

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
and
the International Union of Railways (UIC)

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Management of the International Union of Railways (UIC).

Considering that both the ECO and UIC have in their composition the common member states as well as the formal and institutionalized relationship with the relevant UN agencies and other international organizations in the field of transport and communications, and

Convinced that mutual benefits to both the ECO and UIC would accrue from close cooperation between them in the attainment of their objectives as set forth in the Treaty of Izmir (ECO) and the Basic Charter of UIC.

Hereby agree to promote cooperation in the field of railway transport as follows:

I. Exchange of Information

1. Each party shall keep the other regularly informed on the programmes and activities of mutual interest as well as the exchange of the bulletins and other appropriate documents that address the matters of common interest.
2. Exchange of information will include aspects of technical and operational matters comprising the following:-
 - (a) plans for the development and/or up-gradation of national, regional and inter-regional railway linkages as well as improvement of regular transport services including mutual assistance to overcome the disclosed bottlenecks in this field;
 - (b) development and harmonization of technical parameters and standards of railways and rolling-stocks as well as the relevant infrastructure of the stations for use in regional and inter-regional railways carriages with the aim of improving the efficiency of the utilization of existing railway networks and its infrastructure facilities.

II. Consultation and Cooperation

3. Where necessary, the parties shall consult and cooperate with each other through working meetings and other means, on matters referred to in Paragraph-I above.

4. Subject to decisions that may be taken by their respective decision-making bodies concerning participation in their meetings, the ECO Secretariat and the UIC Office shall invite each other to attend their relevant meetings as observers on reciprocal basis.
5. ECO and UIC may jointly organize training seminars and workshops at country/regional levels on different aspects of the international railway services and provide advisory services on specific requests of the Member States.
6. In this context, both ECO and UIC may, in cooperation with their members address various issues concerning international transport facilitation and removal of physical and non-physical barriers along the "East-West" transport corridor with a regional impact within/outside the ECO region and seek the support of international bodies like UNESCAP, UNECE as the case may be. Such findings may also include financing possibilities from national, regional as well as international sources.

III. General Provisions

7. This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the approval of the appropriate decision-making bodies of the two contracting parties and shall enter into force immediately upon signature by the Secretary General of ECO and the Chief Executive of UIC.
8. This MoU can be modified by mutual written consent and/or terminated by either party upon six months prior written notice to the other.

In witness whereof, the Secretary General of ECO and the Chief Executive of UIC have signed this MoU in two original copies in English language.

Signed at Tehran on 31 January, 2001.

Dr. Abdolrahim Gavahi
Secretary General of ECO

Philippe ROUMEGUNERE
Chief Executive UIC