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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Sixty-ninth session
Geneva, 6 - 8 February 2007
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

RESULTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S BUREAU MEETINGS

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Results of the Committee on Inland Transport's Bureau Meeting
of 30 November and 1 December 2006^{*/}

1. The Bureau of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee met on 10 February 2006, 6 and 7 June 2006, and 30 November and 1 December 2006.
2. The report of the Bureau's meetings of 30 November and 1 December 2006 is reproduced below for consideration by the Committee. The Committee may wish to discuss the questions in greater detail under the respective items of the agenda.

^{*/} The UNECE Transport Division submits the present document after the official documentation deadline.

Annex 3

LIST OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF
THE BUREAU HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER 2006

I. ATTENDANCE

3. The meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Inland Transport was chaired by Mr. Evgeny Mokeev (Russian Federation) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Xavier Guérin (France), Mr. Ralph Kellermann (Germany), Mrs. Domna Papamichail (Greece), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) Mrs. Ümit Armangil (Turkey) and Mr. Alim Demchuk and Ms Olena Shumeyko (Ukraine). The representatives of Portugal and the European Commission were unable to attend.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/BUR.2006/15).

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNECE REFORM AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND CONFERENCES

A. Review of the subsidiary intergovernmental bodies of the Committee

5. The Bureau:

- resumed its discussion on the review of the intergovernmental structure under the Committee in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Working Parties and of Teams of Specialists within UNECE (ECE/EX/1 and ECE/EX/2) adopted by the Executive Committee as well as on the basis of the replies received from all Chairpersons of Working Parties;
- expressed appreciation for the useful work done by all subsidiary bodies of the Committee and, taking also into account the discontinuation of ECMT technical groups, recommended to the Committee that they be maintained;
- recommended to the Committee to approve the request of the Chairman of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) for one additional meeting day a year due to the discontinuation of the joint group with ECMT, altogether two two-day meetings a year;
- drew attention of the Committee to the importance of ensuring participation of Central Asian, Caucasus, Eastern and South Eastern European countries, and asked the secretariat to continue its efforts to raise funds to this end;

- noting that in May 2007 a new UN staff mobility policy will start to be implemented as a part of the UN reform, recommended that this should not be done to the detriment of the continuity and efficiency of the work of the secretariat;
- emphasising that the professionals who service the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and its Working Parties and the UNECE and ECOSOC bodies on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, as well as the TIR Secretary require highly specialized technical knowledge and expertise, and stressing the importance of these activities for Member States, recommended to the Committee to request that a flexible application of the UN staff mobility policy be followed for these professionals and that the candidates to these posts possess an appropriate level of specific professional skills and background;
- recommended to the Committee to invite its members to consider offering qualified national experts to the secretariat on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

B. Proposals on the transport priorities identified in the Work Plan on the UNECE Reform

6. The Bureau:

- noted the transport priorities identified in paragraphs 35 to 39 of the Work Plan on the ECE Reform and that elements of the programme of work of the Committee which are not mentioned in those priorities will be maintained;
- on the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat, undertook a preliminary discussion on proposals on implementation of these priorities to be made to the Executive Committee;
- agreed that the secretariat paper was a good basis for that purpose and asked the secretariat to prepare a final version of that paper for discussion at the Committee session, taking into account the comments made.

C. Other implications for the work of the Committee

7. The Bureau:

- took note of the request made to the secretariat according to which new elements should be added to the programme of work of the Committee to reflect the above-mentioned priorities;
- requested the secretariat to prepare relevant additional programme elements for consideration and adoption by the Committee;
- noted that a meeting of the Executive Committee with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee was scheduled to be held on 9 February 2007.

IV. DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE TIR CONVENTION

8. The Bureau was informed of recent development related to the TIR Convention, including the audits by the UN Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the UN Board of Auditors of the UNECE-IRU Agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2006/9/Rev.1), the ensuing discussions at the WP.30/AC.2 sessions in June and October 2006, as well as the recent transfer by the IRU of the funds for the financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in 2007.

V. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 14TH OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM

9. The Bureau took note of the results of the secretariat survey on implementation of the 1982 International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods and welcomed the follow-up activities to the 14th OSCE Economic Forum, including two capacity building seminars on implementation of this Convention, one held in Moscow in October and another to be held in Belgrade in December 2006.

VI. IMPLICATIONS FOR UNECE TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF ECMT INTO THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM

10. The Bureau:

- agreed that the transformation of the ECMT into the International Transport Forum was a chance for the Committee to enhance its contribution and recommended to the Committee to invite its Working Parties to consider in detail the programmes of work of the discontinued ECMT groups with a view to identifying possible areas that they could take up;
- noted that the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) had decided to take on board some issues of the relevant ECMT Group;
- noted that the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) would have one more meeting back-to-back with ECMT Rail Group in 2007 during which it would decide which issues could take on board;
- noted that the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) might have to develop further activities such as international transport of passengers by bus or social issues if, as expected, the ECMT Working Group on Road Transport dealt in future with the multilateral quota only;
- noted that the Working Party on Transport Statistics was now the only working party on this issue in the UNECE region and that it was important that it improved the efficiency of its work.

VII. INCREASING THE INTEREST OF THE UNECE MEMBER STATES IN THE WORK OF THE CIT

11. The Bureau:

- recalled that, at its meeting in February, noting the declining number and level of participants in the Committee sessions, it had agreed that sessions should be more policy relevant, effective and appealing, and had decided to revert to the question of the length, organization and agenda of the Committee session at its November 2006 meeting;
- undertook a preliminary discussion on the Committee's Agenda with a view making it more appealing to Member States;
- noting that little could be done for the 69th session of the Committee, decided to revert to this question at its June 2007 meeting and asked the secretariat to prepare proposals in consultation with Member States.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS OF THE AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

12. The Bureau:

- considered the Provisional Agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/191) as well as the Annotations to the Agenda (ECE/TRANS/191/Add.1), and had a preliminary discussion on items of the agenda that call for decisions or are of a political nature;
- agreed on several changes to the Annotations to the Agenda and requested the secretariat to introduce them.

IX. TRANSPORT AND SECURITY

13. The Bureau:

- noted the views of the Chairpersons of the Committee's subsidiary bodies on possible approaches to security and how this question could be further strengthened within the competencies of each Working Party;
- reiterated the importance of the subject and the need to address it in an appropriate manner, taking into account the work done in other fora and the fact that security is not under the responsibility of Ministries of Transport;
- deferred its discussion on this subject to the Committee session.

X. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

A. Progress in the UN Development Account Project on developing Euro-Asian Links

14. The Bureau:

- welcomed the progress made by UNECE and UNESCAP in implementing the Project, including the identification of the main Euro-Asian inland transport routes, development of a database and GIS maps, and evaluation and prioritization of 230 investment projects of a total value of US \$ 42 billion;
- noted the follow-up activities proposed by the 4th Expert Group Meeting under the project, including monitoring of implementation of identified projects; removing non-physical obstacles to transport; improving border crossing; harmonizing transport legislation and administrative procedures; and setting a suitable mechanism for coordination and monitoring;
- expressed gratitude to the Government of Greece for hosting the 4th Expert Group Meeting in Thessaloniki in November 2006;
- emphasised the importance of the continuation of this project in a new phase II (2007-2010);
- expressed appreciation for the OSCE efforts to ensure funding to this end;
- recommended to the Committee to invite Governments, international organizations and other potential donors to consider providing financial support to this project as the only way to ensure its continuation.

B. Implementation of the TEM and TER Master Plan

15. The Bureau:

- welcomed the progress made in the follow-up to the TEM and TER Master Plan, including the comparison of the Master Plan backbone networks with the axes proposed by the EU High Level Group, the legal commitments from the Accession Treaties and other relevant EU decisions, as well as the implementation of the priority projects identified in the Master Plan;
- recommended to the Committee to reiterate its support to this activity and to invite the TEM and TER Projects to pursue the follow-up to the Master Plan, including its updating when appropriate.

C. Creation of a project similar to TEM and TER Project in the Central Asian sub-region

16. The Bureau noted that the consultations undertaken by the secretariat with Central Asian Member States regarding possibilities for creation of projects similar to TEM and TER in the Central Asian region did not bring results.

XI. DIGITAL TACHOGRAPH

17. The Bureau noted the issues that introducing the digital tachograph in non-EU Parties to the AETR would raise and implications for the SC.1 and secretariat work.

XII. FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

18. The Bureau noted the progress made in preparation of a new Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention, the draft Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail, and the draft International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in International Railway Passenger Traffic.

XIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005

19. The Bureau took note of document ECE/TRANS/2007/3 prepared by the secretariat on the evaluation of the implementation of the Transport sub-programme in the biennium 2004-2005.

XIV. IMPORTANT PERSONNEL AND STAFFING ISSUES IN THE TRANSPORT DIVISION

20. The Bureau noted the main personnel and staffing issues in the Transport Division.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

21. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on 5 February 2007 to discuss the preparation of the 69th session of the Committee.
