



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/2007/2
28 November 2006

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Sixty-ninth session
Geneva, 6 - 8 February 2007
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document summarises the main decisions taken by the Commission at its ad hoc session in December 2005, with the adoption of the Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), as well as at its sixty-first session, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 February 2006 (E/2006/37-E/ECE/1444), that are relevant to the Inland Transport Committee and its activities.

The Committee is invited to consider the follow-up to the decisions of the Commission on UNECE reform – the way forward. The Committee may also consider the decisions of the Commission on Technical cooperation activities.

UNECE reform – the way forward

1. At its ad hoc session on 2 December 2005, the Commission, based on the recommendations of the Report on the state of the UNECE, adopted the work plan on ECE reform as contained in document E/ECE/1434/Rev 1.
2. At its sixty-first session, held from 21 to 23 February 2006, the Commission noted that the General Assembly had “welcomed the work plan on the ECE reform adopted by the Commission and decided that UNECE should implement the adopted measures and to this end requested the Secretary-General to allocate the requisite resources for the biennium 2006-2007”. At that session, chairs/vice-chairs of the Sectoral Committees briefed the Commission on the implementation of the ECE reform within their sectors, also outlining existing and planned cooperation with partner organizations and highlighting the achievements and challenges in their respective subprogrammes.
3. The Economic and Social Council endorsed the UNECE reform at its Substantive Session held in July 2006.
4. Highlights of the UNECE reform are reproduced below, with comments by the secretariat when appropriate.

Governance structure

5. The Commission adopted the terms of reference and rules of procedure of a new body, the Executive Committee. This body will prepare the biennial sessions of the Commission and implement the overall guidance set by the Commission. In between the sessions of the Commission, it will act on behalf of the Commission and can seize itself of all matters related to UNECE activities.
6. The Executive Committee will:
 - (a) Review, evaluate and approve the programme of work of the Sectoral Committee, including Intersectoral activities and relations with other international organizations;
 - (b) Approve the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and work plans of groups under the Sectoral Committees;
 - (c) Examine with the chairs and vice-chairs of the Sectoral Committees their report on the implementation of their programme of work and other relevant issues;
 - (d) Ensure coherence between subprogrammes, inter alia by encouraging horizontal communication within the organization;
 - (e) Deal with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budget issues, including extrabudgetary funding.
7. The reference to “Principal Subsidiary Bodies” is to be discontinued and replaced by “Sectoral Committees”. The Sectoral Committees report once a year and on request to the Executive Committee, through a meeting with their chairs and vice-chairs.

8. Each Sectoral Committee is responsible for the preparation and implementation of its Programme of Work under the conditions defined by the Commission and the Executive Committee. The Terms of Reference of the Sectoral Committee shall be approved by the Commission.

Review of the subsidiary intergovernmental bodies of the Committees

9. By the end of February 2007, all Sectoral Committees must review:

- (a) Their subsidiary intergovernmental bodies in accordance with the Guidelines defined in E/ECE/1407/Add.1 and thereon reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee in July 2006 for the Working Parties (ECE/EX/2006/L.2) and for the Teams of Specialists (ECE/EX/2006/L.3) and
- (b) Their conference servicing needs

with a view to rationalizing them, and must submit proposals on possible streamlining to the Executive Committee.

10. Sectoral Committees will jointly prepare and submit proposals to the Executive Committee on issues and activities of common interest.

Priorities of the programme of work

11. In accordance with the Work Plan on ECE reform (paras. 35-39), the Committee should:

- (a) Strengthen activities in the fields of border crossing and trade facilitation in cooperation with the Committee on Trade;
- (b) In cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy and in consultation with WHO, strengthen activities relating to:
 - THE PEP including sustainable financing and staffing for the clearance house;
 - Environmental aspects of transportation.

and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

- (c) Submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means of monitoring and strengthening the implementation of key ECE legal instruments on transport, including on road safety;
- (d) Submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to strengthen Euro-Asian transport links;
- (e) Submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to:
 - Strengthen the TIR Convention;
 - Improve transparency in managing the TIR Convention

Other implications to the work of the Committee arising from the UNECE Reform

12. Furthermore, in general terms, the Commission stressed the importance of Intersectoral activities among Sectoral Committees so as to promote a more coherent UNECE and requested the Committees to pursue and endeavour to strengthen such activities and approaches.

13. Sectoral Committees shall review and report to the Executive Committee on the involvement of the private sector and NGOs, in order to strengthen and further improve their relationship and increase resources and expertise contributions with a view to optimizing the implementation of the Programme of Work.

14. Sectoral Committees are requested to strengthen cooperation with other regional commissions and other organizations.

15. Sectoral Committee together with the Secretariat will take into account the results of the assessment and evaluations when preparing the strategic framework for their respective subprogrammes and subsequently the programme narratives.

16. Sectoral Committees shall provide complete information concerning the allocation of resources according to programme items within the Programme of Work of their respective subprogrammes.

17. Comments: At its 68th session (7-9 February 2006), the Committee decided to entrust its Bureau with the task of preparing a review of its intergovernmental structure. On the basis of views expressed by Chairpersons of Committee's subsidiary bodies on ways to increase efficiency of their Working Parties, the Bureau considered the subject and prepared recommendations to the Committee related to the review of the intergovernmental structure under the Committee. These recommendations are reflected in the results of Meeting of the Bureau, 30 November - 1 December 2006, document ECE/TRANS/2007/1-Add.1.

Other matters arising from the Commission

18. At its sixty-first session, the Commission considered the technical cooperation activities in 2005. In this respect, the Commission:

- (a) Emphasised the importance of technical cooperation for implementing UNECE's core activities and noted that the General Assembly had underlined the need to strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;
- (b) Stressed the need to seek interlinkages between the Technical Cooperation Unit and the new subprogramme and to discuss this issue together with the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy at the meeting of Executive Committee;
- (c) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the regional advisers and recalled that the Executive Committee would discuss their future allocation among the programmes;
- (d) Took note of the technical cooperation being carried out with subregional country groupings, in keeping with previous recommendations of the Commission. It urged the secretariat to continue to reinforce such cooperation;

- (e) Welcomed the approval of concrete projects and project proposals by special session of the SPECA regional advisory committee held after the international conference on subregional economic cooperation in Central Asia and the future role of SPECA;
- (f) Welcomed the increased cooperation with other organizations;
- (g) With regard to the next updating of the OECD Development Assistance Committee's list of main international organizations, urged its members who are also members of the DAC to support the inclusion of UNECE. The Commission encouraged the DAC to favourably consider the inclusion of UNECE on its list of main international organizations

19. Comments: The Committee will be informed about and discuss the technical cooperation activities of the Regional Adviser under item 8 of the provisional agenda "Assistance to countries with economies in transition".
