

**257 (XXIII). Selection of the Routes to be given priority in Implementation  
of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,*

*Recalling* the adoption of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq on 11 May 2001 by means of resolution 235 (XXI) dated 11 May 2001 and the entry into force of the Agreement on 19 October 2003,

*Recalling also* the plan of action for the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq that was adopted by the Committee on Transport at its fifth session, held from 2 to 4 March 2004, the text of which appeared in E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1/Rev.1,

*Recalling further* the major steps that have been taken by some member countries to implement the Agreement in accordance with the plan of action, with particular reference to the manufacture and positioning of international road signs on routes that are part of the Agreement,

*Affirming* that it is important to identify the routes to be given priority, in order to accelerate implementation of the Agreement and achieve maximum benefit therefrom in the majority of member countries,

*Recognizing* that, for that purpose, countries must prepare a detailed plan of action of the projects necessary to establish those priority routes,

1. *Adopts* Agreement routes M40 and M45 as priority routes, for the reasons given in the annex to this resolution;

2. *Requests* member countries through whose territories the aforementioned routes pass to accelerate preparation of a detailed plan of action for the projects that must be carried out in respect of those routes, complete that plan by 30 September 2007 at the latest, and begin taking the measures necessary to develop the routes to the standard required under the Agreement as soon as possible;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide technical assistance in the preparation of the plans of action relating to those routes and follow up their implementation;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on this issue to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session.

5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
12 May 2005

## Annex

### **JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF THE ROUTES TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ**

Within the framework of the plan of action for the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq,<sup>1</sup> the following five steps were specified:

1. Public information issues.
2. International road signs.
3. Identification of routes and their characteristics.
4. Route signs and signals.
5. Technical specifications of routes.

Moreover, in order to select the routes to be given priority until such time as the technical specifications set forth in the Agreement can be applied to all routes, the following standards were adopted:

1. An international road should pass through the greatest number of member countries, with special consideration being given to those countries that have ratified or signed the Agreement.
2. An international road should provide a linkage with other regions. Specifically, the beginning or end of a route should be outside the ESCWA region.
3. No parts of an international road should be in need of major works to complete or upgrade it that would involve a great deal of time or effort.
4. Work should already have begun on installing the international road signs, raising standards and changing signals to comply with Agreement requirements.
5. One international road should be oriented from north to south and the other from east to west.

The following two routes met the above-mentioned requirements:

(a) *The north-south route:*

M45: Syrian Arab Republic - Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen (3,713 kilometres)

Bab Al Hawa (Syrian Arab Republic - Turkey) - Aleppo - Homs - Damascus - Nasib (Syrian Arab Republic/Jordan) - Jaber (Jordan/Syrian Arab Republic) - Amman - Ma'an - Al Mudawara (Jordan/Saudi Arabia) - Halat Ammar (Saudi Arabia/Jordan) - Tabuk - Qalibah - Medina - Mecca - Abha-Elb (Saudi Arabia/Yemen) - Baqim (Yemen/Saudi Arabia) - Sana'a - Ta'izz.

(b) *The east-west route:*

M40: Iraq - Jordan - Occupied Palestinian Territory - Mediterranean Southern Coast (2,228 kilometres)

Munthareya (Iraq/Iran) - Khanaqin - Baghdad - Ramadi - Al Rutbah - Tarabil (Iraq/Jordan) - Karamah (Jordan/Iraq) - Al Azraq - Amman - King Hussein Bridge - (Jordan/Occupied Palestinian Territory) - Jerusalem - Gaza - Rafah (Egypt/Occupied Palestinian Territory) - Arish - Kantara Bridge - Port Said - Alexandria - Salum (Egypt/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya).

---

<sup>1</sup> E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1/Rev.1.