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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2012 AND BIENNIAL EVALUATION

Note by the secretariat

1. The Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-second session decided to consider the programme of work of its subsidiary bodies every second year. Such an arrangement would not exclude the possibility for the Committee's subsidiary bodies to modify their respective programmes of work annually if there was a need to do so (ECE/TRANS/133). This document is submitted for adoption by the Working Party in compliance with this decision of the Inland Transport Committee.

I. PROGRAMME OF WORK

2. The text of the programme of work reproduced below is based on the programme of work approved by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixty-ninth session (6-8 February 2007) (ECE/TRANS/192), and the Working Party on Rail Transport at its sixtieth session (TRANS/SC.2/206, para. 26). The changes proposed are in **bold** (text to be added) or ~~strikethrough~~ characters (text to be deleted).

3. The Working Party may wish to review its programme of work for 2008 to 2012 prepared by the secretariat as presented in the Annex to this note and propose modifications to it, if appropriate.

II. BIENNIAL EVALUATION

4. Following the request of the Commission to the Sectoral Committees of the UNECE, to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective sub-programme performance for the 2008-2009 biennium, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), at its next session in February 2008, will review and endorse, for each cluster of its activities, an expected accomplishment, together with related indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies.

5. To this end, the Committee's Working Parties, in cooperation with the secretariat, would each have to draw up a draft expected accomplishment related to their work areas as well as indicators and appropriate methodologies and submit them to the Bureau of the ITC for consideration at its next meeting. Thereafter, the Bureau would have to review the proposed expected accomplishments as well as indicators and methodologies, and make a recommendation to the next session of the Committee in February 2008. In 2010, the Committee would be invited to review the draft accomplishment accounts prepared for each expected accomplishment by the secretariat, discuss the lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate.

6. The Working Party may wish to consider the enclosed proposal by the secretariat to draft expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the 2008-2009 biennial evaluation. These, or amended accomplishments and indicators, will be submitted to the Bureau of the ITC in November 2007 and to the ITC in February 2008.

A. Secretariat proposal for the biennial evaluation (2008-2009) – Cluster of activities: Rail Transport

(a) Expected Accomplishment

7. Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region and enhanced cooperation of UNECE member countries in addressing these issues through the exchange of experiences and good practices This includes infrastructure and border crossing questions as well as the monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments (AGC Amendments).

(b) Indicators of achievement

(i) Number of countries, IGOs and NGOs participating in the annual meeting of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2).

(ii) Number of amendments as well as updated and amended lines in the AGC Agreement and its Annex I.

(iii) Number of new Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol.

8. The Working Party may wish to review and adopt these proposals for transmission to the Bureau of the Committee on Inland Transport.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008-2012

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.5: RAIL TRANSPORT

02.5.1 Rail transport infrastructure

Priority: 1

- I. Review of the situation concerning the implementation and possible amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)

Description: Study of possibilities for the improvement of international railway lines and their reflection on AGC.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of the AGC Agreement with a view to possibly: implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters; also taking into account new east-west traffic flows; raising environmental, energy and safety standards; taking into account the UNECE Conventions on the Environment.

Output expected: Report on amendment of the AGC network; Report on the development of a European conventional and high-speed railway network. (~~2007~~) **2008** Priority: 1

II. Studies in Railway Infrastructure

- (a) Description: Study of the possibility of the improvement of international railway lines and their management.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will carry out the following activities:

Consideration of the influence of intermodal transport techniques, especially those concerning investment, as well as the harmonization of rolling stock and speed on railways to facilitate the integration of these techniques into the railway system and to create general interoperability.

Output expected: Report on investment in rail infrastructure and railway rolling stock in member countries. (~~2007~~) **2008** Priority: 2

- (b) Periodic review of the list of marshalling yards of international importance with a view to cutting down their numbers.

Output expected: Updated report on the location of important marshalling yards within the European railway network. (~~2007~~) **2009** Priority: 2

- (c) Consideration of questions concerning safety in railway tunnels.

Output expected: Review of the current situation and prospects for the development of new recommendations. (2008) Priority: 2

- (d) Consideration of developments regarding new railway initiatives on Euro-Asian transport links (e.g. organization of demonstration trains).
Output expected: Report on the current and new initiatives. (~~2007~~) **2008** Priority: 2

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- (e) Periodically survey passenger and goods traffic on the various sections of lines of the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning; the third survey is based on data for 2005.
Output expected: Report on total train traffic on the AGC network in 2000.
(~~2007~~) **2008** Rail census in 2005. Priority: 2
- (f) Consideration of other subjects as need arises.
Output expected: Report on each subject.

III. Special project: Trans-European Railway (TER)

Description: Within the framework of the UNECE, the TER countries have established an appropriate administrative and financial framework, with the aim of developing a rail network as part of an integrated European international rail system.

Work to be undertaken

- (a) Report on specific project developments to promote international rail traffic.
(Continuing)
Output expected: Annual progress report on activities carried out within the TER project. Priority: 1
- (b) Report on possibilities for financing of TER in order to promote the upgrading and construction of internationally important rail lines. (Continuing) Priority: 2
Output expected: Annual progress report
- (c) Consideration of possible utilization of the results achieved under the project in other UNECE activities in the field of rail infrastructure including the implementation of AGC and AGTC in order to benefit from mutual experiences. (Continuing) Priority: 2
Output expected: Annual progress report.

IV. Interregional Cooperation

Description: Cooperation with other regional commissions and international bodies involved in the development of interregional links.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will be kept informed of exchanges of information between the secretariats of the regional commissions and other international bodies in order to benefit from experiences gained in other regions of the world. (Continuing) Priority: 3

02.5.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport including rail safety and facilitation of its operations

Priority: 1

Description:

- (a) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, particularly, for documents and procedures at border crossing.
- (b) Harmonization of and search for standardized requirements concerning the utilization of railway infrastructure including computerization aspects.
- (c) Elaboration of proposals and preparation of studies aimed at strengthening, consolidating and extending the position of rail transport on international transport markets.
- (d) Analysis of problems relating to the harmonization and improvement of rail safety.
- (e) Consideration of prospects for the adoption of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail so as to establish a standard legal system (harmonization of the SMGS/SMPS and CIM/CIV systems).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of specific difficulties encountered at border crossings in the transport of passengers and goods by rail with a view to accelerating border crossing operations and establishing a programme to deal with problems common to several routes.
Output expected: Report on bi- and multilateral contacts of Governments and railways to improve the crossing of borders in international rail traffic. (2007) 2008 Priority: 1
- (b) Consideration of follow-up of the implementation of recommendations and preparation of new texts or amendments to existing texts, if necessary, especially concerning the facilitation of border crossing with the aim to improve international rail traffic.
Priority: 1
- (c) Review of requirements concerning railway operations and regulations, reduction of transport time and improvement in the precision of movements in the international carriage of goods, new operative developments in rail transport, the integration of services of different railways.
Priority: 2
- (d) The study of the possibilities for harmonizing the application and periods of summer time with a view to upgrading transport quality in rail transport.
Output expected: Report on the application of summer time. (Report on change in application of summer time when it takes place) Priority: 3

- (e) Analysis of Government policies concerning rail safety to contribute to an improvement of safety in international transport.

Output expected: Report on safety and implementation of risk assessment techniques in rail transport in the UNECE region. (~~2007~~) **2008** Priority: 1

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- (f) Analysis of the various elements of productivity in rail transport and the possibilities to increase rail productivity in particular for international transport.

Output expected: Bi-annual report on the development of productivity in rail transport in member countries. (~~2007~~) **2009** Priority: 2

- (g) Consideration on the basis of reports by the international organizations concerned of the progress accomplished on the harmonization of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail to examine whether the compatibility of the regulation concerned can be ensured.

Output expected: Report by international organizations concerned on the progress made in the elimination of difficulties arising from different legal systems in international rail transport. (~~2007~~) **2008.**
