

OSJD activities in the field of freight traffic organisation in 2023

From 10 till 13 October 2023 the representatives of the railways of the OSJD member countries, OSJD affiliated enterprises and international organisations gathered again at the OSJD Committee in Warsaw for the final meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic to consider the outcomes of the OSJD activities in the field of freight traffic for the reporting year and to define further tasks for the next period. In her article Zubaida ASPAYEVA, Chairperson of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic, provides an overview of the results that were achieved by the end of the reporting year in this field and discusses the objectives set to be achieved in the next year.

The final meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic was attended by the representatives of the following railway companies from the OSJD member countries: Azerbaijani Railways CJSC (AZD CJSC), Afghanistan Railway Authority (ARA), Byelorussian Railway (BC), Hungarian State Railways (MAV Co.), Vietnamese Railway State Company (VZD), Georgian Railway JSC (GR), “Kazakhstan Temir Zholy National Company” JSC (KZH), Ministry of Railways of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (ZC), Korea Railroad Corporation (KORAIL), “Kyrgyz Temir Zholu National Company” State Enterprise (KRG), Railway of Moldova State Enterprise (CFM), Ulan-Bator Railway JSC (UBZD JSC), Russian Railways OJSC (RZD OJSC), Cargo Slovakia Railway Company JSC (ZSSK Cargo), Rohi Ohani Tojikiston SUE (Tajik Railway, TDZ), Turkmenistan Railways – Türkmen demirýollari Agency (TRK), Ukrainian Railways JSC (UZ), O’zbekiston temir yo’llari JSC (Uzbek Railways, UTI), Czech Railways Cargo JSC (CD Cargo) and Estonian Railway JSC (EVR), as well as OSJD affiliated enterprises – Rail Cargo Hungaria Co., UTLC ERA JSC, “Post of Russia” JSC, Russian University of Transport (RUT (MIIT)), CTM LLC, TransContainer PJSC, “Far Eastern Shipping Company” PJSC (FESCO) and PLASKE JSC; international organisations – Universal Postal Union (UPU), Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), Directorate of the Council for Railway Transport of the Common-

wealth Member States (CSZT), International Coordinating Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation (CCTT), “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” International Association (TITR) and the OSJD Committee.

Opening the meeting, Secretary of the OSJD Committee Attila Kiss in his welcome address noted the importance of holding the final meeting for coordination and decision-making on the issues of international railway freight operations and informed the participants about the decisions taken at the XXXVII CGD meeting (12-14 April and 19 April 2023, Warsaw), including those within the competence of the OSJD Commission, and at the L session of the OSJD Ministerial Conference (13-16 June 2023, Busan, Republic of Korea).

Zubaida Aspayeva, Chairperson of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic, who chaired the meeting, stated its validity and welcomed all the participants.



Presidium of the final meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic (10-13.10.2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw)

Within the agenda the results of works of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic for 2023 were considered on the following subjects:

- “Improvement of the Agreement on Uniform Transit Tariff (ETT) and updating the ETT Tariff”;
- “Improvement of the Agreement on International Railway Transit Tariff (MTT) and updating the MTT Tariff”;
- “Improvement of the Agreement on the Rules for the Use of Freight Wagons in International Traffic (PGW)”;
- “Improvement of the Agreement on the transportation of containers as part of container trains in international traffic”;
- “Coordination of international freight transportation volumes”;
- “Updating the Harmonised Nomenclature of Goods (GNG)”;
- “Updating the List of Freight Stations of OSJD Railways”;
- “Coordination of international freight train timetables between the OSJD railways”;
- “Organisation of multimodal, combined and intermodal operations in international traffic”;
- “Organisation of container transport in international traffic and transport of goods under the CIM/SMGS consignment note”;
- “Organisation of transportation of postal items by rail”;
- “Use of freight wagons in international transport operations”;
- “OSJD activities under the UNESCAP freight transport projects”.

The draft Report “On the results of work of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic for 2023” was also considered, the draft decision of the XXXVIII CGD meeting in the field of freight traffic and the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic for 2024 were agreed upon.

The subject “**Improvement of the Agreement on the Uniform Transit Tariff (ETT) and updating the ETT Tariff**” was discussed by the Parties to the ETT Agreement at the meeting of representatives of the Parties to the ETT Agreement held on 27-30 June 2023 (OSJD Committee, Warsaw). The following proposals were considered:

- on improvement of the ETT Agreement, presented by the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, and those received during the meeting from the representatives of the Parties to the Agreement;
- on updating of ETT, presented by KZH, KRG, UTI, Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, and those received in the course of the meeting from the representatives of the Parties to the Agreement.

Following the results of the discussion, the agreed decisions on improvement of the Agreement and updating of the ETT were taken.

The OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, announced the amendments and additions agreed upon by the Parties to the Agreement as follows:

- to the Agreement effective as of 16 October 2023 regarding the date of sending the minutes of the meeting;
- to the ETT Tariff:
 - effective as of 21 July 2023 regarding the Section “Tables of transit distances” and related to the updates to the tables of transit distances of railways of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan;
 - effective as of 16 October 2023 regarding:
 - 1) clarifying the procedure for the calculation of tariffs for the carriage of goods, specified in Paragraph 6 of Section III “Calculation and collection of carriage charges”;
 - 2) the possibility of applying special tariff conditions when containers are transported as part of a container train or a group of containers;
 - 3) clarifications on determining the transport distance;
 - 4) clarifying the procedure for calculating and collecting of freight charges for the transportation of a buffer wagon;
 - 5) bringing the provisions of Paragraph 27 “Charges for a conductor accompanying the cargo, driver of a road train, car driver” of Section III “Calculation and collection of carriage charges” into line with the provisions of SMGS Annex 1 “Rules for the carriage of goods”;
 - 6) supplementing Paragraph 29 “Charges for the carriage of transport equip-

ment” of Section III “Calculation and collection of carriage charges”;

- 7) Updating the Table in Section IV “List of dangerous goods” to bring it in line with the provisions of SMGS Annex 2 “Rules for the carriage of dangerous goods”;
- 8) clarifying the procedure and conditions for collecting of charges for refrigerated transport during carriage in isothermal wagons and for the provision of fuel by the carrier during the transportation on the Railways of Ukraine;
- 9) editorial improvements throughout the text of the ETT Tariff.

The calculation was agreed of the carriage charges under the tariff rates of the ETT Tariff, Classes 1 and 2, in line with the provisions of paragraph 14 “Charges for carrying goods in a wagon” of Section III “Calculation and collection of carriage charges” of the ETT Tariff for goods with new GNG codes. The new charges took effect as of 1 June 2023.

The OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, announced amendments to the Agreement and to the ETT Tariff with effect from 12 February 2023, concerning the change of the name of the Party to the Agreement from Ukraine.

The OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and on the basis of the official notifications of the Parties to the Agreement from KZH, Ministry of Transport of Russia and TRK during 2023, announced the introduction of amendments and additions to the tables of transit distances of the railways of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan in Section VI “Tables of transit distances” of the ETT Tariff.

The working staff of the OSJD Commission has prepared, taking into account the announced amendments and additions, and sent in electronic form:

- updated texts of the ETT Agreement and the ETT Tariff as of 12 February and 16 October 2023;
- updated text of the ETT Tariff as of 21 July.

As required by Article 11 of the ETT Agreement, the OSJD Committee as the depositary of the ETT Agreement will publish and forward to the Parties to the Agreement, interested OSJD affiliated enterprises, certified copies of the updated texts of the ETT Agreement and the ETT Tariff effective as of 1 January 2024.

It was agreed to include into the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission for 2024 the



During the discussion of the agenda items of the final meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic (10-13.10.2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw)

works on the subject “Improvement of the ETT Agreement and updating of the ETT Tariff”.

The subject “***Improvement of the Agreement on International Railway Transit Tariff (MTT) and updating the MTT Tariff***” was discussed by the Parties to the MTT Agreement at the XXXIV meeting of representatives of the Parties to the MTT Agreement held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 15 through 18 May 2023.

This meeting considered the proposals and took into account comments and positions on:

- improvement of the MTT Agreement, received from the OSJD Committee as the depositary of the MTT Agreement;
- updating of the MTT Tariff, presented by BC, KZH, CFM, Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, and those received in the course of the meeting from the representatives of the Parties to the Agreement.

Following the results of the discussion, the Parties to the Agreement agreed on the amendments and additions to:

- the Agreement, related to the clarification of the procedure for joining the Agreement or terminating participation in it, and the provisions concerning the procedure for announcing (putting into effect) additions or amendments to the Agreement and the MTT related to these actions (joining/termination), as well as to ensure harmonisation of the provisions of the MTT Agreement and the ETT Agreement;
- the MTT Tariff, related to:
 - 1) updating the Table in Part V “List of dangerous goods” to bring it in line with the provisions of SMGS Annex 2 “Rules for the carriage of dangerous goods”;
 - 2) clarification in the text of the Note to the Table in Part V “List of dangerous goods” in accordance with the name of Paragraph 15 “Charges for the carriage of dangerous goods” of Part II “Special tariff rules” of Section II “Calculation of carriage charges for the transportation of cargo on its own axles” of the MTT;
 - 3) clarification of the name and updating of the text of item 8 “Charge for delay of a wagon, container or cargo on its

axles on a transit railway” of Section III “Additional charges and other payments” of Part VI “Tariff distances, tariff rates, additional charges and other payments” in order to ensure harmonisation of MTT and ETT tariff rules;

- 4) editorial improvements to the text of Section I “Tables of transit distances”;
- 5) editorial improvements and typos throughout the text of the MTT Tariff.

The amendments and additions to the Agreement and to the MTT Tariff, agreed by the Parties to the Agreement, were announced by the OSJD Committee, as a depositary of the Agreement, with effect from 18 August 2023.

The OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, announced amendments to the Agreement and to the MTT Tariff with effect from 12 February 2023, concerning the change of the name of the Party to the Agreement from Ukraine.

The OSJD Committee, being the depositary of the Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and on the basis of official notifications of the Parties to the Agreement during 2023, announced the introduction of amendments and additions to the tables of transit distances of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in Section I of Part VI of the MTT Tariff.

The working staff of the OSJD Commission prepared and sent in electronic form the updated texts of the Agreement and the MTT Tariff as of 12 February 2023 and 18 August 2023, taking into account the announced amendments and additions.

As required by item 5 of the Article 4 of the MTT Agreement, the OSJD Committee as the depositary of the MTT Agreement will publish and forward to the Parties to the Agreement, interested OSJD affiliated enterprises, certified copies of the updated texts of the MTT Agreement and the MTT Tariff effective as of 1 January 2024.

It was agreed to include into the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission for 2024 the work on the subject “Improvement of the MTT Agreement and updating of the MTT Tariff”.

The following works have been completed to ***improve the Agreement on the Use of Freight Wagons in International Traffic (PGW Agree-***

ment), to amend and supplement the Rules for the Use of Freight Wagons in International Traffic (PGW) and update both documents.

The issues related to updating the tariff rates for the use of freight wagons and bogies in international traffic were discussed at the following meetings:

1) meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the PGW Agreement on the Rate Calculation (10-11 May 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw), during which the data for 2022, submitted by the Parties to the PGW Agreement, without taking into account the input data of RAI, KZD, ZC and LTG, were preliminary analysed and considered to calculate the draft rates of charge for the use of freight wagons, bogies and wagons without bogies in international traffic.

The RZD OJSC as a leading duty holder presented the results of the preliminary calculation of the draft rate of charge, based on the mentioned data and taking into account the updated data of the BDZ, KZH and CFR Marfa, received in the course of work.

In addition, within the agenda of this meeting, when considering the proposal of the Party to the PGW Agreement from EVR to amend subparagraph 1.2.3 of the Methodology, which provides for a separate rule on the actions of the railway company in case it does not have shared wagons, it was decided that this issue should be further discussed at the meeting of authorised representatives of the Parties to the PGW Agreement;

2) at the meeting of the authorised representatives of the Parties to the PGW Agreement (19-22 June 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw), the leading duty holder presented the results of the updated calculation of the draft rates of charge for the use of freight wagons, bogies and wagons without bogies in international traffic in view of additional data received from the Parties to the PGW Agreement, namely, taking into account the initial data from RAI, updated data from CFR Marfa, GFR and TDZ, as well as clarifications from GFR on changes due to the increase in the amount of freight wagon fleet maintenance costs (by 50 % or more) from the data for 2021.

In the course of consideration of the possibil-

ity of changing the rates of charge for the use of freight wagons, bogies and wagons without bogies in international traffic, the following issues were discussed:

- calculated draft rates of charge (based on the data for 2022 submitted by the Parties to the PGW Agreement);
- current rates taking into account the indexation coefficient.

According to the voting results, no decision on changing the amount of the rates of charge was made for any of the options discussed above. In this regard, the current rates are retained.

The issues related to agreeing amendments and supplements to the PGW Agreement and to PGW Rules were discussed at the meeting of the authorised representatives of the Parties to the PGW Agreement (19-22 June 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw). The proposals were considered to improve the PGW Agreement and to update the PGW Rules, submitted by the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, and by the Parties to the Agreement: BC, MAV Co., RCH CJSC, LDZ Cargo, LTG, CFM, PKP Cargo, RZD OJSC, TDZ, UTI, UZ and EVR, as well as taking into account proposals and comments received during the meeting from representatives of the Parties to the Agreement.

The Parties to the PGW Agreement attending the meeting agreed the following amendments and additions to the:

- 1) Agreement (Article 8, item 4), concerning the clarification of the procedure for accession to the PGW Agreement;
- 2) Appendix B “Rules for the Use of Freight Wagons in International Traffic (PGW)” to the PGW Agreement (sub-item 4.2), concerning clarification of the provision for the transfer of freight wagons with expired periodic repair periods;
- 3) Annex 1 “Technical requirements for wagons” to the PGW Rules (sub-item 2.2.2.7), concerning clarification of the provision for conditions of not allowing freight wagons to run in trains if the wheel hub is displaced or loosened on the tread part of the axle;
- 4) Annex 1 “Technical requirements for wagons” to the PGW Rules (item 3), concerning the clarification of provisions for bogies;

- 5) Annex 1 “Technical requirements for wagons” to the PGW Rules (item 5), concerning the clarification of provisions for springs and spring suspension;
- 6) Annex 1 “Technical requirements for wagons” to the PGW Rules (sub-item 12.13.2), concerning the clarification of provisions for additional inscription (e-mail address) on freight wagons that are not shared;
- 7) Annex 1 “Technical requirements for wagons” to the PGW (sub-item 13.2), concerning the exclusion of a provision on the condition of transportation of an empty wagon with expired periodic repairs;
- 8) Annex 17 “Methodology for calculating rates of charge for the use of freight wagons, bogies and wagons without bogies in international traffic” to the PGW (sub-item 1.2.3), concerning clarification of the provisions for the application of data on maintenance costs for the previous period in the calculation of average freight wagon usage rates;
- 9) Appendix G “Methodology for determining the vote shares of the Parties” to the Agreement (item 4) concerning the exclusion of a provision on the recommended form of an document confirming a different allocation of the votes of the Parties to a state;
- 10) Appendix E “Application for accession to the PGW Agreement” to the Agreement, concerning the specification of filling in the application form with indication of the planned date of accession to the Agreement, as well as specification of information reference, if in the OSJD member state, in accordance with the national legislation, the procedure for distribution of votes, stipulated by item 4 of Appendix G “Methodology for determining the vote shares of the Parties” to the Agreement, is in force.



Expert meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic on the issue of “Identification of the status of shared freight wagons for their accounting” (04-05.04.2023, OSJD Committee)

On the basis of the adopted decisions, continuation of further work on improvement of

the Agreement and updating of the PGW Rules will be carried out at the next meetings in 2024, taking into account the prepared proposals from the Parties to the Agreement.

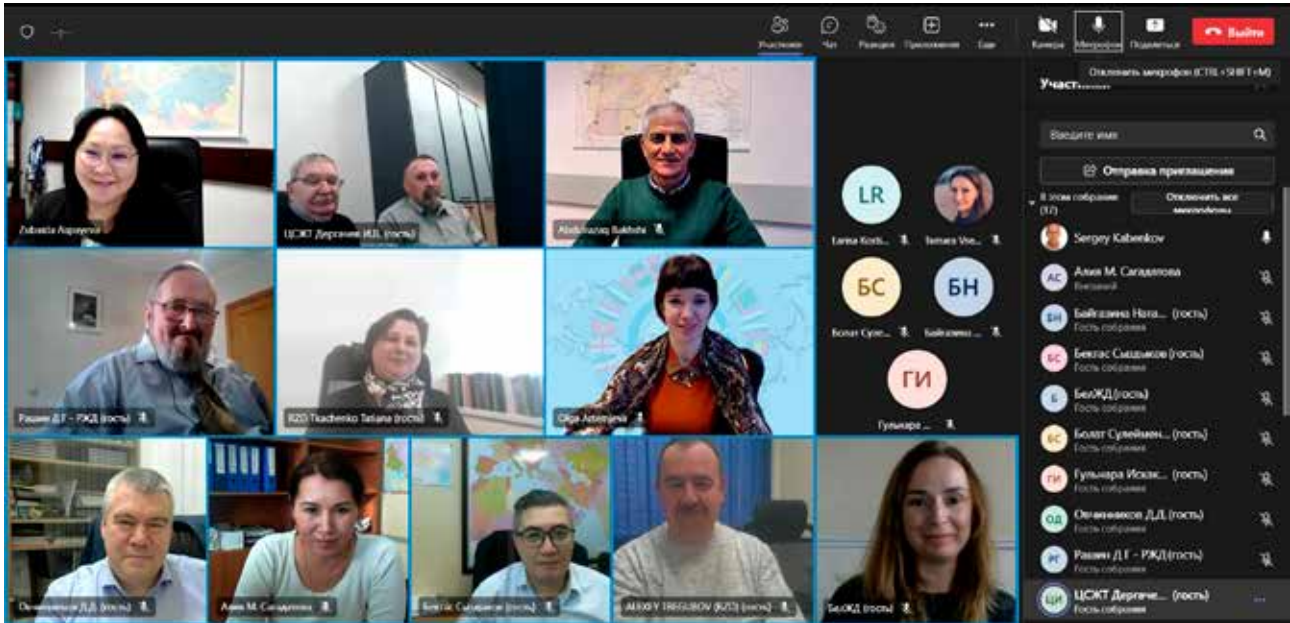
In accordance with Article 6, item 3, “Amendment of the Agreement” of the Agreement and Article 7, item 6, “Amendment of the PGW Rules” of the Agreement, the decision on the amendments and additions to the PGW Rules and PGW Agreement agreed upon at the meeting of the authorised representatives of the Parties to the Agreement was announced on 29 August 2023 by the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, with effect from 1 January 2024.

The delegation of AZD CJSC informed about its intention to accede to the PGW Agreement from 1 January 2024. The delegation of AZD CJSC was informed about the procedures and terms of accession to the Agreement.

The OSJD Committee, being the depositary of the Agreement, issued the updated text of the Agreement on PGW with annexes as of 1 January 2023.

On the basis of the data submitted by the Parties to the PGW Agreement, the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, calculated the shares of votes of each Party to the Agreement. The table of distribution of the voting shares as of 1 September 2023 was sent to all Parties to the PGW Agreement.

During 2023, the following changes were made by the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, on the basis of official



Consultative working meeting of OSJD/CSZT on the issue of interaction in the field of updating the harmonised commodity codes of GNG and ETSNG (18.01.2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw, in videoconferencing mode)

notifications from the Parties to the Agreement:

- BC – to Annex 2-I “List of handing over/accepting railway companies” to the PGW;
- LTG, PKP Cargo, UBZD – to Annex 1-I “Addresses of the Parties to the Agreement” to the PGW;
- Ukrainian Railways JSC – to Appendix A “List of the Parties to the PGW Agreement” to the PGW Agreement, to Annex 2-I “List of addresses of authorised departments of railway companies” to Annex 38 “Procedure for transfer of information on joint-use wagons of the Parties to the PGW Agreement” to the PGW Rules, to Annex 1-I “Addresses of the Parties to the Agreement” to the PGW Rules, to Annex 2-I “List of handing over/accepting railway companies” to the PGW Rules, to Annex 3-I “List of abbreviated designations and codes of railway companies (ZDK)” to the PGW Rules and to Annex 4-I “Codes of wagon assignment” to the PGW Rules.

The Parties to the Agreement have been informed of the relevant changes to the PGW and the dates of their entry into force.

The text of the PGW Agreement with annexes, prepared by the working staff of the OSJD Commission, taking into account the announced changes, as of 1 January 2024, will be posted on the OSJD Website (<https://osjd.org/>).

It was agreed to include into the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission for 2024 the work on the subject “Improvement of the PGW agreement and updating the PGW”.

As part of the subject “**Improvement of the Agreement on the transportation of containers as part of container trains in international traffic**”, two meetings of the Parties to the Agreement were held in 2023 (14-16 February 2023 and 4-6 July 2023, OSJD, Warsaw, videoconferencing mode), during which the Parties to the Agreement supported the proposals of BC and RZD OJSC on the possibility of including containers in container trains.

At the meeting held on 4-6 July 2023, the term “container” was agreed upon by the Parties to the Agreement.

The Parties to the Agreement also considered proposals for amendments and additions to Appendix B “Rules for the organisation of international transportation of containers by container trains” to the Agreement.

The Parties to the Agreement have prepared, reviewed and agreed on Annex 3 of the Rules to the Agreement “List of the main reasons for the uncoupling of wagons with containers from container trains en route” for reasons dependent and independent of the carrier, and the Parties to the Agreement considered it important to develop an agreed mechanism for the application of the List.

On the basis of the information received by the OSJD Committee from AZD CJSC and from BC the corresponding amendments and additions were made to Annexes 1 and 2 to the Rules to the Agreement.

The party to the Agreement – RZD OJSC updated the data of Annex 1 to the Rules to the Agreement in the part concerning RZD OJSC.

The working staff of the OSJD Commission introduced these amendments and additions into the text of the Agreement as of 28 March and 10 May 2023, which is available on the OSJD Website.

The OSJD Committee received a written application from East Express LLC with a request to join the Agreement.

According to Article 5, item 5 of the Agreement, the OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the Agreement, after checking the compliance of the submitted documents with the terms of accession to the Agreement, informed all the Parties about the accession of East Express LLC to the Agreement as of 20 June 2023. The relevant changes have been made to Appendix A of the Agreement.

The OSJD Committee received an official letter from LTG Cargo JSC dated 22 May 2023 on termination of participation in the Agreement, on the basis of which it terminated its participation from 25 July 2023.

On 3 January 2023, the OSJD Committee received a request from the Agency “Turkmenemiryollary” at the Transport and Communications Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan (TRK) concerning the intention to join the Agreement.

It was agreed to carry out works on the subject “Improvement of the Agreement on the transportation of containers as part of container trains in international traffic” in 2024.

The subject of “*Coordination of international freight transportation volumes*” was considered at the meeting of the OSJD Commission held on 15-19 March 2023 in the videoconferencing mode (OSJD Committee, Warsaw).

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Vietnamese Railway State Company (VZD), “Kazakhstan Temir Zholy National Company” JSC (KZH), China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. (KZD), Ministry of Railways

of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (ZC), Ulan-Bator Railway JSC (UBZD), Russian Railways OJSC (RZD OJSC), O’zbekiston temir yo’llari JSC (UTI), Byelorussian Railway (BC), Turkmenistan Railways – Agency “Turkmenemiryollari” (TRK) and foreign trade organisations of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People’s Republic of China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as Korea Railroad Corporation (KORAIL), “UTLC ERA” JSC – an OSJD affiliated enterprise and the OSJD Committee.

To cover the issues on the meeting agenda, twelve Subgroups were set up.

The meeting of the XV Subgroup of the VZD-KZH-UBZD-KZD (via Alashankou – Dostyk, Khorgos – Altynkol, Erlian – Zamyn-Uud) was held with the participation of RZD.

The following Subgroups were agreed in connection with the accession of BC and TRK to the work on “Coordination of international freight transportation volumes”:

XVIII Subgroup KZD-KZH-UTI-TRK (via Alashankou – Dostyk, Khorgos – Altynkol);

XIX Subgroup KZD-KZH-RZD-BC (via Alashankou – Dostyk, Khorgos – Altynkol);

XX Subgroup KZD-RZD-BC (via Zabai-kalsk - Manchuria, Grodekovo – Suifenhe, Mikhailo-Semenovskaya (Leninsk II – Tongjiang);

XXI Subgroup KZD-UBZD-RZD-BC (via Erlian – Zamyn-Uud, Sukhbaatar – Naushki);

XXII Subgroup BC-RZD-KZH-UTI-TRK.

The first meeting of the XXII Subgroup BC-RZD-KZH-UTI-TRK was held.

The results of the volumes performed in foreign trade freight traffic for 2022 were summarised and the volumes of export, import and transit of goods transportation for 2023 with their distribution by quarters and by types of cargoes for each border crossing point were agreed upon.

The nomenclature of export, import and transit goods was agreed upon for the purpose of identical goods titles when agreeing monthly freight traffic plans.

Technical and organisational measures have been developed to ensure that the agreed freight traffic volumes are met in 2023.

The delegations of ARA and RAI confirmed their concern for participating in the work on the subject “Coordination of international freight transportation volumes” and in the meeting in 2024, and expressed their readiness to provide information on their expected volumes of export, import and transit freight traffic for 2024.

The importance of the discussed issues was noted and the consideration of this subject was coordinated, including its implementation into the draft Plan of Work of the OSJD Commission for 2024.

The subject “*Improvement and updating the Harmonised Nomenclature of Goods (GNG)*” was considered at the meeting of the OSJD Commission held on 28-31 March 2023 (OSJD Committee, Warsaw, videoconferencing mode).

The draft amendments and additions to the GNG were reviewed that had been prepared by the OSJD’s leading duty holder for GNG – RZD OJSC, based on the 2023-version of the NHM, changes in the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union (CN) effective as of 1 January 2023, and taking into account proposals, comments, and positions presented by KRG, LTG, RZD OJSC, UZ and the OSJD Committee as the depositary of the GNG.

The amendments and additions to the GNG are intended to improve and update the GNG in order to keep it harmonised with the 2023 version of the UIC’s Harmonised Commodity Code (NHM).

The agreed draft amendments and additions to the GNG were approved by the members of the XXXVII CGD Meeting (12-14 April and 19 April 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw, Republic of Poland).

The OSJD Committee, as the depositary of the GNG, announced the approved amendments and additions to the GNG taking effect on 1 June 2023.

The OSJD Committee published the updated text of the GNG as of 1 June 2023. The layout of the text had been jointly prepared by the leading duty holder and the working staff of

the OSJD Commission and forwarded to all railways of OSJD member countries, interested OSJD observers and affiliated enterprises both electronically and in certified hard copy.

Within the framework of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the Organisation for Co-Operation between Railways (OSJD) and the Council for Railway Transport of the Commonwealth Member States (CSZT), the OSJD-CSZT Consultative Working Meeting was held in the videoconferencing mode on 18 January 2023 on the issue of cooperation in updating the harmonised GNG and ETSNG nomenclatures of goods (OSJD Committee, Warsaw).

The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- collaboration on updating the harmonised GNG and ETSNG nomenclatures of goods (on introducing amendments and additions to GNG and ETSNG);
- collaboration between OSJD and CSZT in terms of exchange of information on the introduction of amendments and additions to the Harmonised Nomenclature of Goods (GNG) concerning incorporation of new GNG positions of the 9980-9999 range, the changes in which are made on the basis of the decisions of the OSJD CGD;
- on the assignment (correspondence) of the excluded GNG codes to the new GNG codes due to changes in the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organisation (HS) and the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union (CN);
- on the exchange of correspondence tables of GNG and ETSNG (“recoding tables”);
- on cooperation between OSJD and CSZT under the signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the Organisation for Co-Operation between the Railways and the Council for Railway Transport of the Commonwealth Member States on the issues of GNG and ETSNG.

The OSJD presented information on the OSJD procedure for making amendments and additions to the Harmonised Nomenclature of Goods (GNG).

The representative of CSZT informed on the

procedure in place for the adoption of changes to the Unified Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature of Goods (ETSNG).

In order to ensure timely alignment of the GNG and ETSNG codes and synchronised implementation of changes and amendments to GNG and ETSNG, the CSZT representative informed that the work plan of the ETSNG Expert Group for 2023 had been revised.

The OSJD Committee received official information from the CSZT on the access to the reference book of assignment of the classified codes of the CSZT Harmonised Nomenclature of Goods (ETSNG) to the codes of the OSJD Harmonised Nomenclature of Goods (GNG), which was sent to the railways of the OSJD member countries and interested OSJD affiliated enterprises.

It was agreed to include into the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission for 2024 the implementation of work on the issues of updating of GNG, harmonisation of GNG and NHM with the participation of the OSJD affiliated enterprises concerned.

The subject “*Updating the Directory of Freight Stations on OSJD Railways*” was discussed at the meeting of the OSJD Commission held at the OSJD Committee from 28 till 31 March 2023 with the participation of experts from the OSJD Permanent Working Group on Coding and Information Technologies (PWG CI).

The railways of the OSJD member countries provide their data in compliance with the requirements set forth in OSJD Leaflet O 405 “Procedure for the compilation and administration of the List of Freight Stations on OSJD Railways” (3rd edition), the current text of which is available at the OSJD Website (<https://osjd.org/>).

It was noted that the List of Freight Stations on OSJD Railways was an important document due to the fact that the information contained therein was used to complete the SMGS and CIM/SMGS consignment notes.

The List contains the following information:

- general information (codes and designations of railways, the List’s validity date, contact information and other general information);
- a full alphabetical list of freight stations

(including each station’s code) that are open to freight and commercial operations, providing the name of each freight station and its transliteration with Latin characters, which is important to clients who need to fill out the SMGS and CIM/SMGS consignment notes (it is the correct indication of the names of departure and destination stations);

- border crossing points (including the code of each border crossing point);
- layout plans of border crossing sites;
- distance tables (tariff distances between freight stations and border crossings/port stations; transit tariff distances between border crossing points).

The current List in the PDF format is available at the OSJD Website.

It was agreed to include work on the subject “Updating the List of Freight Stations on OSJD Railways” in the OSJD Commission’s Work Plan for 2023 with participation of PWG CI experts and concerned OSJD affiliated enterprises.

The planned meeting of the OSJD Commission on the subject of “*Coordination of international freight train timetables*” was cancelled due to the lack of the number of delegations required to make the meeting valid.

According to the information provided by the participants of the subject, the involved railways of the OSJD member countries agreed upon the international freight train timetables on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

It was agreed that in 2024 the work on “Coordination of international freight train timetables” will be carried out within the Subgroups on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

The subject “*Organisation of combined, multimodal, and intermodal transportation in international traffic*” at the expert meeting of the OSJD Commission (29-31 August 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw).

At the meeting information was exchanged on the current state of affairs on the development of multimodal transportations and exchange of experience in the organisation of combined, multimodal and intermodal operations.

It was noted that the high-quality logistics infrastructure and transport support services

contributed to stimulating the increase in the volume of containerised freight transportation in multimodal and mixed traffic.

Positive experience in organising multimodal, intermodal and combined transportations has been accumulated by the railways of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The delegation of AZD CJSC made a presentation on transport and logistics opportunities and transit potential of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on development of new routes, including multimodal routes passing through the territory of Azerbaijan, on organisation of container trains, on ongoing work to expand the transport direction and on implementation of infrastructure projects.

The representative of Rail Cargo Hungaria CJSC – an OSJD affiliated enterprise István Gaal presented the process of test carriage of semi-trailers on double pocket wagons using the “basket” (adapter) of the VEGA system with loading at the terminal of the Liski branch of UZ at Chop station. Two semi-trailers with construction materials were transported from Chop to Budapest. In addition, a video material on the test loading of semi-trailers on double pocket wagons with the use of the “basket” was presented.

The representative of the PLASKE JSC – an OSJD affiliated enterprise – Oleg Platonov delivered a report on the subject: “Main aspects of the implementation of multimodal transport principles”.

Deputy General Secretary of the TITR International Association Saut Shynybayev informed on the development of the logistics chain based on the TITR route and on the improvement of transport technologies.

The subject “*A study of terminology used in combined, intermodal, and multimodal transport operations (TCIMT)*” is examined



Con trailer and multimodal transportation is becoming increasingly developed in the segment of international freight traffic

by a consultative group of experts from the UNESCAP, OSJD affiliated enterprises – Russian University of Transport (RUT (MIIT)) and PLASKE JSC, supported by the working staff of the OSJD Commission.

On 29 May 2023 a Consultative Meeting on this subject was held in a videoconference mode (OSJD Committee, Warsaw), during which:

- proposals, comments on the draft layout of the “OSJD Information Guide: Multimodal, Intermodal, Combined, Con trailer Traffic were discussed, which were developed by the working staff of the OSJD Commission, submitted by the Russian University of Transport (RUT (MIIT)) and the working staff of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic – on the bibliographic list, PLASKE JSC – on the whole text of the document;
- proposals and comments on the content of the section “Terminology (terms, definitions, concepts)” were discussed;
- the amendments proposed by the participants of the subject on the text of the draft layout of the OSJD Information Guide were agreed upon;
- it was agreed that the information on Incoterms, reflected in the draft layout of the OSJD Information Guide, would be updated by the working staff of the OSJD Commission by the next session of the Consultative Meeting (November 2023);
- it was agreed that after finalisation of the

draft layout of the Russian version of the OSJD Information Guide, it would become the basis for its subsequent translation into Chinese and English versions;

- it was agreed to continue the finalisation of the draft layout of the OSJD Information Guide in terms of its content taking into account the proposals and information material to be submitted by the participants of the subject.



Container transportation plays a special role in the development of transport logistics, being the most reliable and efficient way for the transportation of goods

It was pointed out that the document – OSJD Information Guide – contains information on terminology used in transport operations involving more than one mode of transport; on multimodal, intermodal, combined, and con trailer transport operations; international practices and experience in such transport operations, etc. Guide describes all known forms of transport operations involving more than one mode of transport and assigns each of them a single unambiguous term, because the condition of its practical usefulness is the possibility of application and use by its end users (e.g. railways and their contractors; state institutions, managers of transport and logistics companies; teachers and students of higher education transport institutions, etc.). It is intended to be helpful in developing international relations, as well as in the drafting of uniform standards and other instruments used in transport processes. The OSJD Information Guide shall be a supplementary tool to be used in business negotiations, as well as in the work of terminologists and translators, providing a standardised translation of terms to all parties. In addition, explanations were provided on the structure of the OSJD Information Guide, with the overarching goal of creating a uniform environment for the application and use by consumers of terminology used in descriptions of transport operations involving more than one mode of transport: multimodal transport operation, intermodal transport operation, mixed transport operation,

combined transport operation, con trailer transport operation.

It was agreed that the participants in this subject would carry out the work on further development of the draft layout of the OSJD Information Guide.

It was agreed to include the works on the subjects “Organisation of multimodal, combined, and intermodal international transport operations” and “Study of terminology used in combined, intermodal, and multimodal transport operations (TCIMT)” into the draft Work Plan of the Commission for 2024.

An expert meeting was held under the subject “**Organisation of international transport of large-capacity containers and transport of goods using the CIM/SMGS consignment note**” from 12 to 15 September 2023 to review the progress of work in the following areas.

The leading duty holder – “Kazakhstan Temir Zholy National Company” JSC (KZH) carried out the work on updating the database on container trains and con trailer transportations in international traffic on the railway network of the OSJD member countries, which is to be published in the “OSJD Bulletin” No. 6/2023 and posted on the OSJD Website (<https://osjd.org/>).

Under the subtopic “Building a database of volume indicators of container transportation”, the duty holder – Ukrainian Railways JSC (UZ),

on the basis of the data provided by the railways of the OSJD member countries – AZD CJSC, BC, MAV Co., GR, KZH, KRG, LDZ Cargo, CFM, UBZD, ZSSK Cargo, TDZ, ČD Cargo and EVR, worked to create a database of large-capacity container transport volumes for 2022, as well as to analyse the data in comparison with 2021; for the first half of 2023 in comparison with the same period of 2022.

The analysis showed that in 2022 the railways of the OSJD member countries accepted 3051.9 thousand TEUs and handed over 3017.9 thousand TEUs, which is less by 63.7 thousand TEUs and by 7.2 thousand TEUs, respectively, as compared with 2021; for the first half of 2023, 1490.8 thousand TEUs were accepted, 1429 thousand TEUs were handed over, which is less by 16.3 thousand TEUs and by 101.2 thousand TEUs compared to the same period in 2022, respectively.

The experts of the OSJD Commission carried out the work on updating the text of OSJD Leaflet R 421 “Rules for the use of large-capacity containers in international railway traffic”.

It was decided to exclude Annex 2 to Leaflet P 421 “List of large-capacity container transfer stations” from the Leaflet.

The updated text of Leaflet R 421 was approved and put into effect from 13 October 2023, and a decision was taken to publish Leaflet R 421 by the OSJD Committee in the form of VII edition for distribution to the railways of the OSJD member countries as well as for posting on the OSJD Website.

The leading duty holder – KZH informed about the work carried out on the subtopic “Updating and maintaining the electronic version of the Reference Book ‘International transportation of large-capacity containers and trailer operations’”.

Following the recommendations of the OSJD Commission experts, the leading duty holder presented the text of the Reference Book in the PDF format in order to visualise it for easier work with this document.

Considering the draft Reference Book presented by the leading duty holder and its preliminary examination, the participants of the meeting noted that at present the Reference Book contained irrelevant information and required additional revision in order to bring

it in compliance with the OSJD documents in force, as well as with other international documents, including standards and technical regulations concerning large-capacity containers, for which reason it was considered expedient to remove the Reference Book from the OSJD Website until the final decision on this issue was made.

The representative of “Kazakhstan Temir Zholy National Company” JSC (KZH) informed about the results of KZH in the field of container transportations for 8 months of 2023 and about the main transit container routes passing through the territory of Kazakhstan.

The representative of the Railway of the Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI) introduced the RAI activities (infrastructural possibilities of the border stations, transit and transport potential of Iran, etc.), and also presented a video material on the RAI border stations operation.

Organisation of freight transportation under the CIM/SMGS consignment note was discussed by the expert meeting of the OSJD Commission held at the OSJD Committee, Warsaw, from 12 through 15 September 2023.

It was noted that the railways of the OSJD member countries were working to organise the carriage of goods in wagons and containers using the CIM/SMGS consignment note.

The working staff of the OSJD Commission summarised the data on the volumes of freight traffic using the CIM/SMGS consignment note in international traffic for 2021-2022 and analysed the data for the first half of 2023 in comparison with the same period of 2022, presented by such railways of the OSJD member countries as AZD CJSC, BC, GR, KZH, CFM, ZSSK Cargo, ČD Cargo.

The meeting agreed to continue the works for the organisation of railway transport operations under the CIM/SMGS consignment note in 2024 as part of the subject “Organisation of international transportation of containers and transport operations under the CIM/SMGS consignment note”, and included the work in the OSJD Commission’s draft Work Plan for 2024.

It was noted about the relevance and demand for work on the subject of “***Organisation of transportation of postal items in containers***”

in order to attract additional volumes of goods onto the railway transport, providing uninterrupted delivery of postal items.

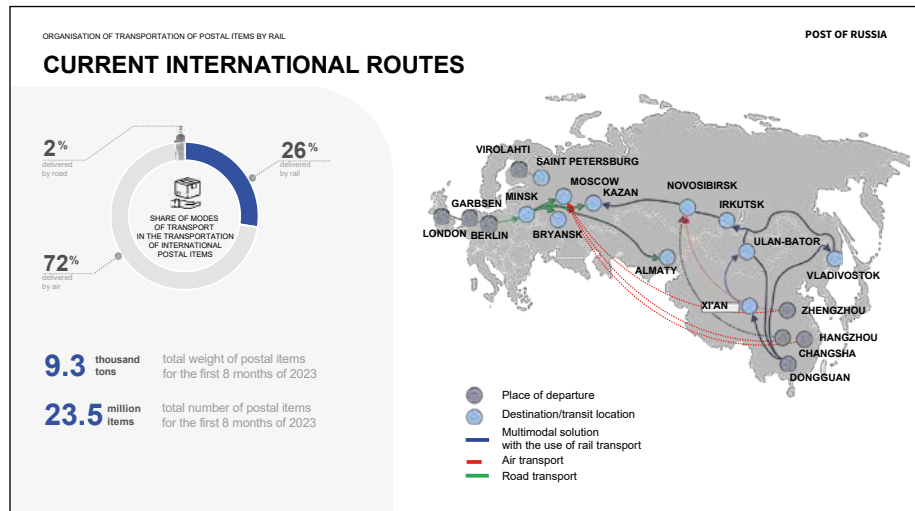
The railways of the OSJD member countries carried out works towards organise the transportation of postal items by rail on various international routes.

In the China-Europe direction, the main cities for container trains with postal items to China are Chongqing, Yiwu, Zhengzhou and Dongguan. The route of trains from China passes through Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus, and further on to Poland and other European countries.

The representative of the “Post of Russia” JSC, an OSJD affiliated enterprise, informed about the activities on the development of container and postal luggage service and made a presentation on the subject “Organisation of transportation of postal items by rail”.

Within the framework of cooperation between OSJD and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a representative of the UPU International Bureau, an expert on transport and final segments of deliveries, took part in the work of the OSJD Commission experts meeting on the subject of “Organisation of multimodal, combined and intermodal operations in international traffic” (28-31 August 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw) and made a presentation on the subject “Challenges and opportunities in railway postal operations” and invited all stakeholders to work together to prepare the third release of the EEC ICS2 system to ensure the sustainability of railway postal operations.

Natalia Stepanova, CCTT Deputy Secretary General, informed about the work being done within the framework of the joint CCTT and UPU Working Group on electronic document management for the transport of international postal items (IPO) by rail. In addition, comments were made on the UPU and CCTT Roadmap for the interoperability of data exchange systems between postal operators and railway transport and logistics companies for the trans-



Current international routes for the transportation of postal items using the railway traffic

port of international mail in containers.

The UPU and CCTT representatives noted that in order to achieve practical results it would be advisable to continue the joint work with OSJD with the invitation of experts from railway carriers of the OSJD member countries and interested OSJD affiliated enterprises to work out the issues of organisation of information interaction between carriers and logistics operators to implement the principles of paperless document management in railway transportation of international postal items (IPO).

The RZD OJSC delegation noted that due to the widespread use of IT technologies and digital services, as well as the availability of databases (systems, platforms) at national postal operators, the transfer of the full set of all documents required by the UPU is not mandatory: carriers exchange data on transport documents (SMGS and CIM/SMGS consignment notes), which should include unique CN37 numbers (identifiers) of postal items. Access to CN37 postal declaration data (or their transmission) can be provided by the supervisory authority through national postal operators. The RZD OJSC is interested, as a carrier, in simplifying the procedure for transmitting accompanying documents with the development of appropriate IT solutions.

It was decided not to establish another working group and it was considered advisable to continue the work of the above mentioned joint group of CCTT and UPU experts with the involvement of representatives of OSJD member countries and OSJD Committee to discuss

the requirements of ISC2 R3 concerning the carriage of postal items.

The importance of cooperation of OSJD (OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic and OSJD Permanent Working Group on Coding and Information Technology) with UPU and CCTT was noted with regard to the issues of electronic document flow in railway IPO transportation. “UTLC ERA” JSC and “Post of Russia” JSC, the OSJD affiliated enterprises, expressed their readiness to participate in this work.

It was agreed to include the work on the subject of “Organisation of transportation of postal items by rail” in the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission for 2024 with the participation of the interested OSJD affiliated enterprises and in cooperation with UPU, WCO, EEC, CCTT, TITR and other interested international organisations.

As part of the subject “*Use of freight wagons in international traffic*”, the Parties to the PGW Agreement discussed the issue of identifying the status of joint-use freight wagons for their accounting.

The expert meeting of the Parties to the PGW Agreement (4-5 April 2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw) considered the positions presented by the Parties to the PGW Agreement from: BC, BDZ, MAV Co., RCH CJSC, KRG, LDZ Cargo, LTG, PKP Cargo, RZD CJSC, UZ and EVR, and during the exchange of views on the choice of a certain approach to the organisation of information interaction, the choice of information tools: creating a new information platform for the electronic exchange of data on joint-use freight wagons or using existing information bases. The participants of the meeting considered it expedient to continue work on ensuring informational interaction on joint-use freight wagons and noted that the first step could be the allocation on the OSJD Website (closed platform) or in the “cloud” of the OSJD Committee of

a folder for each Party to the PGW Agreement for operative posting/updating of information on joint-use wagons in the agreed Excel format (Annex 38 “Procedure for transfer of information on joint-use wagons of the Parties to the PGW Agreement” to the PGW). The Parties to the PGW Agreement have been informed of this possibility. The final decision on this issue, including the expediency of development of the regulations for work with the information platform and determination of the status of this document (Annex to the PGW/OSJD Leaflet), was taken at the meeting of the authorised representatives of the Parties to the PGW Agreement (19-22 June 2023, OSJD Committee).

The Parties to the PGW Agreement – participants in the meeting also considered the proposals received from the Parties to the PGW Agreement – MAV Co. and RCH Co. on amendments to the PGW Agreement regarding identification of freight wagons, as a result of which it was decided that proposals should be discussed at the meeting of authorised representatives to supplement paragraph 3 “General conditions for the use of wagons” of Appendix B to the PGW Agreement with a new sub-item in terms of requirements for identification of freight wagons and inscriptions on the wagon, as well as to supplement sub-item 16. 2, paragraph 16, “General Provisions” of Appendix B to the PGW Agreement with a provision on the procedure for informing in case of a change in the status of a joint-use freight wagon.



The number of regular container train routes is increasing with every passing year

In the course of the meeting of the authorised representatives of the Parties to the PGW Agreement, this issue was discussed, according to the results of which, taking into account the possibility and readiness to allocate a directory for each Party to the PGW Agreement in the OSJD Committee's network data storage for the purpose of operative placement and updating of information on joint-use freight wagons, it was decided that the OSJD Committee would prepare folders (directories) for each Party to the PGW Agreement and inform the Parties to the PGW Agreement about the possibility of filling them.

Following the decision of the meeting of the authorised representatives, the OSJD Committee prepared separate folders (directories) for each Party to the PGW Agreement in the OSJD Committee network data storage to fill them with information on joint-use freight wagons in the agreed Excel format (Annex 38 "Procedure for transfer of information on joint-use wagons of the Parties to the PGW Agreement" to the PGW). Therefore, the Parties to the PGW Agreement were offered to provide the OSJD Committee with the contact information (responsible person and e-mail address) for subsequent sending of authentication data on connection to the network storage.

As part of the subject "*OSJD activities under the UNESCAP freight transport projects*", the leading duty holder – KZH informed that in 2021, in the framework of cooperation with UNESCAP, on the initiative of UNESCAP, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Republic of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the implementation of the project "Commercialisation of the Regional Railway Corridor between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran (KTI)".

In the first 8 months of 2023, 1.4 million tonnes of cargo were transported through the Bolashak/Serkhetiaka border crossing (+25 % to 2022), including:

- export – 0.8 million tonnes (+12 % by 2022);
- import – 0.2 million tonnes (+98 % by 2022);
- transit – 0.5 million tonnes (+37 % by 2022).

In order to increase freight traffic volumes, the "KTZ NC" JSC (KZH) actively cooperates with the railway administrations of Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan. Together with the railway administrations involved, the railway infrastructure has been analysed. In addition, in order to increase competitiveness, competitive tariffs for the transport of goods in containers and wagons have been developed jointly with the railway administrations.



*Participants in the final meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic
(10-13.10.2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw)*

It was decided to temporarily suspend work on this subject due to the lack of information from UNESCAP on the project “Commercialisation of the Regional Railway Corridor between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran”.

During the final meeting:

- the working staff of the OSJD Commission agreed on the deadline for the preparation (by 9 February 2024) of the draft Report on the Results of Work of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic for 2023, taking into account the relevant data and information provided by the railways of the OSJD member countries and the interested OSJD affiliated enterprises, which will be submitted for consideration at CGD meeting XXXVIII;
- the draft decision of CGD meeting XXXVIII on the issues within the competence of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic was discussed and agreed upon;
- the draft Work Plan of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic for 2024 was considered and agreed upon.

The working staff of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic prepared and posted on the OSJD Website (<https://osjd.org/>) the following documents:

- updated texts of the ETT Agreement and the ETT Tariff as of 12 February and 16 October 2023, taking into account announced amendments and additions, in Chinese, Russian and English languages;
- updated texts of the MTT Agreement and the MTT Tariff as of 12 February and 18 August 2023, taking into account announced amendments and additions, in Russian and English languages;
- text of the PGW Agreement with annexes as of 1 January 2023, taking into account announced amendments and additions, in Chinese and Russian languages;
- text of the GNG as of 1 June 2023 in Chinese and Russian languages;



Representatives of OSJD affiliated enterprises and TITR at the final meeting of the OSJD Commission on Freight Traffic (10-13.10.2023, OSJD Committee, Warsaw)

- List of OSJD railway freight stations in the PDF format and the effective text of OSJD Leaflet O 405 “Regulations on development and management of the List of OSJD Railway Freight Stations” (as of 1 August 2020);
- List of container and contrailer trains on the railways of the OSJD member countries as of 13 October 2023 in Chinese, Russian and English languages;
- text of OSJD Leaflet R 421 “Rules for the use of large-capacity containers in international railway traffic”, VII edition (as of 13 October 2023) in Chinese, Russian and English languages;
- other documents within the competence of the OSJD Commission.

At the final meeting the work on the subjects of the OSJD Commission was noted with gratitude by the experts of the railways of the OSJD member countries and OSJD affiliated enterprises, carried out in 2023 at a high professional level in cooperation with international organisations and associations – UNESCAP, UPU, EEC, CSZT, CCTT, TITR and other international organisations.

In their turn, the participants in the final meeting noted the high level of organisation and holding of the meeting, expressing their gratitude to the Chairperson of the meeting, the working staff of the OSJD Commission and the OSJD Committee personnel. ■