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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
(24-26 September 2003)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION*
to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 24 September 2003

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|----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/WP.5/33 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party | |
| | (a) Economic Commission for Europe | E/2003/37-E/ECE/1406 |
| | (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/152 |

* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the sixteenth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations at Geneva (room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are, therefore, requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html>) and send it at the latest two weeks before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by e-mail (bernadette.healy@unece.org). Prior to the session delegates should get their identification badges at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit, at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page). In case of difficulties, telephone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72413).

3. Transport, Environment and Health
ECE/AC.21/2003/6
(EUR/03/5040828/6)
ECE/AC.21/2003/5
(EUR/03/5040828/5)
4. Implementation of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas
5. Evaluation of inland transport infrastructure projects
 - (a) Development of a European-wide methodology for project appraisal
 - (b) Phased approach to transport infrastructure developments
TRANS/WP.5/2003/1
TRANS/WP.5/2003/2
6. Euro-Asian transport links
 - (a) Informal Ad hoc meeting on Euro-Asian transport links
 - (b) Organization of demonstration trains
TRANS/WP.5/2003/3-
TRANS/SC.2/2003/3

TRANS/WP.5/2003/4-
TRANS/SC.2/2003/4

TRANS/WP.5/2003/5-
TRANS/SC.2/2003/5
7. Relationship between transport and economic development
TRANS/WP.5/2003/6
Informal document No.2
8. Financing schemes of transport infrastructure
TRANS/WP.5/2003/7
and Adds.1-3
Informal document No.1
Informal document No.3
Informal document No.4
Informal document No.5
9. Transport in the Mediterranean region
 - (a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centre and Transport Training Centre
TRANS/WP.5/2003/13
 - (b) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region
 - (c) Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar
E/2003/45

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|-----|---|---|
| 10. | Assistance to countries with economies in transition | TRANS/WP.5/2003/8 |
| 11. | Coherent European system of international transport infrastructures | TRANS/WP.5/2003/9
TRANS/WP.5/2003/10 |
| | Quality-of-service concept | |
| 12. | Development of a European Transport Database System | TRANS/WP.5/2003/11 |
| 13. | Draft Programme of Work for 2004-2008 | TRANS/WP.5/2003/12 |
| 14. | Other Business | |
| 15. | Adoption of the report | |
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

The fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 4 to 6 March 2003.

The Working Party may wish to be **informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session, concerning such questions as the UNECE reform, major policy directions of UNECE's work, UNECE technical assistance, and cooperation and coordination with other organizations (E/2003/37-E/ECE/1406).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-fifth session in Geneva from 18 to 20 February 2003.

The Working Party may wish to be **informed** about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to the work areas as contained in paragraphs 23-39 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/152).

3. TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Working Party will be **informed** about the outcome of the first session of THE PEP Steering Committee (10-11 April 2003), which may have relevance for the activities of the Working Party. The Steering Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), established by the Second High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (5 July 2002).

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND AREAS

In accordance with the request of the Working Party at its fifteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/32, para.19), a representative of the European Commission will report on new developments in respect of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas.

Representatives of countries concerned may **inform** the Working Party on recent developments in Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas and discuss the different possibilities as to how improvements in the corridors and areas could be monitored in future.

5. EVALUATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

(a) Development of a European-wide methodology for project appraisal

The document entitled “A Set of Guidelines for Socio-Economic Cost Benefit Analysis of Transport Infrastructure Project Appraisal” has been printed and will be made available for participants. This concludes the work of the Working Party on development of a European-wide methodology for project appraisal.

The Working Party may wish **to discuss** possible steps regarding its application in member countries and directions for future revision.

(b) Phased approach to transport infrastructure developments

At its fifteenth session, the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 27), asked the TEM Project Central Office to report on the workshop on a phased approach to transport infrastructure developments held on 7-8 November 2002 in Prague.

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the report by the TEM Project Central Office circulated in the document TRANS/WP.5/2003/1.

At the same session, the Working Party, noting the conclusions of the TER member countries at their meeting in Brioni in 2002 that, for the time being, the member countries were not in a position to provide the desired information, urged the TER PCO to make an additional effort and organize a similar workshop. The TER PCO will inform the Working Party about the possibility of organizing a workshop on a phased approach to transport infrastructure developments.

Following the request by the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 28) the secretariat approached a number of member countries as well as international organizations (the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank) in order to collect the available methodologies on a phased approach to transport infrastructure developments. The summary of replies is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/2.

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the above-mentioned documents and discuss aspects which may be taken into account when applying a phased strategy to transport infrastructure developments. It may further wish **to consider** formulating a set of recommendations to be followed by member countries when applying the phased approach to transport infrastructure developments.

6. EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

(a) Informal Ad hoc meeting on Euro-Asian transport links

The informal Ad hoc meeting of countries involved in demonstration runs of block trains on the route South-eastern Europe -Turkey-Islamic Republic of Iran-South Asia - Southeast Asia/Southern China, due to the war in Iraq, was again postponed until further notice. The meeting was initially convened in order to discuss replies received to a questionnaire related to

Euro-Asian transport links, analyse infrastructure and regulatory shortcomings and determine further organizational and substantive steps regarding activities to be undertaken for the development of Euro-Asian links in this corridor (ECE/TRANS/139, para.33). The Working Party may wish to **note** that the meeting has already been postponed twice and reconsider the need for organizing such a meeting in the near future.

At its sixty-fifth session, the Inland Transport Committee considered the proposal to establish a UNECE-ESCAP task force, which would coordinate the activities and efforts of the concerned countries and international organizations involved in the development of Euro-Asian transport links (ECE/TRANS/152, para.32). This proposal was a direct outcome of the Common UNECE/ESCAP Strategic Vision document for Euro-Asian Transport Links (TRANS/WP.5/2001/14).

The Committee supported the proposal and asked the UNECE secretariat, together with the ESCAP secretariat, to explore the possible institutional, organisational and substantive issues regarding the organization of a task force. The Working Party will be **informed** about the outcome of consultations between the two secretariats.

The Working Party may also wish **to discuss** further steps to be implemented in order to accelerate coordinated development of Euro-Asian transport links in general.

(b) Organization of demonstration trains

The Working Party will be **informed** by the representative of Romania about new developments regarding the organization of demonstration trains on the Euro-Asian transport link through the Romanian territory. This information is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/5-TRANS/SC.2/2003/5. Representatives of the Russian Federation and Turkey will **inform** the Working Party about new developments regarding the demonstration runs of block trains along the following two routes (TRANS/WP.5/32, para.34):

- (i) Europe (Pan-European transport corridor No.2 (PETrC No.2))-Russian Federation- Korean Peninsula/Japan, with two branches from the Russian Federation to
 - Kazakhstan-China and
 - Mongolia-China.

The Working Party may recall that the Russian Federation is the responsible lead country for the demonstration runs of block trains on this route. Relevant information regarding the test runs of block trains on this route will be circulated in TRANS/WP.5/2003/3-TRANS/SC.2/2003/3.

- (ii) South-eastern Europe (Pan-European transport corridor No.4 (PETrC No.4))-Turkey-Islamic Republic of Iran-South Asia - Southeast Asia / Southern China.

The Working Party may also recall that, for the second route, Turkey is the responsible lead country. The information on the work undertaken concerning the demonstration run of trains on this route will be circulated in TRANS/WP.5/2003/4-TRANS/SC.2/2003/4.

7. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with the Working Party's request at its fifteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 37), the secretariat convened an informal Ad hoc meeting in order to formulate concrete aspects of the relationship between transport and economic development for consideration by the Working Party. The report of this informal Ad hoc meeting is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/6.

The document "Sectoral Dimensions of sustainable development: energy and transport" by Mr. D.M. Newbery, which had been prepared for the UNECE Spring Seminar "Sustainable Development in the ECE Region", held from 4-6 March 2003, is being circulated as Informal document No.2.

The Working Party may wish **to take note** of the report and **discuss** and **identify** particular aspects of this relationship that it wishes to consider in depth at its future sessions.

8. FINANCING SCHEMES OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

At its fifteenth session, the Working Party identified several areas for consideration at its future sessions, one of which addressed the area "Financing schemes of transport infrastructure". The Working Party asked the secretariat to develop a questionnaire, on the basis of the report of the Polish Government on financing of road infrastructure in Poland, collect the relevant information from member countries and prepare a report summarizing alternative options (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 9 (a)).

After consulting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Working Party, the secretariat circulated the questionnaire and collected replies from member Governments. A summary of these replies is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/7 and Adds.1-3 for consideration by the Working Party. Additional relevant documentation is provided in Informal documents Nos. 1 and 3-5.

The Working Party may wish **to take note** of the document and **discuss** various approaches to financing of transport infrastructure and experiences gained with applying different financing techniques. In addition, the Working Party may wish **to identify** the appropriate financing schemes, taking into account specific developmental needs and economic circumstances in various member countries.

9. TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centre and Transport Training Centre

The Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean (TRANSCEM), and the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) have been asked to report on their activities since the fifteenth session of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 39). Relevant information on the recent activities of CETMO and TRANSCEM will be circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/13 for consideration by the Working Party.

(b) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region

The Working Party will be **informed** about the CETMO initiative for the organization of a Seminar on freight flows in the Mediterranean region. Furthermore, representative of the EC will report on developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum focusing, inter alia, on the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area.

(c) Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Working Party may wish to **take note** of the Project for a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/2003/45), and of activities to be carried out under the project.

10. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

The Working Party will be **informed** about the activities of the Regional Advisers and the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT). Information on these items is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/8.

The Working Party may also **invite** Governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) as to the type of assistance which may be forthcoming (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 42).

11. COHERENT EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

Quality-of-service concept

At its fifteenth session, the Working Party agreed to continue discussing the quality of service concept. It asked the secretariat to circulate Informal document No.1 (2002) to member countries and ask for comments in light of their respective national experiences with the quality of transport service concept. In addition, the Working Party asked the secretariat to present an updated version of Informal document No.1 for its next session for further elaboration of the indicators of the quality of transport service.

The relevant information received from member countries is reproduced in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/9 and an updated version of Informal document No. 1 is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/10 for consideration and comments by the Working Party.

On the basis of the two above-mentioned documents, the Working Party may wish to **continue discussion** and consider the possibility of developing indicators of the quality of transport service that could be used in practice and identify benchmarks for assessing and evaluating progress in the quality of transport service in international comparisons and over time.

12. DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN TRANSPORT DATABASE SYSTEM

In accordance with its decision at the fourteenth session, the Working Party may wish to **take note** of the progress made in the development of the TEM, TER and AGR databases, and of other activities undertaken by the UNECE on the design and implementation of a European Transport Database System (TDS) which is being circulated in the document TRANS/WP.5/2003/11.

13. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2008

The Working Party may wish to approve its draft programme of work for 2004-2008, on the basis of document TRANS/WP.5/2002/12.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party's seventeenth session is tentatively scheduled for 20-23 September 2004.

15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party taken at its sixteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/32, para.56), decisions taken at the session will be adopted at the end of the session. The report of the session, including the decisions, will be established by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat, for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.



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