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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT TRENDS  
AND ECONOMICS ON ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION  
Geneva, 8 – 9 September 2009**

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## **I. ATTENDANCE**

1. The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics held its twenty-second session from 8 to 9 September 2009. The session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Erdem Direkler (Turkey). Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States participated: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Germany, Kyrgyz Republic, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uzbekistan. Representatives of Afghanistan, Mongolia and Pakistan also attended under Article 11 of the Terms of Reference of the UNECE. The European Commission was present. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), International Road Transport Union (IRU) and Chartered Institute for Logistics & Transport. The UNECE Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects were also represented.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/45 and ECE/TRANS/WP.5/45/Corr.1

2. The agenda was adopted.

## **III. MONITORING OF THE DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND AREAS (Agenda item 2)**

### **A. The European Commission briefing on the progress made in the development of the Trans-European Transport Network (Agenda item 2(a))**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/44; Informal document No. 25

3. A representative of the European Commission (EC) informed the Working Party of the recent review of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy and follow-up activities, including the establishment of six expert groups. The Working Party expressed its appreciation for the briefing by the EC and decided to invite the Commission to provide an update on activities related to the TEN-T development at its twenty-third session in 2010. The Working Party welcomed the participation of the UNECE Transport Division in the new Directorate-General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN) Expert Group on TEN-T Planning Methodology and emphasized the benefits of this cooperation for both parties and in particular for the member States.

### **B. Pan-European Transport Corridors, Trans European Motorway and Trans European Railway projects (Agenda item 2(b))**

Documentation: Informal document No. 15

4. The TEM and TER project manager presented a report on the activities implemented over the reporting period 2008-2009. The Working Party appreciated the update on the implementation and ongoing revision of the TEM and TER Project Master Plan and invited the

Project management to provide an update on relevant developments at its twenty-third session in 2010.

### **C. Transport infrastructure bottlenecks (Agenda item 2(c))**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2009/1; ECE/TRANS/205

5. The secretariat informed the Working Party of the publication of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) report entitled “Methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks” and subsequent developments concerning the methodology for the identification of bottlenecks and its use in international infrastructure planning. The Working Party appreciated the publication of the report on bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in infrastructure networks.

## **IV. HINTERLAND CONNECTIONS OF SEAPORTS (Agenda item 3)**

### **A. Report of the Expert Group on Hinterland Connections of Seaports (Agenda item 3(c))**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/9; Informal document No. 16

6. The secretariat informed the Working Party on the activities of the Expert Group and introduced the draft of the Group’s final report (Informal document No. 16) for consideration by the delegates. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports for fulfilling fully its mandate and asked the secretariat to incorporate relevant corrections into the final report and arrange for its publication.

### **B. Follow-up activities (Agenda item 3(b))**

Documentation: Informal document No. 23

7. The secretariat introduced a project proposal to develop a new methodology for the measurement of supply chain efficiency of national transport systems. The Working Party decided to support the formation of a Task Force for a project aimed at developing an evaluation framework for the assessment of supply chain challenges in transport sector and operating on the basis of the terms of reference described in the Informal document No. 23, presented by the secretariat.

## **V. EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS (Agenda item 4)**

### **A. Report of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links (Agenda item 4(a))**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2

8. The secretariat informed the Working Party on the outcomes of the second session of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) and described its programme of work. The Working Party was asked to approve the extension of the Expert Group’s mandate by two years. The Working Party appreciated the report on activities of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links. It decided to recommend to the Inland Transport Committee to extend, at

its seventy-second session in February 2010, the mandate of the Group by two years in order to enable it to continue its work and develop its final report. The Working Party invited governments of participating countries to provide financial support for the EATL project.

#### **B. Other Euro-Asian transport initiatives (Agenda item 4(b))**

Documentation: Informal document No. 24

9. The secretariat briefed the Working Party about the objectives of the forthcoming eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the progress of the common CIM-SMGS <sup>1/</sup> consignment note project of the Committee for International Rail Transport (CIT) and Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD). The Working Party took note of the eighteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and the common CIM-SMGS consignment note project of the CIT and OSJD.

### **VI. TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (Agenda item 5)**

#### **A. Report of the Mediterranean Transport Study Centre (Agenda item 5(a))**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2009/2

10. The secretariat of the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) introduced a report on recent activities of CETMO for consideration by the Working Party. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to the CETMO secretariat for its comprehensive report and requested an update on CETMO activities for its next session in 2010.

#### **B. The Euro-Mediterranean transport network (Agenda item 5(b))**

Documentation: Informal documents Nos. 17 and 26

11. The Working Party appreciated the update by the CETMO secretariat, presented on behalf of the EC, on the activities pertaining to the development of the Euro-Mediterranean transport network and asked to be briefed about further progress at its next session in 2010. It also noted the report of the Secretary-General on the activities carried out within the framework of the project for a Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar.

### **VII. TRANSPORT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES (Agenda item 6)**

#### **A. Review of the transport situation and emerging trends in the UNECE region (Agenda item 6(a))**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2009/3; Informal documents Nos. 1 - 14

12. The Working Party took note of national reports (Informal documents Nos. 4 - 14), road and rail industry statements (Informal documents Nos. 1 - 3) as well as the review of the

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<sup>1/</sup> CIM= Contract for International Carriage of Goods by Rail.  
SMGS = Agreement on International Goods Transport by Rail.

transport situation in the UNECE region prepared by the secretariat. It appealed to member countries to respond widely to the questionnaire of the secretariat on the transport situation in 2010 and expected developments in 2011, and asked the secretariat to present a review of the transport situation in the UNECE region at its twenty-third session in 2010.

**B. The Turkish experience (Agenda item 6(b))**

Documentation: Informal document No. 18

13. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to Turkey for a comprehensive presentation on the country's adjustment to cyclical and structural changes in transport activity and welcomed the offer of the United Kingdom to prepare a similar presentation for the twenty-third session of WP.5 in 2010.

**C. Internalization of external costs of transport (Agenda item 6(c))**

Documentation: Informal documents Nos. 19 and 20

14. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to the CER and the secretariat for comprehensive presentations on the internalization and possible reduction of external costs of transport.

**D. Financing of transport infrastructure**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2009/4; Informal document No. 21

15. The Working Party took note of the report prepared by the secretariat and expressed its appreciation for an interesting presentation on recent Public-private partnership (PPP) developments in the transport sector.

**VIII. TRANSPORT MONUMENTS AS WORLD HERITAGE IN THE UNECE REGION  
(Agenda item 7)**

16. The Working Party took note of the secretariat's views on the importance of transport monuments as world heritage in the UNECE region.

**IX. ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY  
(Agenda item 8)**

**A. Inland Transport Committee**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/206; ECE/TRANS/2009/6; ECE/TRANS/2009/7;  
ECE/TRANS/2009/8

17. The Working Party took note of the Committee's decisions related to its work areas and asked the secretariat to be informed about such decisions at its twenty-third session in 2010.

**B. Inland transport security**

18. The Working Party took note of the ITC activities in the area of inland transport security.

**X. ASSISTANCE REGARDING THE INSTITUTIONAL ADAPTATION OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSPORT ENTERPRISES TO MARKET ECONOMY (Agenda item 9)**

Documentation: Informal document No. 22

19. The Working Party appreciated the secretariat's report on its technical assistance activities and invited governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).

**XI. BIENNIAL EVALUATION 2008-2009 (Agenda item 10)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2009/5 - Biennial evaluation 2008-2009

20. The Working Party asked all delegates to complete the session evaluation questionnaire prepared by the secretariat.

21. According to 86 per cent of respondents to the questionnaire, the twenty-second session met their expectations, was well organized and provided enough time for presentations. All respondents agreed that there was enough time for discussions. While all respondents considered session documents to be relevant, 57 per cent felt that they were too general. The duration of the session should be kept as is according to 71 per cent of respondents while 29 per cent indicated their preference for a shorter session. According to 29 per cent of respondents, the agenda of the session should include more items; however, 14 per cent of respondents indicated that the number of agenda items should be reduced while 57 per cent would prefer to leave the number of items unchanged.

**XII. BIENNIAL EVALUATION AND NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK (2010-2014) (Agenda item 11)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2009/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/42

22. Delegates considered the draft programme of work (2010-2014) and indicators which will be used for the 2010-2011 biennial performance evaluation. The Working Party adopted its programme of work (2010-2014) and expected accomplishments for the time period 2010-2011. The adopted programme and indicators of achievement are annexed to this report.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 12)**

23. There were no proposals under this item.

**XIV. DATE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda item 13)**

24. The twenty-third session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva on 7 - 8 September 2010.

**XV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 14)**

25. The report of the twenty-second session, including the decisions, was established by the Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat, for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.

## Annex I

### PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010-2014

#### PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.1: TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS

Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy, and analysis of specific transport economic issues Priority: 1

Description: Review and exchange of information on general trends in the development of transport and of specific transport economic issues including transport development in the Mediterranean Region.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will consider and carry out the following activities:

#### CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Study of economic aspects of transport taking into account (i) the integration process going on within the UNECE region, and (ii) the reform processes under way in member countries by monitoring current changes in transport in order to identify, promote and spread positive examples for transport development.

Output expected: Report on transport developments every 5 years (2012). Priority: 2

(b) Periodical review of new important policy developments relating to inland transport in UNECE member countries in order to make the medium- and long-term evolution of transport more transparent. The Working Party WP.5 will examine all decisions, general and specific, recently taken in member countries likely to have implications in the organization of transport and take into account the findings arrived at during international meetings focusing on salient issues of transport development.

Output expected: Reports on developments in inland transport of member countries (every five years; next report: 2012). Priority: 1

(c) Monitoring of the developments relevant to the Pan-European Transport Corridors in cooperation with the EC.

Output expected: Report on progress made in the implementation of the Pan-European Transport Corridors (2010). Priority: 1

(d) Study of the interrelationship of the UNECE Agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC and its Protocol, AGN) and the UNECE projects (TEM, TER) with the Pan-European transport network planning procedure with a view to:

- indicating the major international transport routes to be considered for improvement and modernization, establishing priorities and a timetable taking into account those parts of the networks where there are bottlenecks and missing links;
- assessing the cost of this infrastructure plan and making suggestions for financing it.

Output expected: Biannual report on coherent European system of international transport infrastructure (2010). Priority: 1



- (e) Further implementation of the programme of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links.  
Output expected: Report on Euro-Asian transport links (2012). Priority: 1
- (f) Financing schemes of transport infrastructure  
Output expected: Report on national experiences (2011) Priority: 1
- (g) Development of efficient management frameworks for transport infrastructure maintenance and operation, thus optimizing the need for new investments (linked to the development of the Quality-of-Service concept). Priority: 2  
Output expected: Report on the quality of transport services (2013).
- (h) Improving inter-modal coordination and integration with a view to establishing a sustainable European transport system. This also includes activities related to seaports as important nodal points for a change of transport mode. Report on hinterland connections of seaports (2010). Priority: 1
- (i) Assistance regarding institutional adaptation of government administration and of transport enterprises to market economy. This also includes support through the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).<sup>a</sup>  
Output expected: Annual informal document for information. Priority: 1
- (j) Strengthening of cooperation with the Mediterranean Study and Training Centre, to enable all UNECE countries to benefit from the activities carried out including the organization of workshops. The Working Party will also analyse evolution of transport developments in the Mediterranean basin and the Black Sea region, as well as consider information on the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar.  
Output expected: Annual report on activities of the Study and Training Centre. Priority: 2  
Output expected: Biennial report on progress made in the analysis of the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar (next report: 2012) Priority: 3

#### ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (a) As follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment: Development and implementation of programmes to establish attractive networks taking into account such aspects as intermodality, interoperability and environmentally sound vehicles.<sup>b</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> A detailed list of subjects is circulated in document TRANS/1999/11.

<sup>b</sup> In addition to the above item, the Working Party wishes to be associated with activities on transport and environment concerning, in particular, development of methodologies for setting up databases, implementation of scientific programmes, assistance to countries in transition, development of environmental guidelines, external costs, analysis of questions related to the protection of sensitive areas (see also items I (c), (d), (g), (h); III (e); IV (c), (f) in the Programme of Joint Action).

**Annex II**

**EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENT AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

*Cluster of activity: Transport trends and economics (including Euro-Asian transport links)*

Expected accomplishment

Better understanding by member States of the main transport trends and developments in the UNECE region and strengthened cooperation on the development of Euro-Asian transport links.

Indicators of achievement

- (a) Number of countries participating in meetings and activities

Target: 2010-2011: 40

- (b) Level of satisfaction of participants regarding usefulness of information, meetings and activities as reflected in surveys to be conducted.

Target: 2010-2011: 75 per cent

- (c) Progress made in the establishment of a mechanism for cooperation for development of Euro-Asian transport links

Target: 2010-2011: EATL mechanism to be set up

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