussed and especially the organisation who would guarantee the said documents should be appointed in the Member countries and responsibility and coverage to be clarified as well. In the meantime, until, reaching to the point of using common documents, documents of all shipments for the "North-South Corridor" may be remarked with the stamp of "INSTC". As such, while crossing the countries en-route, all the authorities would endeavour to do their level best to minimise the formalities.

- b) As regards the recommendation for using documents (FIATA) by the participating States, it was decided that it could be discussed at the appropriate forum.
- c) As regards the issue of the creation of the website for the "North-South" Transport Corridor incorporating Customs details, it was informed by the Iranian side that the website was already up and running and could be accessed at the following site viz. www.instc.org. It was decided that Iran would provide hyperlinks to the Customs Websites of the other Member Countries to the corridor.
- d) As regards the Report on "Joint Study on the North South Corridor" prepared by the Indian side, it was decided to review the same at a later date after the visit by the Iranian and the Russian side to each others countries.

The Expert Group, chaired by India, decided to make the above mentioned recommendations to the Co-ordination council.

Signed on 21st October, 2005 at New Delhi, Republic of India in three (3) originals in English each being equally authentic

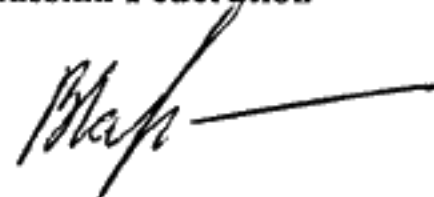
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Delegation of the
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
of the Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group (2) constituted by the
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