



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2011

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-fifth session

Geneva, 3–4 November 2011

Item 16 (a) of the provisional agenda

Programme of work, biennial evaluation and terms of reference of the Working Party

Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2013

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. In accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being 2012 (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party will be invited to review and adopt its programme of work for 2012–2013 as well as the relevant parameters allowing for its biennial evaluation.
2. The draft programme of work for 2012–2013 and expected accomplishment are contained in the present document.

II. Draft programme of work for 2012–2013

A. Introduction

3. The present document sets out the draft programme of work for 2012–2013 of ITC's subprogramme relating to "Rail Transport". The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is invited to consider this programme for adoption at its current session. It will then be submitted to the ITC and the UNECE Executive Committee for formal approval. The Working Party and the Inland Transport Committee will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium, to be reflected in a separate document.
4. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities

proposed to be carried out in 2012–2013. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

5. The grouping of programme activities into clusters is the same as that used by the ITC for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.

6. The following clusters of activities make up the UNECE's subprogramme on transport:

Cluster No. Subprogramme: 02 Transport

1. Overall coordination (Inland Transport Committee and Bureau)
 2. Transport trends and economics, land-locked countries and transit facilitation
 3. Road transport (Trans-European network for motorways (TEM) Project)
 4. Road traffic safety
 5. Harmonization of vehicle regulations, climate change and intelligent transport systems (ITS)
 6. Rail transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) Project)
 7. Inland waterway transport
 8. Intermodal transport and logistics
 9. Customs questions affecting Transport
 10. Transport, Health and Environment pan-European programme (THE PEP)
 11. Transport of dangerous goods (UNECE)
 12. Transport of dangerous goods (ECOSOC)
 13. Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ECOSOC)
 14. Transport of perishable foodstuffs
 15. Transport statistics
-

7. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2012–2013. As necessary, they are complemented by additional items to reflect more recent developments and needs of UNECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities are clearly indicated as "additional".

8. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.

9. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in section II of this document.

10. The present document is based in substance on the SC.2 programme of work for 2010–2014 and the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement for 2010–2011, as adopted by the sixty – third session of the Working Party in November 2009 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/5 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/212, para. 20) and approved by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-second session on 23–25 February 2010 (ECE/TRANS/2010/8 and Corr.1 and ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106).

B. Objective and strategy

11. The objective of the UNECE subprogramme of transport is to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport.

12. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division.

C. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2012–2013 biennium

13. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2012–2013 biennium are as follows:

Subprogramme: 02 Transport

Cluster 6: Rail transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) Project)

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
1. Monitoring, review and updating of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC).	
2. Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of rail transport as part of a sustainable transport system, including bottlenecks in rail transport services at the pan-European level.	
3. Report and consider utilization of results of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project and its activities and strengthen cooperation between the TER project and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC2).	
4. Survey passenger and goods traffic on the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning.	Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region, including infrastructure, border crossing, interoperability issues, and monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of UNECE countries in addressing them
5. Participation and monitoring of different rail projects and initiatives along Euro-Asian transport corridors.	
6. Facilitate international rail transport in the Pan-European region through improved border crossing procedures and harmonization of technical specifications of different railway systems and their operations at borders.	
7. Review general trends in rail transport developments and rail transport policy, analyze specific rail transport economic issues, collect, compile and disseminate rail transport statistics in cooperation with the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) and prepare reports, reviews and publications on rail transport development and best practices.	

Main actions by the Transport Division:

- Act as secretariat to the Working Party on Rail Transport and its groups of experts.
- Maintain the on-line monitoring tool on the application of the AGC and AGTC infrastructure standards.
- Provide support for technical cooperation and capacity-building in Rail transport.
- Represent UNECE in relevant meetings of inter- and non-governmental organizations.

2. Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

6.1 Working Party on Rail Transport (sixty-sixth session, November 2012)

Documentation:

Agenda and report of the annual session of the Working Party. Documents and research papers on the annual theme for substantive discussion, national policy measures to promote rail transport, unified railway law and rail contemporary issues. Technical documents on rail security and rail productivity indicators. Legal documents relating to the administration and updating of the AGC Agreement and unified railway law.

6.2 Working Party on Rail Transport (sixty-seventh session, November 2013)

Documentation:

Agenda and report of the annual session of the Working Party. Documents and research papers on the annual theme for substantive discussion, national policy measures to promote rail transport, unified railway law and rail contemporary issues. Technical document on rail security and rail productivity indicators. Legal documents relating to the administration and updating of the AGC Agreement and unified railway law.

(b) Publications and other information material

6.1. On-line monitoring tool on the application of the AGC and AGTC infrastructure standards.

6.2. Rail review publication for the UNECE region, including contemporary issues for rail including climate change, infrastructure and statistics.

6.3. Study on rail security, including recommendations.

III. Biennial evaluation

14. On the basis of decisions taken at its sixty-third session in November 2009 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/212, para. 20), the activities of the Working Party are measured, as part of the biennial evaluation, against one expected accomplishment, three indicators of accomplishment and corresponding performance measures. In February 2010, this approach was approved by the Inland Transport Committee as part of the performance planning for evaluation of the biennium 2010–2011 (ECE/TRANS/2010/7).

15. The Working Party may wish to review these parameters as well as the actual performance measures for 2010–2011 as provided below with a view to either maintaining them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2012–2013.

*Biennial Assessment**Review of performance measures for 2010–2011 and establishment of targets for 2012–2013*

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Expected Accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of Achievement</i>	<i>Actual Performance Measures</i>
6. Rail Transport	Better understanding of rail transport operations and policies in the region, including infrastructure, border crossing, interoperability issues, and monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of UNECE countries in addressing them	(a) Number of countries, IGOs and NGOs participating in the annual meeting of the Working Party on Rail Transport and level of satisfaction as expressed in surveys <i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline: 2008-2009: Target: 2010-2011: 30 Target: 2012-2013: 30	27 26
		(b) Number of amendments to the AGC Agreement as well as updated and amended lines in its Annex I which the Working Party has put in effect. <i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline: 2008-2009: Target: 2010-2011: 2 Target: 2012-2013: 1	0 1
		(c) Number of thematic workshops/seminars/themes organized and number of participants <i>Performance measures:</i> Baseline: 2008-2009: Target: 2010-2011: 2 Target: 2012-2013: 2	2 1

IV. Status and characteristics of the Working Party

16. In accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE, the mandate and extension of these Working Parties should be reviewed very 5 years (ECE/EX/1, para. 1 (c)).

17. As the first five-year cycle will end as of 2012 and on the basis of a comprehensive review of its activities, the Working Party may wish to propose to the Inland Transport Committee to renew the mandate and status of the Working Party for another cycle of 5 years as of 2013 (ECE/EX/1, para. 3 (d)).