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EuroMed
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Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Main UN Road Transport Legal Instruments and on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

Crown Plaza Hotel – Le Palace, Brussels 4-5 July 2017

Ministry of Transport
State of Palestine

Introduction:

In November, 2012 the State of Palestine was recognized as an observer member of the United Nations on the way to the full recognition of this important international organization, therefore working hard to join to international conventions including United Nations agreements and understandings for the road transport sector (UNECE).

Palestine Awareness Raising Workshop on Main UN Road Transport Agreements Administered by the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE, which was held in Ramallah, 14- 15 May 2013, organized by EuroMed RRU Project in cooperation with Ministry of Transport of Palestine, **showed that:**

UN road transport agreements were not well known in Palestine.

Palestine having a special status with UN may not be able to accede to most of them at least in a short period of time

Out of 13 UN agreements the harmonization convention is open for accession to Palestine, while Palestine may adhere to the Vienna and TIR if invited to do so by UN General Assembly;

UN road transport agreements are essential tools for ensuring Harmonization, facilitation and efficiency of international transport.

Palestine put the accession to and implementation of these agreements as a major priority of its transport policy toward regional integration, development and inclusion into the global markets.

A possible road map on the way ahead in Palestine should include the following efforts:

1- Study all the main UN road transport agreements.

2- Create a small Group of Experts consisting of both governmental and private sector experts aimed at advising the government on the following up action with regard to these agreements.

3- Designate One Expert per agreement and assign to him/ her the relevant responsibility.

4- Take actions for the accession of Palestine to the Harmonization Convention.

5- Follow up the possibilities of being invited by the UN GA for acceding to the Vienna and TIR conventions.

6- Establish Contacts and meets with UNECE and IRU.

7- Consider further TA needs that EuroMed, ETSP transport project may assist.

8- Consider utilizing TAIEX and TWINING EU programs.

9- Consider conducting bilateral and or trilateral discussions with its neighboring countries aimed at facilitating international transport in the region, in which EuroMed, ETSP transport project may assist.

What did MoT do?

We are responsible on Transport in EU-Palestine Infrastructure Subcommittee, which submerged under EU-Palestine Full Association committee. And in our last meeting in Ramallah, 28th of March 2017, we have identified two of our priorities during this year:

- At institutional level:

Establishing Passenger Transport Authority (PTA) within structure of MoT.

- At legal level:

Amendment of Palestinian Traffic Law.

We are in these days finalizing the first draft of our new Palestinian Transport Law.

Reasons for replacing this law are:

1- This law was issued in 2000, so we need a new law suits with the development in transport sector, and at the same time is harmonized with international agreements and conventions related Transport.to

2- Inability of this law to address many of current transport issues.

Reasons for replacing this law are:

3- Replacing this law with new Transport Law which will includes:

I. Road Transport:

Passenger T.

Freight T.

Public T.

II. Rail Transport.

III. Transit Transport.

IV. Maritime Transport.

V. Aviation Transport.

Reasons for replacing this law are:

4- It has become necessary to amend some of our national legislation to be harmonized with main UN agreements and conventions related to transport; and

5- We are an essential part of Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T), so we recognize that it is required from us to harmonize our legislations related to transport sector according to the requires of this network.

Priorities of MoT



After our participation on the National Awareness Raising Workshop on Main UN Road Transport Agreements, held in Beirut, on 16 - 17 May 2017 .

Based on the instructions of Deputy Minister Mr. Ammar Yassin, a team of specialized persons in MoT was formed to:

Study all international & European agreements and conventions which related to transport sector.

Find out the possibilities of the accession of the State of Palestine to these agreements and conventions.

Tasks of this team are:

All documents and presentations of the National Awareness Raising Workshop on Main UN Road Transport Agreements, held in Beirut, on 16 - 17 May 2017 have been read.

13 out of the 58 UN transport agreements and conventions have been studied.

These agreements have been rearranged according to the priorities of the State of Palestine, and the extent of possibilities to accessing for these agreements.

As first step The following four agreements have been identified as a priority, and will be focused in the near future :

1- The Customs Convention on the international transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets, of 1975 (TIR Convention).

2- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, Geneva, of 1982 (Harmonization Convention).

3- The Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, 1954.

4- Convention on Road Traffic, of 1968.

Next Step:

We will intensify our communication and coordination with all local partners (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Economy, Palestinian Customs, Council of Ministers, unions, shippers' council, and universities) to discuss these agreements with further details.

After that, maybe we will need ETSP assistance to organize national workshop to discuss one or more one of these four agreements.

Follow up the possibilities of being invited by the UN GA for acceding to the Vienna and TIR conventions.

Very soon:

We have applied application for TAIEX Project which funded and administered by European Commission, it was agreed on our application, workshop is scheduled to take place in the second half (17-20) of July in Ramallah in the presence of experts from European Countries, and the purpose of this workshop is to adapting our legislations for Urban Sustainable Transport.

We will sign on Carriage of goods by road agreement among Arab Countries, and after that we will sign on Carriage of goods by transit agreement among Arab Countries.

Obstacles:

Palestine is a state in a region, may be will facing the same difficulties that facing most EuroMed countries to accede for these agreements.

Palestine has no any kind of control over its crossing points, and this represents an additional obstacle which needs a solution.

Assistance:

1- The EuroMed Transport Support Project (ETSP) has to coordinate efforts with UNECE and IRU aimed at assisting Palestine institutional capacity and mobilizing national authorities in promoting related regulatory and legislative measures.

2- Provide TA to Palestine related to better understanding, adherence, and implementation of the main UN road transport agreements, including training seminars and Study Tours, as they may be requested.

3- Establish Contacts and meets with UNECE and IRU.