

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Informal Document No. 12

**Seventh meeting of the 2006-2007
Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee
(Geneva, 29-30 November 2007)**

3 December 2007

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SEAPORT CONNECTIONS TO THE HINTERLAND

Terms of reference of a Group of Experts on Hinterland connections of seaports

Note by the secretariat

The Bureau may wish to consider the attached Terms of Reference of a Group of Experts on hinterland connections of seaports, which have been prepared in line with the UNECE guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the UNECE. The TOR include the scope of issues and the achievements expected. Following the guidelines, the Working Party transmitted its decision to the Inland Transport Committee which, if it approves the establishment of the Group of Experts, shall establish the membership, including the nomination procedure. Subsequently, the Committee must submit the proposal to the UNECE Executive Committee for approval.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON HINTERLAND CONNECTIONS OF SEAPORTS

- To define the scope of activities of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and its involvement in this area;
- To take stock of the situation in major UNECE ports regarding problematic areas in their connectivity with inland transport modes, dealing with capacity issues.
- To collect information on all relevant planning, management, organizational and other issues at national and international level important for hinterland connections of seaports with a view to share and draw on best practices;
- To prepare in a coordinated manner recommendations and/or proposals to the UNECE Governments for consideration by the ITC for improving hinterland connections of seaports in, inter alia, following areas: infrastructure (networks, terminals etc.); personnel, and information exchange;
- The above recommendations and/or amendments to existing legal instruments should be aimed at improving the efficiency in seaports operations and their connectivity with inland transport modes by taking into account of the need for maintaining fluidity and facilitation of international transport at an economically adequate level for transport users;
- It is proposed that the Group of Experts should be composed of experts having knowledge, in particular, about hinterland connections of seaports and their connections with maritime transport, appointed by the member States of the UNECE as well as representatives of relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- The Group of Experts is expected to start its work in February 2008, pending the approval by the UNECE Executive Committee and terminate before January 2009 with the submission of a full report of its accomplishments, including the above recommendations. The recommendations will first be considered by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee, then by the Committee for subsequent consideration, where relevant, by the relevant subsidiary bodies of the ITC;
- If Governments decide to hold the International Conference agreed by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its 20th session the Group will also act as a steering committee for its preparation;
- The Group of Experts will be assisted in its work by the UNECE secretariat and will report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics.