INLAND TRANSPORT SECURITY

Recommendations by the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security
(Informal document AC.11 No. 1/Rev.1):

The Expert Group’s terms of reference stipulate that the Group is “to prepare in a coordinated manner recommendations and/or proposals to the UNECE Governments for consideration by the ITC for improving inland transport security in inter alia the following areas of activity: infrastructure, personnel, goods, transport means, information exchange and borders.” Moreover, the Terms of Reference state that “the above recommendations and/or amendments to existing legal instruments should, inter alia, be aimed at minimizing the risk of terror attacks in the field of inland transport…”

The Expert Group has agreed on the following recommendations:

1. The Expert Group invites all UNECE member States and other interested parties to provide the secretariat with the up-to-date information about inland transport security regulations and initiatives in order to complete and maintain the inventories of national legislation and regulations, international regulatory initiatives and private sector standards and best practices.

2. The Expert Group recommends that all UNECE Inland Transport Committee subsidiary bodies review international legal instruments under their respective areas of responsibility. As the first necessary step, each subsidiary body will place “transport security” on the agenda of its first session after 20 February 2008.

3. The reviews – by each subsidiary body - will necessarily include the following elements and be undertaken in order to:

   (a) Create an inventory of the existing security measures

   (b) Provide a clear rationale/justification why there exist no security measures, if appropriate
(c) Provide a preliminary evaluation concerning the appropriateness/sufficiency of the existing security measures

(d) Examine the effectiveness of the implementation of the existing security provisions

(e) Create a list of potentially desirable additional security measures

(f) Explore the cost effectiveness of future security provisions

4. The Expert Group recommends that Chairmen of all UNECE subsidiary bodies provide preliminary, written reports on their findings not later than two months prior to the 2009 ITC meeting. The reports are to be sent to Director, Transport Division, UNECE.

5. In addition to work on recommendations 2, 3 and 4, as appropriate, UNECE ITC subsidiary bodies should begin and/or continue work towards incorporating security provisions in the relevant international legal instruments under their responsibility.

6. All subsidiary bodies should explore the relevance/applicability of the draft annex IV to the AGN agreement to be used as a possible approach.

7. In the area of transport of dangerous goods, WP.15 with assistance of other relevant international organizations should assess the implementation of Chapter 1.10 of ADR, ADN and RID.

8. The Expert Group recommends that ITC delegates take note that Russia, with assistance of the UNECE, may convene an international conference to address issues of future co-operation in inland transport security.

9. Other areas of possible future security work by UNECE subsidiary bodies could include the following inland transport areas: container security beyond maritime/ports; public urban transport security, critical transport infrastructure protection and research in the area of transport security technology.

10. In order to take stock of the above work, the Expert Group should be re-activated for a two-day session prior to the 2009 ITC meeting.

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Comments made by the Inland Transport Committee on the report of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security (ECE/TRANS/200, paras. 36-38)

36. The Committee noted and expressed its appreciation for the Bureau’s Informal Document No. 1 (“Expert Group report”). The Committee approved the Expert Group report and requested its subsidiary bodies to act expeditiously upon the recommendations contained therein. In this context, the Committee noted that several subsidiary bodies (such as those in the areas of
dangerous goods and inland water transport) had already begun to address inland transport security-related issues and underlined that further work was to proceed in a differentiated way. In addition, some delegations expressed the opinion that the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15), in particular, had already dealt with the issue of security in depths and details through the introduction of provisions of Chapter 1.10 of ADR, RID and ADN. Further on, information was given about the EC project that currently evaluates the implementation and the relevance of these provisions within the EU. In light of this and of the fact that additional security measures would result in increased costs to transport operators, which cannot be justified on the basis of the effective risks, they were of the opinion that the recommendations of the expert group should not fully apply to the Working Party on Dangerous Goods. At the same time they considered that the report of the multidisciplinary expert group could be or rather should be brought to its attention for comments.

37. The Committee invited the Chair and members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security to find appropriate ways to continue their work until the final Expert Group meeting, which is expected to take place two months prior to the 2009 session of the Committee.

38. The Committee welcomed the Russian Federation’s intention to hold an international conference to address issues related to inland transport security. The Committee invited the Russian Federation to provide further details about this event and invited its Members to contribute and/or take active part. The Committee also welcomed the information provided by the representative of the ITF who notified the Committee about a forthcoming Round Table “Security, Risk perception and Cost-benefit analysis” to be held on 27 and 28 November 2008.