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### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Twenty-fourth session

Geneva, 6–7 September 2011

### Report of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics on its twenty-fourth session

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## **I. Attendance**

1. The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics held its twenty-fourth session from 6 to 7 September 2011. The session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Seref Tabak (Turkey). Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States participated: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine.
2. The UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects were represented.
3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Road Federation (IRF) and International Road Transport Union (IRU).
5. Representatives of the following bodies attended the meeting at the invitation of the secretariat: National Technical University of Athens.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/49 and Add.1

6. The Working Party adopted the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/49 and Add.1).

## **III. Monitoring of the developments relevant to pan-European transport networks (agenda item 2)**

### **A. The European Commission briefing on the progress made in the development of the Trans-European Transport Network**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/46

7. There was no report made on the subject.

### **B. Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 1

8. The TEM and TER Project Manager presented a report on the activities implemented by the TEM and TER Projects over the reporting period (2010–2011), including the revision of the Master Plan.
9. The Working Party noted that with satisfaction that under the Revision of the Master Plan, in which 25 countries were involved, the TEM and TER projects had achieved tangible results, including:
  - Update of data on traffic flows for TEM and TER networks;
  - Check of the conformity of new projects and regulations with the TEM and TER backbone networks and review the original TEM and TER networks;

- Review of border crossing issues;
- Improve data collection procedures;
- Update information about TEM and TER funding;
- Identification of interrelationships of the TEM and TER Master Plan backbone networks with intermodal points and links and
- Important conclusions and recommendations.

10. The Working Party appreciated the update of the TEM and TER Projects activities and invited the Projects' manager to provide an update on relevant developments in the TEM and TER projects at its twenty-fifth session in 2012. A hardcopy of the Master Plan was made available to the participants.

#### **IV. Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks (agenda item 3)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1

11. The Chair of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks and the secretariat informed the Working Party about the results of the first session of the group and its deliberations.

12. The Working Party noted with satisfaction that the group had approved its programme of work and had recognized that the subject under discussion is a global issue that concerns countries from all over the world. It also noted the decision of the group to invite other United Nations agencies and international organizations to take an active role in the work of the group and to ensure global coverage of its work. In addition, the Working Party noted that the group considered the organization of an international conference on "Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change" as it was proposed by the Working Party at its twenty-third session. The list of main decisions of the group was made available to the participants.

13. The Working Party appreciated the results of the first session of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks and endorsed its programme of work (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1).

#### **V. Euro-Asian Transport Links (agenda item 4)**

##### **A. Progress on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) work**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/1

14. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat on the progress of the work of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/1). The Working Party noted that Six Expert Group meetings (Geneva 2008, 2009, 2010, Istanbul 2009, Tashkent 2010 and Almaty 2011), one subregional workshop (Tehran 2009), and two interregional workshops (Istanbul 2009, Turkmenbashi 2010) have been organized under EATL Phase II so far with a number of tangible results.

## **B. Main results of EATL Project Phase II**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 1 of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links (second session, 7 September 2009)

15. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat and the external consultant of the Group of Experts on the main results achieved and remaining tasks to be accomplished in accordance with its work plan (EATL EG Informal document No. 1 - second session, 7 September 2009). The Working Party noted that the most important achievements, findings and conclusions of the Phase II - EATL Expert Group so far included the:

- Elaboration of a SWOT Analysis identifying the strong and weak points of the EATL inland transport connection and the strategic directions for the future
- Elaboration of a study on transport statistics, flows and trends which provide useful insights of the dynamic growth and existing potential for the development of inland transport and trade between Europe and Asia
- Review and assessment of the implementation status of priority infrastructure projects identified under EATL Phase I
- Development of an investment strategy by EATL countries containing 404 infrastructure projects amounting to approximately US\$ 246 billion
- Elaboration of a comparison study of existing Euro-Asian maritime routes with selected rail routes that provided impressive results
- Collection and processing of a huge volume of GIS data and production of a set of important new GIS maps for the EATL region as well as for each country involved
- Analytical work on non-physical obstacles to transport along the Euro-Asian Transport routes and recommendations on ways to be addressed.

16. The secretariat provided additional information on the results of the sixth meeting of the group, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in July 2011, related recommendations contained in the List of Main Decisions circulated to the Group and the draft report of the group on implementing Phase II.

17. The secretariat presented the extension of EATL rail and road routes based on countries' inputs and the results of the comparison study between inland transport options and maritime transport along the EATL rail routes.

## **C. Report of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links in the implementation of EATL Phase II**

18. The secretariat and the external consultant of the Expert Group presented the draft report of the Expert Group on implementing Phase II and the results of the EATL projects' prioritization exercise based on country inputs.

19. The Working Party adopted the draft report of the Expert Group on implementing Phase II dated 1 September 2011, circulated by the secretariat and posted on the UNECE website, as amended and improved.

20. The Working Party requested the secretariat to incorporate further comments and inputs received, together with any further improvements to be introduced by it, as necessary and appropriate, into the final draft report and submit it to the Expert Group for consideration and approval, at its seventh session, to be held in Astrakhan, Russian

Federation, 24–25 October 2011 and thereafter to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) seventy-fourth session for endorsement and approval of its publication.

21. The Working Party thanked the Government of the Russian Federation for funding the EATL work throughout the whole Phase II of the project and for the continuation of funding it beyond 2010.

## **D. Future plans**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 4

22. The Working Party noted that the strategic objectives and conclusions contained in the draft report of the Expert Group indicate the critical importance attached to developing Euro-Asian transport links. It also noted that developing Euro-Asian inland transport links would be a long-term undertaking, requiring effort and perseverance, and enhanced coordination and cooperation among all countries along the EATL. Notwithstanding the value of the results achieved after four years of uninterrupted joint work of UNECE and the Governments of 27 participating countries, as well as previous joint work of ECE and ESCAP from 2002–2007 there is still a lot of unfinished work. More importantly, the sustainable development of transport links and priority projects identified in the Phase II, would be seriously impaired if the climate created around the project and the momentum established among participating member States during the Phase II is not sustained. It also noted that in order to enhance prospects for the continuation of the project and related activities in future, as well as to continue implementing concrete results achieved so far, the political will and the commitment from participating Governments, international financial institutions, relevant international organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, are of a crucial importance.

23. In view of the above and the specific recommendation of the EATL Expert Group the Working Party:

- requested the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) 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
- approved the proposal of the Group to seek political support and commitment from participating Governments for the continuation of the EATL work in a new Phase III through the organization of a meeting of Ministers of Transport of EATL countries, and invited the UNECE secretariat to organize it in 2012, preferably in one of the EATL member countries that would be ready to host and support it
- stressed that in such a meeting, Ministers of EATL countries could reaffirm their support and commitment to the project by signing a possible joint statement endorsing the project results and pledging their support for the future development of the Euro-Asian transport links
- thanked OSCE for its political support and for co-funding and coorganizing some of the activities of the project in the course of the last two years, and invited it to consider continuing and further strengthening its support in future, in close cooperation with the UNECE secretariat, including with regard to the above-mentioned Ministerial Meeting
- invited the Steering Committees of the TEM and TER Projects and UNECE secretariat to explore practical ways of ensuring operational interaction of the TEM and TER Projects with EATL for developing joint activities, elaborating studies and

organizing joint events and initiatives aimed at promoting common objectives for the benefit of the projects and their member countries

- Also, invited governments, international governmental and non-governmental organization, international financial institutions, businesses and donors to consider co-funding future project activities; and UNESCAP secretariat to take an active role in the future work of the Expert Group in close cooperation with the UNECE secretariat.

### **E. Other Euro-Asian transport initiatives**

24. The Working Party appreciated the presentation made by the representative of IRU on the IRU Model Highway Initiative (MHI), the New Euroasian Land Transport Initiative (NELTI) project and its substantive results.

25. The Working Party appreciated the presentation made by the representative of EurAsEC on the problems with border crossing issues and his proposal for closer cooperation with the EATL project on projects that have been already announced for implementation at EurAsEC's region.

26. The Working Party appreciated the presentation made by the representative of OSCE and expressed its support to the ongoing OSCE – UNECE cooperation on transportation issues.

## **VI. Transport in the Mediterranean Region (agenda item 5)**

### **A. Report of the Mediterranean Transport Study Centre**

*Documentation:* Informal Document No. 3

27. The representative of CETMO introduced the report on recent activities of CETMO for consideration by the Working Party (Informal document No. 3).

28. 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 2012.

### **B. The Euro-Mediterranean transport network**

29. There was no report made on the subject.

## **VII. Review of the transport situation, emerging trends and challenges in ECE region (agenda item 6)**

### **A. Review of the transport situation in 2010 and emerging trends in the ECE region**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/2011/1 and Corr.1

30. The Working Party took note of the national reports as well as the review of the transport situation in UNECE member countries and of emerging development trends (ECE/TRANS/2011/1 and Corr.1) prepared by the secretariat. The Working Party noted

that the report was prepared by the secretariat based on the inputs received from 24 member countries to a questionnaire sent by the secretariat. The Working Party considered the most important trends in inland transport as follows:

- Signs of economic recovery in 2010 but uneven in the ECE region. Growth in the ECE region will be restrained until 2012
- Strong economic performances in China and India are leading the global recovery from the crisis: the increase in China's and India's exports is creating transport demand in the Asian region
- The transport sector faced challenges in view of the broader global economic difficulties in 2010: lack of funds for investment in infrastructure and extreme weather events that disrupted transport operations
- Road Safety has become one of the top priorities that will dominate policy discussions over the proclaimed decade of Action for Road Safety leading to 2020
- Environmental concerns for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions' reduction pose challenges for automobile manufacturers who will have to adjust to the changing demands in passenger transport.

31. In view of the review to be undertaken in 2012, the Working Party asked member countries to respond to the secretariat's questionnaire on the transport situation in 2011 and expected developments in 2012.

32. The Working Party approved the proposal of the secretariat for the transformation of the report of the review of the transport situation in UNECE member countries and of emerging development trends to an annual publication on transport trends and economics in the ECE region.

## **B. Transport trends and challenges in the Russian Federation**

33. The representative of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation made a presentation on the recent transport developments, trends and challenges in the Russian Federation.

34. The Working Party thanked the representative of the Russian Federation for his report and presentation, which highlighted the recent transport developments, trends and challenges in this country. The Working Party asked the secretariat to identify a country which would be ready to present a report at the next session of WP.5 on the measures it has taken with a view to improving the transport services on the national networks.

## **C. Transport trends and challenges in the road sector**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 5

35. The representative of IRU made a presentation on transport trends and challenges in the road sector. The Working Party noted that the road sector had continuous growth through and after the economic crisis in Brazil, Russia Federation, India and China countries (BRIC) and (TRACECA) countries in both freight and truck registration. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are reaching pre-crisis levels and the European Union countries are recovering but still remaining below pre-crisis levels. According to the IRU representative, to restore sustainable economic growth in 2011 and beyond, governments should recognise, as in the case of BRIC countries, that road transport is a production tool, and should be further facilitated rather



than penalised. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to IRU for the presentation on the analysis of recent road transport trends and challenges.

#### **D. Transport trends and challenges in the rail sector**

36. There was no report made on the subject.

### **VIII. Transport and competitiveness (agenda item 7)**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 6

37. The Working Party took note of the report prepared by the secretariat about the UNECE project “Supply Chain Challenges for National Competitiveness through Transport”. The report provides a literature review analysis towards the understanding of the new role of transport which it is crucial step in developing a methodology for assessing the transport’s contribution to national competitiveness.

38. The Working Party expressed its appreciation for the work carried out.

### **IX. Technical assistance to countries with transition economies (agenda item 8)**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 2

39. The Regional Advisor of the Transport Division of UNECE presented the work carried out concerning capacity-building and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition in the ECE region. The Working Party took note of activities done for the Almaty program of Action, the SPECA project, the TEM and TER projects and cooperation activities with other United Nations bodies and international or regional organizations. Also, the Working Party took note of information on the UNDA project on facilitating climate change mitigation in transport and the UNECE trust fund for assistance with countries in transition (TFACT).

40. The Working Party appreciated the activities done by the Regional Advisor for transport. Invited governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) and indicated the type of assistance which may be forthcoming.

### **X. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party (agenda item 9)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/221

41. The Working Party took note of the decisions of the seventy-third session of the Inland Transport Committee, held from 1 to 3 March 2011 and the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe related to its areas of work and asked the secretariat to be informed about such decisions at its twenty-fifth session in 2012.

## **XI. Adoption of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) (agenda item 10)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/2

42. The Working Party adopted its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures as they were prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/2).

## **XII. Planning of future work (agenda item 11)**

43. The representative of Poland speaking also on behalf of the Polish Presidency of the European Union (EU) said that “We, as the WP.5 of UNECE, are meeting as a global think tank of the transport issues as usual, but we are meeting at the historical moment – not so usual. We have just established a new Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and adaptation for international transport networks, and from another point of view, all of us are facing global challenges and financial disturbances that we have to overcome. At the same time, we hear about the 5-year ECE reform review process” and made a statement in support of the Transport Division work and asking that additional resources are made available to it.

44. The Working Party endorsed the following statement as proposed by the Polish representative speaking also on behalf of the Polish Presidency of EU:

“Knowing as UN member States, that transport is indispensable for any mankind activity and a pre-requisite for human civilization and well-being of our societies, generating a sustainable international cooperation environment, we the WP.5:

- thank the UNECE Transport Division for its efforts and impressive achievements; and
- request the Inland Transport Committee and through it the EXCOM to ensure additional sufficient human and financial resources for the Transport Division for fulfilling our obligations in terms of new needs and challenges of our societies for the benefit of all of us”.

### **A. Review and extension of the mandate of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/3 and Informal document No. 2 of the ITC Bureau meeting of 20 June 2011

45. The Working Party noted that in accordance with the work plan on ECE reform and the approved guidelines by the EXCOM, the mandates of ECE intergovernmental bodies which are subsidiary to a sectoral committee should be reviewed every five years and that the first five-year cycle ends in 2012.

46. In response to the above and following the request of the ITC bureau to the Committee’s subsidiary bodies to initiate the review process, the Working Party considered the matter and decided to request the ITC and through it the EXCOM to approve the continuation of WP.5 for five more years with possibility of further extension.

**B. Possible responses to the challenges identified by the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 2 of the ITC Bureau meeting of 20 June 2011

47. The Working Party took note of the results of the first meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies on the multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral issues requiring further cooperation and the identification of common challenges and possible ways forward (Informal document No. 2 of the ITC Bureau of 20 June 2011).

**C. Programme of work and Evaluation**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/4

48. The Working Party approved its programme of work for 2012–2013 and 2012–2016 as requested by the ECE Executive Committee and the ITC Bureau, and evaluated its accomplishments and indicators of achievement for 2010–2011 (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2011/4).

**XIII. Other business (agenda item 12)**

49. The Working Party took note of UNECE Transport Division Road Map for promoting ITS – 20 global actions 2012–2020 and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out.

**XIV. Date of next session (agenda item 13)**

50. The Working Party's twenty-fifth session is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva on 11 and 12 September 2012.

**XV. Adoption of the report (agenda item 14)**

51. The Working Party adopted the list of main decisions of its twenty-fourth session and request the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report to be circulated to the members of the Working Party for comments on items other than those contained in the list of main decisions.

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