

OSJD-UN ESCAP INTERAGENCY MEETING ON FACILITATING RAILWAY BORDER CROSSING PROCEDURES

8 – 10 September, 2026
Tbilisi, Georgia



Considering the adoption of Annex III to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network containing guiding principles on electronic information exchange among railways and between railways and control agencies and based on the recommendations of the OSJD's Annual Meeting of the Commission on Transport Policy and Development Strategy held in November 2025 as contained in para 9.5 of the Minutes¹), ESCAP and OSJD are jointly undertaking a study on good practices in electronic exchange of information between railways and among railway and border control agencies.

The objectives of the study are to share and propagate best practices on the subject and identify further measures for improving the efficiency of rail transport between Asia and Europe and vice versa. The draft document based on the outcomes of the study containing a summary of the good practices and recommendations will be presented at the OSJD-UN ESCAP Interagency Meeting on Facilitating Railway Border Crossing Procedures.

PARTICIPANTS

Senior railway officials from ESCAP and OSJD Member Countries; representatives of transport Ministries/Departments; representatives of specialized railway organizations; development agencies; and joint international banks.

¹ 9.5 The participants in the meeting of the Commission upheld the following proposals made by the OSJD Commission on Transport Policy and Development Strategy:

- hold, in 2026, an OSJD-UN ESCAP-WCO joint interagency meeting on Rail Border Crossing Facilitation.
- prepare a draft Second Edition of the OSJD-UN ESCAP joint document "Best practices in electronic information exchange in international rail transport." The participants in the meeting of the Commission requested that appropriate work be undertaken to prepare the agenda and determine the venue and time for the aforementioned joint meeting.

PROGRAMME

OSJD-UN ESCAP Interagency Meeting on Facilitating Railway Border Crossing Procedures (8 - 10 September 2026, Tbilisi, Georgia)

8 September, Tuesday

09:00 - 10:00

Registration

10:00 - 10:30

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD

Welcome address by

- | Mamuka Talakhadze, Acting Director of Freight Transportation, Georgian Railway
- | Antonowicz Mirosław, Chairman OSJD Committee
- | Sandeep R Jain, Transport Division, ESCAP
- | Goncharov Mikhail, Secretary General, CCTT

10:30 - 10:40

Technical break

SESSION 1

10:40 - 11:25

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD

Good Practices of ESCAP and OSJD Member Countries in rail border crossing facilitation including challenges

This session would have keynote presentation underscoring the importance of rail border crossing facilitation in era of sustainable transport and would invite participating railways to highlight good practices in facilitating railway border crossing.

- | Growing importance of railway border crossings for sustainable transport, Presentation by ESCAP - 15 minutes
- | Interventions/Presentations by representatives of railways of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Nepal, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan (10 minutes each)

11:25 - 11:40

Break

SESSION 2

11:40 - 13:00

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: ESCAP

Electronic information interchange between railways and among railways and control agencies

This session would elaborate of Annex III to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network that provides for guiding principles on electronic information exchange among railways and control agencies. It would encourage member of Trans-Asian Railway network to complete the domestic processes to submit instrument of acceptance for the annex to enter into force.

Participating countries would be invited to update the meeting on the submission on instrument of acceptance for annex III to the intergovernmental agreement on Trans-Asian Railway as well as share experience in electronic exchange of information among railways outstanding challenges including ways to address them

- | Annex III to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network – Presentation by Sandeep Jain, Transport Division, ESCAP - 15 minutes
- | State of electronic information exchange among railways and way forward in the region – Goran Andreev, Consultant - 25 minutes (ONLINE)
- | Presentations/Interventions/Updates by representatives from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Nepal, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Uzbekistan - 40 minutes

13:00 - 14:30

*Feast Restaurant, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Lunch

SESSION 3

14:30 - 16:00

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD

Recent and planned initiatives to promote international rail transport

This session would expand on the plans and initiatives of the ESCAP and OSJD member countries in expanding rail and related infrastructure and other measures aimed at expanding international rail traffic in coming years

- | Presentations by representatives of railways of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Nepal, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

19:00 - 22:00

*Restaurant "Kartuli Sakhli"
Giorgi Tsabadze Street 2*

Dinner hosted by the General Director of JSC Georgian Railway

9 September, Wednesday

SESSION 4

10:00 - 11:00

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD

Digitalization of international rail transport: challenges and solutions

This session would deliberate on the national legal and regulatory frameworks governing the use of electronic information interchange, electronic documents and electronic signatures, including electronic documents having the same legal validity as paper documents as well as measure on rail cybersecurity and invite comments from participants on way forward. It would also elaborate of key pilot project undertake to promote electronic information exchange among railway and control agencies in past and what further needs to be done to support countries in promoting electronic information exchange between railways and control agencies.

- | Instruments and frameworks to promote electronic exchange among railways, Presentation by OSJD 30 minutes
- | ESCAP Regional Framework on Strengthening Rail Cybersecurity in the Asia-Pacific, Presentation by Sandeep R Jain
- | State of Rail Cybersecurity among countries along the Trans-Asian Railway network, Presentation by Basri Berahim, Cybersecurity Expert (ONLINE) 15 Minutes

Open discussion on next steps

11:00 - 11:20

Break

SESSION 5

11:20 - 13:00

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD and ESCAP

State of and need for further simplification of customs formalities for international rail among ESCAP and OSJD member countries along Eurasian rail corridors

This session would take stock of custom formalities for international railway transport and how they can further streamline and simplify through use of electronic exchange of information. It would discuss on the need and arrangement among countries to further harmonize customs processes for efficient rail transit and transport

- | Presentations from Customs of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Thailand, others (tbc)
- | Presentation by Sandeep R Jain Draft ESCAP-OSJD Framework/Scheme/Modality/ for electronically enabled transit processes along international railway corridors

Open Discussion on next steps for the framework

13:00 - 14:30

*Feast Restaurant, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Lunch

SESSION 6

14:30 - 16:00

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD and ESCAP

Open discussion (**moderated by representatives of ESCAP and OSJD**) on new measures to promote further development of international transport of goods by rail including through simplified arrangement for transit by rail

19:00 - 22:00

*Restaurant "Metekhis Chrdili"
Ketevan Tsamebuli Ave. 29*

Dinner

10 September, Thursday

09:30 - 09:50

Information on the outcome of the national workshop for Georgia on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.
| Presentation by Fedor Kormilitsyn, Transport Division, ESCAP

09:50 - 10:30

*Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Moderator: OSJD and ESCAP

Closing Session

**Finalization of an Outcome Document of the OSJD-ESCAP Joint Interagency Meeting on Rail Border
Crossing Facilitation**

Presentation on draft outcome document and its finalization

Open discussion, next date and venue and closing of the meeting

10:30 - 10:50

Break

10:50 - 13:00

Continuation of the finalization of an Outcome Document of the OSJD-ESCAP Joint Interagency Meeting on Rail Border
Crossing Facilitation

13:00 - 14:30

*Feast Restaurant, Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace
Telavi Street 20*

Lunch

15:00 - 18:00

Cultural program: excursion around Mtskheta

18:00 - 20:00

*Restaurant "Tsiskvili Mtskheta"
7 Konstantin Gamsakhurdia Street, Mtskheta*

Dinner

Departure of the delegations in accordance with the schedules.