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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Results of the meeting of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee

Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) or "the Committee" (ECE/TRANS/125, paras. 14 and 15 and ECE/TRANS/208/Add.1), the Bureau of the ITC met on 3 March 2011, 20 June 2011 and from 29 to 30 November 2011.
2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) plan of action, the Bureau fulfils the following functions related to the organization of the annual sessions of the Committee including the preparation of a well-focused agenda with definitions of objectives and allocation of time for each item; indication of principal topics where decisions are needed; delineation discussion themes of the session; monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session; monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication of the work of other relevant organizations; and proposing priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).
3. This document contains, in its annexes, the results of the meetings of the Bureau for consideration by the Committee in line with the mandate of its Bureau.

Annex I

Results of the fifth meeting of the 2010–2011 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (3 March 2011)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Erdem Direkler (Turkey) and was attended by the following members: Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Fabio Croccolo (Italy), Victor Guzun (Republic of Moldova) and Servatius van Thiel (European Commission) were unable to attend.

II. Matters arising from the seventy-third session of the Inland Transport Committee

2. The Bureau discussed the outcome of the seventy-third session of the ITC and felt that this session had been successful, as a number of important decisions had been taken. These included, the implementation of the digital tachograph and social rules; climate change and transport; unifying railway law; efficient and sustainable inland water transport; UNECE's contribution to the Decade of Action for Road Safety; coordinated development of pan-European and Euro-Asian transport links and transport infrastructure investments; strengthening of the TIR Convention, ensuring transparency in managing the TIR system and computerization; fuel quality standards and methodologies for measuring emissions of vehicles; transport of dangerous goods and specialized cargoes; inland transport security; transport and competitiveness; and the establishment of three new Expert Groups and one Task Force to advance the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies requiring particular attention.

3. The Bureau concluded that the policy segment (Round table) organized in the afternoon of 1 March 2011 on "Transport of dangerous goods: Global and regional dimensions" had also been successful, and offered the opportunity to discuss the main challenges for future developments in this regulatory area. It noted that 109 participants from thirty countries, the European Commission, and sixteen international and European transport organizations and non-governmental organizations had attended this event. The Bureau welcomed the high quality of the presentations and contributions by the speakers who covered a wide range of topics in a most efficient manner. It also noted that main conclusions included that the UNECE legal instruments and mechanisms which have been put in place are efficient and lead to a high level of safety when effectively implemented by Governments and that technical assistance and training of the competent authorities are important factors and an area in which more effort is required.

4. The Bureau welcomed the results of the First meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies held as a restricted meeting for Government delegates only under the ITC and the Committee's decision that such meetings become a regular feature of its future sessions. It noted with satisfaction, that the Chairs of thirteen Working Parties and of the three Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments had the opportunity to discuss with the members the Bureau and other Government delegates, about the multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral issues requiring further cooperation, identify common

challenges and possible ways forward. The Bureau stressed that efficiency, synergy and interdependence, as well as avoiding duplication and sharing experiences were among the main messages of the Chairs and that the expected reduced participation of Government delegates in the future due to governments' budget constraints and the lack of sufficient funds at the secretariat in support of the work are among the main challenges that need to be addressed. It also noted that reduced participation of Government delegates in some activities of the Committee is already visible. The Bureau reiterated its request to the secretariat to prepare the conclusions of the Chairs' meeting and make proposals on the possible responses for its consideration at the next Bureau meeting.

5. The Bureau reviewed the structure of the Committee's sessions in light of the experience from the organization of its seventy-third session, as well as previous ones and felt that dividing the session into three parts, namely policy-linked with the organization of an event, technical and reporting had been successful and should be maintained.

6. The Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare an outline of the agenda and programme of the seventy-fourth session for consideration at its June meeting.

7. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventy-third session of the Committee, the Round table and the meeting of Chairs, as well as the timely preparation and adoption of a streamlined and concise list of main decisions in three UNECE official languages and thanked the secretariat for its work.

8. The Bureau considered the points to be presented by the Chair of the Committee during the meeting with EXCOM.

III. Date of next meeting

9. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, 20 June 2011 starting at 10.30 a.m.

Annex II

Results of the sixth meeting of the 2010–2011 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (20 June 2011)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Erdem Direkler (Turkey) and was attended by the following members: Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Fabio Croccolo (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Victor Guzun (Republic of Moldova) and José Alberto Franco (Portugal) were unable to attend.

II. Adoption of the agenda

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2011/4).

III. Briefing on the cooperation with the International Transport Forum

3. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the UNECE Transport Division about the outcome of the International Transport Forum 2011 on “Transport and Society”, held in Leipzig, Germany (25–27 May 2011) and about UNECE’s contribution to this event.

4. The Bureau noted that high-level officials and experts from fifty-two countries, including Ministers, mayors and business leaders discussed future societies and transport systems, road safety, sustainable development.

5. The Bureau welcomed UNECE’s contribution through the active participation of its Executive Secretary as panellist in one of the sessions, and the Director of the Transport Division as moderator of a panel discussion. It stressed that this participation, the UNECE stand and the circulation of publications and promotional materials, including the recent publication of the report on Transport for Sustainable Development, raised the visibility of the work of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies.

6. The Bureau considered UNECE’s potential role in the International Transport Forum (ITF) 2012 on “Seamless Transport” in light of experience from the organization of the first three Forums and encouraged the secretariat to follow the preparations of the 2012 Forum in cooperation with ITF.

IV. Transport division’s contribution to the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

7. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the Transport Division about UNECE’s contribution to the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD19), held in New York, 2–13 May 2011. This included participation in the ministerial session on transport (with a speech from the floor), the launch of the UNECE publication on Transport and Sustainable Development at a side event — UNECE

round table — with the participation of speakers from UNESCAP, UNECLAC, the European Commission, the United States of America and with participation of Government delegates and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the ECE region and beyond. At the UNECE round table held on 11 May 2011, the day of the official launching of the Decade of Action for road safety, Mr. R. Medford, Deputy Head of the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration made the launching speech on the Decade of Action within the United Nations.

8. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that the UNECE is planning to follow-up the subject at the next United Nations Conference on Environment and Development “RIO+20”, to be held in Rio, Brazil, next year.

V. The sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe results and follow up – Launch of the review of the UNECE reform

9. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the Transport Division of the outcome of the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 29 to 31 March 2011) including its transport and trade infrastructure high-level segment; new directions of UNECE activities; the United Nations Secretary-General’s request for budget cuts and the launch of the review of the UNECE reform.

10. The Bureau noted that the Commission welcomed the implementation and achievements of the ECE reform adopted in December 2005 and underlined the importance of its first five-year review that will take place in 2011–2012 according to the guidelines contained in document ECE/EX/1, with the view to drawing conclusions on the future work priorities of the ECE.

11. The Bureau also noted the Commission’s request to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) to duly consider the outputs of the discussion of its sixty-fourth session when it reviews the work programme of ECE Sectoral Committees and to the Sectoral Committees to consider the said outputs, as appropriate. The decisions adopted by the Commission session and the proposed modalities for the review of the work of the ECE as a follow-up to the Commission’s session were circulated to the members of the Bureau.

12. The Bureau was also informed about the strategic tasks and challenges of the Division that were presented to the EXCOM by the Director of the Transport Division in the framework of the follow-up to the Commission session, which included: How to be better aligned with the “Big Agenda”; ensure the right institutional structure for the global and regional activities; keep pace with technological innovations; transport for sustainable development; scale up the role of transport for regional integration; pan-European single market and the close cooperation with the European Union (EU); as well as the review process as an opportunity for improvements and for securing internal and external support.

13. Moreover, the Bureau was informed about the additional inputs provided to EXCOM by the Division including a briefing note on the work of the Inland Transport Committee and a report on the activities and results of the transport subprogramme in 2010. Copies of all these documents were circulated to the members of the Bureau.

14. The Bureau expressed its full support to the work of the Transport Division and considered the matter in conjunction with the items VI and VIII below.

VI. Positioning of the UNECE Transport work

15. In light of the developments under items III to V, the Bureau reviewed the main institutional developments and initiatives in the field of international transport that may have an impact on the role of the ITC.

16. The Bureau considered both the global and regional work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies in the areas such as transport of dangerous goods, vehicle regulations, road safety and border crossing facilitation, as well as the fact that some UNECE regulations are transposed to the EU law (vehicle regulations, dangerous goods, and possibly soon digital tachograph).

VII. Meeting of the ITC Chair with the Executive Committee

17. The Chair informed the Bureau of his participation in the meeting of the Executive Commission (EXCOM) of 4 March 2011 during which the report of ITC on the implementation of the UNECE reform in the field of transport was presented together with its request to approve the establishment of three new Expert Groups (EG) for a limited duration of two years, on climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks, on unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian land transport corridors and the transformation of the informal group on the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) to an Expert Group.

18. The Bureau noted that at its meeting on 10 May 2011, the EXCOM had approved the establishment of the two newly proposed Expert Groups and that in due time, the EXCOM will consider establishing an AETR Expert Group, once the Terms of Reference of this group would be finalized.

19. Bureau members took note of the budget cuts within the United Nations and shared information about the austerity measures at national levels and on how these affected their Ministries. While welcoming the initiatives to increase UNECE's efficiency, they recalled the discontinuation of working groups previously functioning under the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the transfer of their activities to UNECE, a couple of years ago, in order to avoid duplication. The Bureau felt that as UNECE is now expected to continue this work, it would be inappropriate to consider abandoning them.

VIII. Follow-up to the First Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies

20. The Bureau recalled that the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments, the members of the Bureau and Government delegates participating in the seventy-third session of the Committee attended the First meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies, held in the morning of 2 March 2011. The meeting — a restricted meeting for Government delegates only — allowed the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies to discuss strengthening cooperation, share experiences and address common challenges, including globalization of UNECE agreements.

21. At its 3 March 2011 meeting, the Bureau had welcomed the results of this meeting and stressed that efficiency, synergy and interdependence, as well as avoiding duplication and sharing experiences were among the main messages of the Chairs. At the same

meeting, the Bureau had also noted that the expected reduced participation of Government delegates in the future due to governments' budget constraints and the lack of sufficient funds at the secretariat in support of the work were among the main challenges that need to be addressed. Moreover, the Bureau had requested the secretariat to prepare the conclusions of the Chairs meeting and make proposals on the possible responses for its consideration at the next Bureau meeting.

22. The conclusions of the Chairs meeting were circulated to the members of the Bureau in the form of Chair's conclusions (Informal document No. 1) and would be further circulated to the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies. The secretariat proposals on the possible responses were circulated as Informal document No. 2.

23. The Bureau considered the Informal document No. 1 and the proposals contained in Informal document No. 2, including the proposed road map, thanked the secretariat for the preparation of this document and agreed to:

- Invite the Committee's subsidiary bodies to initiate the review process taking into account the outputs of the discussions of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission and the conclusions of the First Chairs meeting and provide proposals to the Bureau by early November 2011;
- Invite the Committee's subsidiary bodies to apply the new harmonized format as contained in annex I of Informal document No. 2 for preparing their programme of work for the 2012–2013 biennium together with their four-year plan 2012–2016, to be approved by ITC at its seventy-fourth session in February and March 2012;
- Invite the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies to a meeting with the Bureau in the morning of the first day of its next meeting, if sufficient participation of Chairs is ensured;
- At its next meeting, consider inputs and prepare recommendations to ITC with the assistance of the secretariat.

24. The Bureau requested the secretariat to inform the Chairs of the Committee on the above and provide all necessary assistance.

IX. Road traffic safety

A. Activities and plans of the Road Safety Forum and the secretariat

25. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 3 and additional information provided by the secretariat about the recent developments in the field of road traffic safety. This included future plans of the Road Safety Forum and the secretariat, the Global Plan for the Decade of Action (2011–2020) for Road Safety and the ECE plans to achieve the Decade goals, road safety campaigns and the official launching of the Decade in the ECE region. The Global Plan for the Decade and other related documents were made available to the members of the Bureau.

B. Challenges to the UNECE road safety work

26. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the potential implications on the United Nations road safety work and in particular on the UNECE Road Safety Forum (WP.1) following the recently published report of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)-led Commission for Global Road Safety. The Commission for Global Road Safety report was circulated to the members of the Bureau.

27. The Bureau noted that the aforementioned report recommends the establishment of a new United Nations Road Transport Agency (UN-RTA) directly accountable to Ministers of transport with strong road safety focus, pulling together the relevant functions of the UNECE. The report also recommends that over time the existing structure of road transport related legal instruments be consolidated into a new United Nations Framework Convention for Safe and Sustainable Road Transport (SCSSRT) developed from the UNECE's existing legal instruments and resolutions.

28. The Bureau considered the subject and concluded that these recommendations do not merit any serious consideration and should be rejected by ITC and expressed its satisfaction and full support of UNECE road safety work. The Bureau concluded that such a proposed change, if it was to be implemented, would bring no benefit to the member Governments and to the United Nations, on the contrary, it would be a waste of efforts and resources in promoting useless new administrative structures and legal instruments.

X. Transport Infrastructure projects

29. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress in Phase II of the Euro-Asian transport links (EATL) project and the future plans, including the organizations of two more Expert Group Meeting before the end of the year, one in Almaty, Kazakhstan, (5–7 July) in partnership with the Kazakh Government and OSCE, and one in Astrakhan, Russian Federation, (first half of October) in partnership with the Government of the Russian Federation.

30. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects, as well as about the need for the project's management succession.

XI. The European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and the implementation of the digital tachograph

31. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress of the implementation of the digital tachograph in the ECE region and of the results of the special meeting of AETR Contracting Parties, held in Geneva, on 4 March 2011.

XII. The TIR and the eTIR

32. The Bureau was informed about the latest developments in the area of TIR and the eTIR project, in particular about the results of the 128th session of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) (7–10 June 2011) and the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) (9–10 March 2011).

33. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat about the main results of the strategic review of the TIR (Informal document No. 4). A hard copy of the consultant's report was made available to the members of the Bureau. The Bureau welcomed the intentions of the secretariat to publish this review in the fall of 2011.

XIII. Group of experts on unified railway law

34. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the results of the first meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law (6 May 2011) and the ongoing work on the preparation of an intergovernmental document (IGD), as well as on general terms and conditions for Euro-Asian rail transport contracts.

XIV. Climate change and transport

A. Mitigation of environmentally harmful effects of inland transport

35. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 5 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress of the “ForFITS” project funded from the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) and implemented together with the other United Nations regional commissions.

B. Impacts of climate change on international transport networks and adaptation requirements

36. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the follow-up to the 2010 conference organized in cooperation with UNCTAD and about the Terms of Reference (ToR) and draft workplan of the Expert Group on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1. It noted that the first meeting of the Expert Group (Geneva, 5 September 2011) would be held back-to-back with the twenty-fourth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5).

XV. Intelligent transport systems

37. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress and results of the public consultations on the UNECE Intelligent Transport Systems strategy note and the next steps in promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS).

XVI. Preparing for the seventy-fourth session of Inland Transport Committee

38. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 6 containing the outline agenda and programme for the organization of the seventy-fourth session of the Committee, including the secretariat’s proposals for the policy segment and the meeting of the Chairs of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies.

39. The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the preparation of Informal document No. 6 and agreed with the proposed preliminary programme. It also agreed that the seventy-fourth session of the Committee would include a half-day policy segment, in the form of a round table, on “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)”, to be held in the afternoon of the first day of the session. The targeted audience would include senior government officials, representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as those from the industry, notably ITS and information technology, logistics, supply chains managers and transport. Accordingly, the secretariat will finalize the agenda and programme of the policy segment by September 2011 and send invitations.

40. The Bureau requested the secretariat to communicate the preliminary agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the Committee to its members by 20 October 2011 for comments and proceed with the organization of the seventy-fourth session of the Committee and its related events accordingly.

XVII. Resource and staffing requirements of the Transport Division

41. The Bureau was informed of the filling of the vacant posts in the Division, as well as of staff mobility developments and of the resource constraints and extra-budgetary needs for certain strategic areas of work.

42. The Bureau was also informed that an active fund raising campaign is under preparation.

XVIII. Other business

Date of next meeting

43. The Bureau noted that its next meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, 29–30 November 2011.

44. The secretariat presented to the Bureau, the UNECE film launching the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/255. The Bureau members signed the UNECE road safety poster “We drive by the rules” as a symbolic personal commitment to the objectives of the Decade.

Annex III

Results of the seventh meeting of the 2010–2011 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (29–30 November 2011)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Erdem Direkler (ITC Chair–Turkey) and was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Luciana Iorio¹ (WP.1 Chair–Italy), Richard Roemers² (Netherlands), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Niall Leonard (European Commission). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Victor Guzun (Republic of Moldova) and José Alberto Franco (Portugal) were unable to attend.

2. The meeting was also attended by the following Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and Administrative Committees of the UNECE legal instruments: Claude Pfauvadel (WP.15/AC.1–France), Olga Kastlova (WP.6–Czech Republic), Lenka Jelínková Harantová (WP.30/AC.2–Czech Republic), Telmo Nobre (WP.11–Portugal), Boris Kisulenko (WP.29–Russian Federation), Seref Tabak (WP.5–Turkey) and Oleksandr Fedorov (WP.30–Ukraine).

3. H.E. Ambassador Ugi Zvekic (Serbia), Chair of the Commission and the Executive Committee of UNECE, also attended.

II. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2011/6).

III. Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and the Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments

5. Following the decision taken at its June 2011 meeting, the Bureau had invited the Committee's subsidiary bodies to initiate the review of the UNECE reform process and provide proposals to the Bureau at its meeting with the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments to be held in the morning of the first day of its November meeting.

6. This meeting aimed at reviewing the main activities of the transport subprogramme in 2010–2011 and the existing mandates and prioritization of work for the future, including possible new tasks and areas of work, and prepare recommendations to the Committee. Participants considered Informal document No. 1 containing the mandates of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and document TRANS/2004/18 of 13 April 2004 containing the "Strategic Objectives of the Committee" adopted by the Committee at its sixty-sixth session. The Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and the

¹ Replacing Fabio Croccolo.

² Replacing Bob Oudshoorn.

Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments presented their comments and remarks on the documents communicated to them by the secretariat (Briefing note for the Review of the ECE reform, Template “Information requested by EXCOM for the ECE review” with annexes 1 and 2).

7. Based on the proposals of the Committees subsidiary bodies and Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments, communicated to it by their Chairs, the Bureau concluded as follows:

- - agreed with the content of the briefing note for the review of the ECE reform containing the Committee’s objectives, work areas and methods, as well as main partners and results achieved prepared by the secretariat, as amended;
- agreed with the key results achieved by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 2010–2011 as well as with the expected future results contained in the paper prepared by the secretariat based on inputs from the Committee’s subsidiary bodies in reply to the information requested by EXCOM (Annex 1 of the Template);
- agreed that all future results contained in annex 1 of the Template are the outcome of high priority activities and should be marked with the symbol (H), while further prioritization and related explanations to be inserted in a new column, however clearly reflecting internal priorities in terms of the timeframe of their implementation and not of their importance;
- agreed with the new or emerging issues/activities as well as with the expected future results and indicators of achievement contained in annex 2 of the Template prepared by the secretariat;
- agreed that while all issues/activities reflected in annex 2 are of high priority for the Committee and should be marked with the symbol (H), the secretariat should propose ranking using the symbols (H1, H2, ...) and provide additional information on the expected duration for those issues/activities that are of limited duration (LD) or should start later (SL), as appropriate, using the symbols, for example (H1- LD 2 years) or (H1-SL 2 years); it also requested the secretariat, to associate these activities with additional resources required for their implementation;
- agreed with the responses to the questions asked by EXCOM in its Template prepared by the secretariat relating to the possible ways of improving the work of the Committee, including possibilities for streamlining and synergizing activities; ways of improving efficiency and methods of work; possible reorientation of activities; optimization of the structure of the programme of work; areas for enhancement or abolishment; ways for improving communications and public outreach; and changing conditions of doing business. The Bureau made proposals for further improvements;
- based on the unique character of the work being implemented by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the high importance and relevance of this work for UNECE member countries, some of which are of global nature and scope, the Bureau expressed its strong view that while there are many important issues to be added to the Committee’s work (reflected in the annex 2 of the above-mentioned Template), there is no room for abolishment of any activity;
- in view of the above and further explanations contained in the responses to the questions asked by EXCOM in its Template, agreed that the question “if you had 10 per cent less resources, what would you drop?” does not represent a realistic option for the Committee. It also agreed that while the question “if you had 10 per cent more resources, what you would do?” has been adequately replied in annex 2 of the Template, the question “if your resources stay the same but want to do more, what

would you drop to undertake a new activity?" merits a serious consideration by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, which, however is constantly in their agenda as part of the regular revision of their work programme and priorities, currently being implemented every two years, in an effort to strike the right balance between the huge needs for new actions vs the limited resources made available to the UNECE secretariat in support of their work;

- noted that in the framework of the five year's review of the UNECE reform process all the Committee's subsidiary bodies have requested that their mandates be renewed for another five years;
- also noted the difficulties faced by WP.29 relating to delayed entry into force of new regulations and their amendments due to delays in the translation of the proposals in all the three authentic versions, before which the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) does not issue the corresponding Depositary Notifications; and that the entry in annex 2, page 5, "Accomplishing the work of vehicle regulations - ... " is not a really new activity, but a current activity that can not be performed due to lack of resources in the WP.29 secretariat.

8. The Bureau requested the secretariat to produce a revised version of the above-mentioned documents, including necessary amendments and improvements adequately reflecting the above decisions and prepare the draft proposals of the Committee to the Executive Committee on the review of the ECE reform to be considered at its next meeting and by the Committee, at its seventy-fourth session.

9. The Bureau and the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments met with H.E. Ambassador Ugi Zvekic (Serbia), Chair of the Commission and the Executive Committee of UNECE, who informed the meeting about the main objectives and expected results of the review of the UNECE reform.

IV. Climate change and transport

A. Mitigation of environmentally harmful effects of inland transport

10. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the progress of the United Nations Development Account funded global project (ForFITS), being implemented together with all other United Nations regional commissions. The project aims at developing and implementing of a monitoring and assessment tool for CO₂ emissions in inland transport including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation. The assessment tool including the policy converter is meant to pave the way For Future Inland Transport Systems, thus it was named ForFITS. The Bureau noted that an international meeting of experts is planned to be held under the project early next year.

B. Impacts of climate change on international transport networks and adaptation requirements

11. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the results of the two first sessions of the Expert Group on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks, held in Geneva, on 5 September and 8 November 2011 and its future plans, including the holding of a UNECE conference in May 2012. The programme of work and terms of reference of the group is contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1.

V. Activities related to road transport and to the implementation of the digital tachograph

12. The Bureau was informed about the two special meetings of Contracting Parties to the AETR Agreement that took place on 4 March 2011 and 12 July 2011 and about the EXCOM's decision of 19 September 2011 to approve the establishment of an AETR Expert Group for a limited duration of two years and noted that the AETR EG first meeting is scheduled to take place on 2 March 2012.

13. The Bureau was also informed about the status of implementation of the digital tachograph in the non-EU AETR Contracting Parties. Moreover, the Bureau was informed about the planned joint UNECE – European Commission (EC) event on road transport of goods, to be held in the second half of 2012, where earlier UNECE work on transit and market conditions will be addressed together with the results of the work of the EC High Level Group on liberalization of road freight transport.

14. The AETR draft discussion paper (Road Map) on the revision of Articles 14 and 22*bis* of the AETR Agreement prepared by the secretariat was circulated to the Bureau members.

VI. Activities related to road traffic safety

15. The Bureau welcomed the most recent developments of the UNECE work in the field of road traffic safety, including UNECE's road safety information campaign during the 2011 World Scouts Jamboree (summer 2011, Sweden), the awareness raising and advocacy initiatives at the 2011 EuroBasket (September 2011, Lithuania), the ceremony for the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and the Inauguration of the Sculpture dedicated to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety at "Christos Polentas" Park (20 November 2011, Chania, Crete).

16. The Bureau also welcomed the UNECE plan to implement the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (Draft ECE/TRANS/2012/4) that was discussed and adopted by WP.1 and other subsidiary bodies of the Committee related to road safety issues.

17. Noting that, following the Committee's recommendation to the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to consider creating a joint Group of Experts of limited duration to work on enhancing safety at level crossings the concerned Working Parties have agreed to pursue such task under the leadership of WP.1, recommended the Committee to endorse the establishment of such an Expert Group for a limited duration of two years and request EXCOM's approval on the basis of the Terms of Reference to be presented to it.

VII. Euro-Asian transport links

18. The Bureau welcomed the information provided by the secretariat about recent activities of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) implementing the EATL Project phase II and the tangible results produced, including the results of its sixth and seventh sessions (5 to 7 July 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan, and 24 and 25 October 2011, Astrakhan, Russian Federation).

19. The Bureau recommends the Committee to endorse and approve the publication of the final report of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links, the draft form of which was adopted by WP.5 at its twenty-fourth session, in September 2011, and by the

Expert Group at its seventh session and is being currently finalized by the Expert Group. A draft copy of the EATL final report dated 18 October 2011 was made available to the members of the Bureau.

20. The Bureau noted that following the recommendation of the EATL Expert Group, at its twenty-fourth session WP.5 requested the Committee to approve the extension of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links for two more years with possibility of further extension in order to allow the group to continue its work in a new EATL Phase III.

21. The Bureau also noted that WP.5 approved the proposal of the group to seek political support and commitment from participating governments through the organization of a Second meeting of Ministers of Transport of EATL countries in 2012.

22. The Bureau recommended the Committee to accept the request of WP.5 to endorse the extension of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links for two more years with possibility of further extension and request the UNECE Executive Committee to approve this extension. The Bureau thanked the Government of the Russian Federation for funding the project throughout the whole period of EATL Phase II, and recommended the Committee to invite Governments and other donors to consider co-funding the project's new Phase III.

23. Recognizing the importance and relevance for UNECE work from holding a Second Ministerial Meeting of EATL countries, the Bureau warmly supported the decision of the WP.5 and its Group of Experts on EATL to organize such a meeting in Geneva in the autumn 2012. The Bureau requested the secretariat to proceed with its organization at the most convenient dates and inform the Bureau accordingly, taking also into consideration the option of holding this meeting back-to-back with the twenty-fifth session of WP.5.

VIII. Group of experts on unified railway law

24. The Bureau recalled that the Committee had approved in March 2011 a Position Paper that contained a long-term strategy as well as work procedures towards unified railway law using a three-step approach (ECE/TRANS/2011/3). In line with this mandate, a Group of Experts had been established to prepare an Inter-Governmental Document (IGD EurAsia) that provided a framework and political support for so-called General Terms and Conditions for rail transport contracts (GTC EurAsia). GTC EurAsia, to be prepared in parallel by the railway industry, should allow for efficient Euro-Asian rail transport operations on the basis of a single contract of carriage, a single consignment note and a single liability system applicable under the current institutional and legal frameworks of the COTIF³/CIM⁴ and SMGS⁵ Agreements.

25. The Bureau was informed that the Group of Experts could not complete as planned its work on an IGD EurAsia during its two meetings held on 6 May 2011 and on 7 October 2011. Also a final draft GTC EurAsia was not yet available from the railways.

26. The Bureau welcomed the constructive and pragmatic approach taken by the Group of Experts and the secretariat to negotiate concrete policy support measures that would ensure implementation of the mandated short-term solution (step A of the UNECE Position Paper) towards unified railway law and would bridge the existing legal regimes applicable on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors by means of model rail contracts. The Bureau also

³ Convention concerning International Transport by Rail

⁴ Uniform Rules Concerning the Contract of International Carriage of Goods by Rail

⁵ Agreement on International Railway Freight Transportations

supported the decision of SC.2 to extend the time schedule of the Group of Experts by one more year, however it noted that this would not require further approval by the Committee and the EXCOM since the existing mandate of the group is for two years. To further facilitate the preparation of IGD EurAsia, the Bureau welcomed the proposal of the chair of SC.2 to convene, in early 2012, a small informal group of experts to reconcile the different positions within the Group of Experts and to prepare the next session on the Group of Experts (2–3 July 2012, Geneva). The Bureau noted Russian Federation's position, which is in favour of widening the mandate of the Expert Group.

IX. Possible role of the UNECE in the operation of the future European database of inland vessels

27. The Bureau was informed about the ongoing discussions within the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) on the possible role of UNECE in the operation of a future European Hull Data Base (EHDB) of inland navigation vessels, currently being developed as a pilot project by PLATINA, the platform for the implementation of the EU “Navigation and Inland Waterway Action and Development in Europe” (NAIADES) Programme.

28. The Bureau took note that SC.3 had approved a concept note on this subject that had been prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the European Commission and PLATINA (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2011/12). The Bureau agreed that, on this basis, the UNECE secretariat should continue its consultations with all stakeholders, particularly the European Commission.

X. Self-evaluation of some activities of the 2010–2011 programme of work

29. The Bureau was recalled about the two topics selected for the discretionary self-evaluation planned to be carried out in 2010–2011, the self-evaluation on collecting and disseminating transport and road traffic accident statistics by UNECE and its secretariat, Transport Statistics (WP.6), for 2010 and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) for 2011. Such self-evaluations are undertaken regularly by UNECE staff to assess the effectiveness of activities in achieving expected results and the efficiency with which these activities are carried out.

30. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the results of this year's self-evaluation exercise of the Transport Trends and Economics (Informal document No. 3).

XI. Approval of the biennial evaluation of the Committee's work 2010–2011

31. The Bureau considered the draft biennial evaluation (programme performance assessment) of Committee's work for 2010–2011 (draft ECE/TRANS/2012/7). This document provides an overview of the performance assessments of the transport subprogramme and is drawn up in line with the decision of the Commission requesting each Sectoral Committee to conduct biennial evaluations, and the plan for the biennial performance assessment which the Inland Transport Committee adopted at its seventy-second session in 2010.

32. The Bureau recommended the Committee to approve the 2010–2011 programme performance assessment at its seventy-fourth session in 2012.

XII. Programme of work and biennial evaluation 2012–2013 and Strategic framework for 2014–2015

33. The Bureau considered the programme of work and expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement proposed for each cluster of activities of the transport programme of work for the period 2012–2013 contained in draft ECE/TRANS/2012/9. The document is in line with the decision of the Commission requesting each sectoral committee to conduct biennial evaluations and will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the UNECE for approval.

34. The Bureau recommended the Committee to approve the draft programme of work and plan for biennial performance evaluation for 2012–2013, as amended including activities relating to the promotion and finalization of the OMNIBUS Agreement and noted that discussions are ongoing with the European Union with regard to its interaction with INTERBUS Agreement.

35. The Bureau also considered and adopted the UNECE Transport Subprogramme Draft Strategic Framework (biennial programme plan) for the period 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/2012/10 and ECE/TRANS/2012/11). The Draft Strategic Framework including expected accomplishments and the strategy have been prepared on the basis of the mandate of the Transport Subprogramme, the accomplishments achieved in previous biennium and the United Nations guidelines for the preparation of the strategic biennial plans.

36. In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the Strategic Framework has to be reviewed by the sectoral committees, (or their Bureaux – in case of Committees not having a meeting during the last four months of 2011) before its submission to the Executive Committee in December 2011 and to United Nations Headquarters in early 2012.

XIII. Consideration of items of the agenda for the seventy-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee

37. The Bureau was reminded that at its June meeting it had agreed that the seventy-fourth session should last no more than two and one-half days and that the session would include one half-day policy segment in the form of a round table, on “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)”.

38. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/223) and the annotated agenda (ECE/TRANS/223/Add.1) and the provisional agenda of the half-day round table (Informal document No. 4). The secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress of the organization of the half-day round table to be held in the afternoon of 28 February 2012 and discussed items of the agenda that needed consideration and required decisions.

39. The Bureau agreed with the agenda and the annotated agenda and asked the secretariat to proceed with their publication.

XIV. Other business

A. Election of officers for the Committee's sessions in 2013 and 2014 and members of the Bureau for the years 2012 and 2013

40. The Bureau exchanged views on the forthcoming election of officers for the Committee's session in 2013 and 2014, as well as on the elections of members for the Bureau for 2012 and 2013.

41. In view to ensuring certain rotation of country representation in the governing bodies of the Committee, the Bureau requested the secretariat to inform the heads of delegations to the Committee on the forthcoming elections, encouraging nominations of candidates for ITC officers (Chair and two Vice-Chairs) and members of the ITC Bureau.

B. Schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings 2013–2014

42. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 5 prepared by the secretariat containing the proposed schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings in 2013 and 2014.

43. The Bureau agreed with the proposed schedule of meetings.

C. Date of next meeting

44. The Bureau noted that its next meeting will be held on Monday, 27 February 2012, in the afternoon.

45. The Bureau also noted that its meeting following the seventy-fourth Committee's session will be held on 1 March 2012, in the afternoon.

D. Meeting of the Chair of the Committee and the Director of the Transport Division with the Executive Committee

46. The Bureau noted that the next meeting of the Chair of the Committee and the Director of the Transport Division with the Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled to be held on Friday, 16 March 2012 in the morning.
