

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Transport Statistics

(Fifty-seventh session, 7-9 June 2005,  
agenda item 3 (a))

**INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS  
(IWG)**

Annual report of the activities of the IWG

Note by the secretariat

Note: Since the last session of the Working Party, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) has held two meetings which took place on 14 and 15 November 2005 in Paris and on 3 March 2006 in Geneva. The reports of these meetings are reproduced below.

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## Minutes of the Intersecretariat Working Group meeting

*14-15 November 2005, Paris*

The Intersecretariat Working Group on transport statistics (IWG) met on 14-15 November 2005 at the ECMT premises in Paris. Were present at the meeting: Mr. Strelow from EUROSTAT, Mr. Jovanovic from UNECE and Mr. Barreto from the ECMT. The main topics discussed referred to the WEB RAS 2004 data collection, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics, and the preparation of the Copenhagen task force meeting on the volume of road traffic. The following decisions were taken.

### **I. Common Questionnaire**

#### **1. Status of the WEB RAS 2004 data collection**

Eurostat made available on the web the Road Accident Statistics data collection (RAS). Data suppliers have been given individual access codes to access and complete the questionnaire. The format of the RAS is identical to the one for the WEB Common Questionnaire (WEBCQ), and therefore it was a good opportunity to use it as a preliminary test to the WEBCQ. A few countries encountered small difficulties to get their connection on line but no major problem was reported. The main concern for this exercise was the low rate of answers which implies that the IWG will have to put in place an efficient reminder system based on sending emails to countries which are late in their answers. Reminders can be generated from the WEB programme and sent to the missing countries but this facility needs to be adjusted since it seems to be available for some countries only.

One of the main concerns of the IWG is to reduce the burden from data collections on Member Countries. The WEBCQ is one step towards that objective, and the IWG will include an item in the agenda for its next meeting on "how to pre-fill the WEBCQ with data from legal acts.

It was also decided to try to reduce the list of variables in the RAS. For that, the ECMT will circulate to UNECE and Eurostat a document highlighting the variables needed by each organisation. The IWG will then try to suggest to Member States a list of variables to be dropped from the WEB RAS.

#### **2. Launching of the 2004 data collection using the WEBCQ**

There are still a few technical problems to be solved by Eurostat before the WEBCQ is operational. For this reason the IWG planned to launch the WEBCQ to collect data for 2004, at the end of November with a deadline for answers at the end of January.

ECMT will send Eurostat a list of common codes to be used in the road accident part as a complement to the codes already given to Eurostat on the Common Questionnaire. These codes are important since they are the common references to process the WEBCQ, for the three organisations.

## **II. The Glossary for transport statistics**

### **1. Status of translated versions into EU languages**

Eurostat is finalising the long and costly task of translating the third edition of the Glossary into the different EU languages. The current edition of the Glossary should be made available in all languages of the EU 15 countries during the year 2006. Plans have been made to have the other Members States languages available only for the fourth edition of the Glossary.

### **2. “Air transport” chapter**

The EU directive on air transport contains a list of definitions. Eurostat will make this list available to the IWG in order to compile/select all the terms needed for air transport statistics. This will be the starting point to draft a document to be included in the fourth edition of the Glossary. The ECMT drew the attention of the IWG on the fact that the Glossary should not be used to collect all sorts of definitions needed by the three organisations. The aim of the Glossary is to guide and help countries to deal with transport statistics terms and any modification or addition should take this into account, to avoid having the size of the Glossary increase significantly. The IWG will try to present to Member countries, a draft for the air transport chapter at the next WP6 in Geneva (June 2006).

### **3. Fourth Edition of the Glossary**

The fourth edition of the Glossary will be based on the current third edition to which the following chapters will be added:

- Rail accidents. Eurostat will suggest a list of variables and definitions to be accepted by the IWG.
- Reform of the road transport chapter
- Inland waterways new classification.
- Air transport

The IWG plans to present a first draft of the fourth edition at the WP.6 session in 2007. However, the reform of the road transport chapter being a major and essential input to the fourth edition of the Glossary, this dead line will be delayed if additional time is needed to finalise the road chapter. If in the mean time the other chapters are ready to be published, they will be made available on the WEB sites as complementary information to the third edition.

## **III. Workshop on road traffic**

This is a topic of major interest to the IWG. The three organisations agreed to follow carefully the decisions taken at the Copenhagen Task force on 1-2 December 2005, and to see how the IWG could contribute to this work. All decisions taken on this topic will be analysed by the IWG to see how they could be integrated in the Glossary or the WEBCQ.

## **IV. IWG programme of work for 2006**

During 2006 the IWG plans to carry out the following tasks:

- Continue the WEBCQ developments
- Proceed the preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Glossary
- Try to convert modes E and F (maritime and intermodal) to the WEBCQ format

## INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP

3 March 2006, Geneva

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The IWG meeting took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 3 March 2006. Attended:

- Mr M. Barreto (ECMT)
- Mr H. Strelow (Eurostat)
- Mr M. Jovanovic (UNECE)

Discussions took place around the following five principal issues:

#### 1. WEB VERSION OF THE COMMON QUESTIONNAIRE

Eurostat will prepare by mid-March 2006 a draft common letter for the countries for the collection of data for 2004. The deadline for the data entry would be one month after the sending out of the letter to the countries.

#### 2. GLOSSARY FOR TRANSPORT STATISTICS

- Eurostat informed the IWG that it disposed of a small budget for the continuation of the work on the Glossary. This would be used for the preparation of the fourth edition.
- New work on the Glossary ought to include the revision of certain of the existing definitions and the inclusion of the new areas such as transport of gas through pipelines.
- Eurostat will make available on its web site the Glossary in all EU languages by the end of 2006.

#### 3. TASK FORCE ON ROAD TRAFFIC PERFORMANCE

IWG will follow closely the work of the Task force on road traffic performance. This is of particular importance, as this Task force would work on the relevant definitions. The work on the definitions will be most active towards the end of 2006. UNECE, as the secretariat of the Task force, is in charge of coordination of the work in this area.

#### 4. 57<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF WP.6

- UNECE informed IWG about preparations for the 7-9 June 2006 session of the WP.6.
- IWG reviewed the principal agenda issues that will be discussed during the next WP.6.
- UNECE is in charge to initiate discussion with Eurostat regarding the final presentation of the E-Rail Census 2005. Ideas about this finalisation of the Census ought to be presented to the WP.6.

#### 5. NEXT MEETING OF THE IWG

IWG will consider the possibility to meet on 24 May 2006 in The Hague, just after the regular meeting of the Task force on road traffic performance (scheduled to take place on 22 and 23 May 2006 in The Hague).

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