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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Seventy-fifth session**

Geneva, 26–28 February 2013

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee**Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2012****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/224, para. 95), the Bureau of the ITC met on 1 March, 5 June and from 29 to 30 November 2012.
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 the definition of objectives and the setting of time allocation for each item; indication of principal topics where decisions are needed; delineation of themes of discussion of the session; monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session; monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication with the work of other relevant organizations; and proposing of 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 first meeting of the 2012–2013 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (1 March 2012)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Jean-Paul Gailly (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Gogita Gvenetadze (Georgia), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Claudiu Dumitrescu (Romania), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Björn Stafbom (Sweden), Matthias Rinderknecht¹ (Switzerland), Seref Tabak (Turkey) and Niall Leonard (European Commission). Zdenko Antešić (Croatia) and Abdusamat Muminov (Uzbekistan) were unable to attend.

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

2. The Bureau discussed the outcome of the seventy-fourth session of the ITC and felt that the session had been successful, as a number of important decisions had been taken. These included, coordinated development of pan-European and Euro-Asian transport links and transport infrastructure investments; organization of a Ministerial Conference on developing Euro-Asian Transport Links; endorsement of the UNECE Plan to implement the Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011–2020 and monitoring; strengthening of the TIR Convention, ensuring transparency in managing the TIR system and computerization; endorsement of the UNECE Road Map for promoting Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) – 20 global actions 2012–2020; efficient and sustainable inland water transport; fuel quality standards and methodologies for measuring vehicle emissions; transport of dangerous goods and specialized cargoes; inland transport security; transport and competitiveness; and proposals on the review of the UNECE reform in the field of transport and renewal of the mandates of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies.

3. The Bureau concluded that the policy segment (round table) organized in the afternoon of 28 February 2012 on “Intelligent Mobility – thinking about tomorrow’s transport” had also been successful, and offered the opportunity to discuss the main challenges for future developments on ITS. It noted that 143 participants from thirty-seven countries, the European Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and thirty-five international, non-governmental and ITS related organizations had attended this event. UNECE received valued support from governments and stakeholders in its efforts to put ITS on the global agenda and to identify issue areas where UNECE has an opportunity to take a leading role, such as solving liability problems, developing a common definition of ITS, advancing initiatives on variable message signs (VMS), further developing vehicle regulations relevant to ITS, delivering research and data, as well as best practices. Moving forward, UNECE will host annual round tables on ITS, with the intention of unbundling the various issues around ITS and digging deeper into the subject matter. The first annual round table is expected to take place in 2013. The policy

¹ Replacing Jean-Claude Schneuwly.

segment concluded that ITS must be mainstreamed into the discussions of Working Parties. Lacking an institutional forum on ITS at a global level, it was stated that UNECE could be such a Forum where governments could meet and discuss the policy frameworks for ITS.

4. The Bureau welcomed the results of the second 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. Governments discussed the answers to EXCOM questions and the information material in the framework of the UNECE reform. They also focused on issues relating to strengthening cooperation, synergy and interdependence and sharing experiences and stressed that regular cooperation and exchange of good practices amongst the Committee's subsidiary bodies on cross-cutting issues is becoming essential, particularly in view of the rapid technological evolution and changing needs.

5. The Bureau reviewed the structure of the Committee's sessions in light of the experience from the organization of its seventy-fourth session, as well as previous ones and felt that the division of the session into three parts, namely policy-linked with the organization of an event, technical and reporting had been successful and should be maintained. It also felt that the third day of the session could be extended by one hour in the afternoon, so that there is more time available for reporting.

6. The Bureau asked the secretariat to present its proposals for the next session of the Committee based on lessons learned together with an outline of the agenda and programme of the seventy-fifth session for consideration at its June meeting.

7. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventy-fourth 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, stressing that the need for increased resources to the Transport Division and the global importance of the work of the transport subprogramme, particularly in the fields of vehicles regulation, road safety, transport of dangerous goods and border crossing and transit facilitation should be emphasised. It also suggested that some well-known and easily recognized products and instruments of the ITC, such as the green card and the E-road signs, may be included in the presentation to the EXCOM.

III. Date of next meeting

9. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, 5 June 2012 starting at 10.00 a.m.

Annex II

Results of the second meeting of the 2012–2013 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (5 June 2012)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Jean-Paul Gailly (Belgium), Zdenko Antešić (Croatia), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Claudiu Dumitrescu (Romania), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Björn Stafbom (Sweden), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Seref Tabak (Turkey) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Gogita Gvenetadze (Georgia), Antonio Erario (Italy) and Abdusamat Muminov (Uzbekistan) were unable to attend.

2. Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary, UNECE, also attended the meeting and welcomed the members of the Bureau. He and the new members of the Bureau signed the Road Safety Poster "We drive by the rules".

II. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2012/4).

III. Briefing on the cooperation with the International Transport Forum

4. The Bureau was informed by the Director about the cooperation with the International Transport Forum (ITF) 2012 Annual Summit on "Seamless Transport: Making Connections", held in Leipzig 2–4 May 2012 and of the UNECE contribution to this event.

5. The Bureau noted that high-level officials and experts from fifty-three countries, including Ministers, business leaders and academia discussed seamless transport issues and had the opportunity for consultations.

6. The Bureau welcomed UNECE's contribution through the active participation in the Forum as well as in the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) – European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs services (CLECAT) event on e-documents, the organization of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – UNECE side event on the Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings. It stressed that UNECE's participation offered added value to the ITF Summit, while the UNECE stand and the circulation of publications and promotional materials raised the visibility of the work of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies.

7. The Bureau considered UNECE's potential role in ITF 2013 on "Financing Transport" in light of experience from the organization of the past five Summits and provided guidance to the secretariat.

IV. Meeting of the ITC Chair with the Executive Committee

8. The Chair informed the Bureau of his participation in the meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of 17 April 2012 during which ITC review documents (briefing note, template questions and Annex 1 and 2) were presented along with the organizational chart of the UNECE work in the field of transport.

9. The Bureau noted that the ITC request to the EXCOM included the renewal of the mandates of the ITC subsidiary bodies for the next five years, the approval for setting up an Expert Group on safety at road – rail level crossings and of the extension of the duration of the EATL Expert Group for two years.

10. The Bureau was also informed of the planned follow-up to that meeting, including the review of all subprogrammes by the Friends of the EXCOM Chair, aimed at preparing proposals for EXCOM on the review of the UNECE reform.

V. Follow-up to the Second Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies

11. The Bureau was 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-fourth session of the Committee attended the Second meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies, held in the morning of 29 February 2012. The meeting — a restricted meeting for Government delegates only — allowed the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies to focus on the review of the UNECE reform, as well as on issues relating to strengthening cooperation, synergy and interdependence and sharing experiences.

12. At its 1 March 2012 meeting, the Bureau had welcomed the results of this meeting and the Committee's decision that such meetings become a regular feature of its future sessions. The Bureau had also noted that Governments discussed the answers to EXCOM questions and the information material in the framework of the UNECE reform. They also focused on issues relating to strengthening cooperation, synergy and interdependence and sharing experiences and stressed that regular cooperation and exchange of good practices amongst the Committee's subsidiary bodies on cross-cutting issues is becoming essential, particularly in view of the rapid technological evolution and changing needs.

13. 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.

14. The Bureau considered the Informal document No. 1, thanked the secretariat for the preparation of this document and agreed to invite the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies to a meeting with the Bureau aimed at debriefing of the Chairs on the progress of the review of the UNECE reform, to be held in the morning of the first day of its next meeting, if sufficient participation of Chairs is ensured.

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

VI. Road traffic safety

16. The Bureau was informed about the General Assembly resolution on improving global road safety (A/66/L.43 and Add.1) of 19 April 2012. The resolution welcomes the

fact that over 100 countries have already joined the work to implement the goals and objectives of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety, and calls on United Nations Member States to actively conduct activities at the national level in the field of road safety in each of the five major pillars envisaged by the Global Plan of Action of the Decade. These include road safety management, safe roads and transportation system, safe vehicles, considerate road users and rapid response to traffic accidents. The resolution was circulated to the members of the Bureau.

17. The Bureau was also informed about road safety activities planned by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the secretariat, including the publication of the road safety promotional information package; organization of a UNECE road safety event in Armenia supported by the Global Road Safety Facility that is managed by the World Bank; the 2nd UN Road Safety week (6–12 May 2013); decision of the development banks to include road safety component in their road infrastructure investment projects; and plans to hold an additional WP.1 session in New Delhi sometime between March and September 2013.

VII. Transport Infrastructure projects

18. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress and future plans of the Euro-Asian transport links (EATL) Group of Experts.

19. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat about the progress of the TEM and TER projects.

20. The Bureau appreciated the progress made, welcomed the information provided by the Chair on Poland's intention to actively participate in the work of the EATL Project and noted the need for TEM and TER member countries to propose candidates for the post of the TEM and TER Project Manager that would replace the current one upon the end of his assignment at the end of next year. They also noted the request of the secretariat to TEM and TER national coordinators, extended to ITC Bureau members, to submit written proposals on TEM and TER project management beyond 2013, directly to the secretariat by the end of August 2012.

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

21. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress of the implementation of the digital tachograph in the ECE region and of the results of the first session of the Expert Group on AETR (Geneva, 2 March 2012).

IX. Group of experts on unified railway law

22. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the results of the first meeting of the friends of the Chair of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), dedicated to the unified railway law and to the future plans UNECE Group of Experts.

X. Climate change and transport

A. Mitigation of environmentally harmful effects of inland transport

23. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the progress of the United Nations Development Account funded global project for Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS), being implemented together with all other United Nations regional commissions, including the results of the International Expert Meeting (Geneva, 24 April 2012) under the project.

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

24. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress of the work of the Expert Group on climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks and the preparation of the UNECE International Conference on “Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change” which was to be held in Alexandroupolis, Greece on 25–26 June 2012, kindly hosted by Evros Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association under the auspices of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic.

XI. Intelligent Transport System (ITS)

25. The Bureau discussed the follow-up to the ITC policy segment on ITS (28 February 2012), the status of the implementation of the ITS Road Map and the cooperation with the ITS World Congress and its ministerial session (Vienna, 22–26 October 2012).

XII. Preparing for the seventy-fifth session of Inland Transport Committee

26. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 2 containing the outline agenda and programme for the organization of the seventy-fifth 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.

27. The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the preparation of Informal document No. 2 and agreed with the proposed preliminary programme. It also agreed that the morning session of the first day of the seventy-fifth session of the Committee would be devoted to the Second Meeting of Ministers of Transport of countries in the Euro-Asian region to endorse the results of the Phase II of the EATL Project and sign a joint statement/declaration pledging priority development of the identified routes and projects, as well as further support to the continuation of the EATL project in a new Phase III. The targeted audience would include Transport Ministers of EATL countries and of other UNECE member States, as well as senior government officials, representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

28. The Bureau requested the secretariat to start preparing for the event, communicate the preliminary agenda of the seventy-fifth session of the Committee to its members by 15 October 2012 for comments and proceed with the organization of the seventy-fifth session of the Committee and its related events accordingly.

XIII. Resource and staffing requirements of the Transport Division

29. The Bureau was informed about the recruitment process and results concerning the vacant posts in the Division.

30. Noting the forthcoming retirement of Mr. Adamantiadis after 12 years of work in the UNECE Transport Division, as Secretary of the ITC and its Bureau (preparing and servicing six ITC sessions and twenty-four Bureau meetings and promoting cooperation, policy dialogue and consensus building among member countries), as well as Chief of Transport Facilitation and Economics Section (supervising and guiding the developments of UNECE work and contribution in the fields of road transport and road safety, border crossing facilitation and transport trends and economics) and previously as Regional Adviser on Transport (providing administrative and technical backstopping and new impetus to TEM and TER Project for the elaboration of their Master Plan, the development of pan-European, Euro-Asian and transcontinental transport linkages, also under the EATL project), the Bureau expressed its appreciation and thanks to Mr. Adamantiadis for his commitment and devotion in achieving the goals and objectives of the ITC and raising its relevance and visibility at subregional, regional and global scale.

XIV. Other business

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

31. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 3 prepared by the secretariat containing the revised version of the schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings 2013–2014 approved by the Bureau at its 29–30 November 2011 meeting.

32. The Bureau agreed with the proposed revised schedule of meetings.

B. Bureau documents

33. The Chair asked the secretariat to prepare written reports about important items for discussion at future Bureau meetings.

C. Date of next meeting

34. The Bureau noted that its next meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday, 29–30 November 2012.

Annex III

Results of the third meeting of the 2012–2013 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (29–30 November 2012)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Jean-Paul Gailly (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Richard Roemers (Netherlands),² Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Björn Stafbom (Sweden), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Seref Tabak (Turkey) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Zdenko Antesić (Croatia), Gogita Gvenetadze (Georgia), Claudiu Dumitrescu (Romania), Abdusamat Muminov (Uzbekistan) and Niall Leonard (European Commission), were unable to attend.

II. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: Informal document TRANS/BUR.2012/6

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2012/6), without further amendments.

III. Activities of the Executive Committee and the Commission

Documentation: Informal document No. 2

3. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the UNECE Transport Division that, on 30 November 2012, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) would meet to discuss, inter alia, the subprogramme Transport within the context of the review of the 2005 Reform. In view of the importance of these discussions, Bureau members were encouraged to accompany the national representative(s) from their missions and participate in the session.

4. The Bureau discussed Informal document No. 2, containing the draft agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, which will be held from 9–11 April 2013. Further to the title of the session “Enabling the shift to a sustainable future” and the various proposed panel discussions, the Bureau recalled the 2011 UNECE publication “Transport for sustainable development in the UNECE region” and agreed that it seemed appropriate to submit an updated version of this publication for consideration to EXCOM, in preparation of the Commission session, conveying the clear message that, in order to face the challenges of sustainability (in general and not limited to transport only), it is required that new developments are quickly put into place, such as the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). Furthermore, the Bureau agreed that all efforts should be undertaken to support the inclusion of sustainable transport as a topic to be covered by the future Sustainable Development Goal.

² Replacing Bob Oudshoorn.

IV. Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies in the closed session of ITC

Documentation: Informal document No. 3

5. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 3, containing the draft agenda for a closed session of ITC– restricted to government delegates only, dedicated to a meeting of the Chairs of ITC subsidiary bodies and administrative committees of UNECE legal instruments.

6. The Bureau reconfirmed the relevance of such meetings taking place at regular intervals, but was unsure if Chairs of subsidiary bodies would be in a position (for various reasons) to attend meetings, which are not organized in conjunction with ITC sessions. Thus, the Bureau decided that this issue should be included in the draft agenda, in order to seek the Chairs' opinion thereof.

7. Further to the above, the Bureau agreed with the draft agenda, as prepared by the secretariat, but decided that, at this point in time, there was no need to ask Chairs to present the Rules of Procedure of their respective Working Parties. The Bureau requested the secretariat to transmit an official invitation together with the draft agenda to the various Chairs, providing them sufficient time to ensure their participation in the meeting. At the request of the Bureau, the letter from the secretariat should clearly stress that their interventions should be limited in time and to the topic of the session, highlighting challenges in the application of legal instruments administered by, rather than reporting on the activities of their respective Working parties.

8. In order to facilitate the access from outside to the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the various working parties and administrative committees serviced by UNECE, the Bureau requested the secretariat to also present them more prominently on the Transport Division's homepage.

9. The Bureau took note of the information that EXCOM, as part of the review of the 2005 Reform, was in the process of finalizing new guidelines on procedures and practices for UNECE bodies, which have been prepared without prior consultation with, inter alia, the Transport Division. Taking account of the fact that various subsidiary bodies of the Committee have only recently reviewed or amended their Rules of Procedure, there is, for the future, a potential risk of divergence, or even controversy.

V. Road traffic safety

Documentation: Informal document No 4

10. The Bureau welcomed Informal document No. 4, providing an overview of activities in pursuit of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/66/260 of 23 May 2012, which calls on United Nations Member States to implement various road safety activities related to each of the five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action, namely road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users and post-crash response. The resolution also requests that the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week (UNRSW) (6–12 May 2013) pay particular attention to vulnerable road users. The Bureau took note that within the framework of UNRSW, UNECE, in cooperation with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and other stakeholders, would organize the International Level Crossing Awareness Day on 7 May 2013 in Geneva, to raise awareness among road users and pedestrians of the risks at level crossings and to change their behaviour.

11. The Bureau took note of the information that the European Commission's contribution to UNRSW will be held on 6 May 2013 and will focus on the safety of pedestrians in urban areas. In addition, the European Commission is organizing a joint campaign with EU member States under the name "not a single pedestrian victim in urban areas".

VI. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe activities related to the Almaty Programme of Action

Documentation: Informal document No. 5

12. The Bureau took note of Informal document No. 5, which provides a summary of the UNECE activities and contributions to the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action (APoA), in preparation for its 10 year review, which will be held in 2014. APoA aims at fostering cooperation and forging partnerships in order to overcome the many shortfalls faced by land-locked developing countries (LLDC). Among UNECE member countries there are nine LLDC: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, some of which are also members of UNESCAP. A joint preparatory meeting for the 10 year review will be organized by UNECE and UNESCAP on 5–7 March 2013 in Vientiane.

13. The Bureau expressed its support for the UNECE activities and contributions to APoA for the whole ECE region, and in particular for those UNECE member countries which are LLDC.

VII. Follow-up to Rio+20 and new developments in the field of transport

Documentation: Informal document No. 6

14. The Bureau approved Informal document No. 6, prepared by the secretariat and containing an overview of activities as follow-up to Rio+20 and the 5 year Action Agenda of the UN Secretary-General to further to cause of including sustainable transport as an additional priority under the section Green Economy and as part of the future Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The Bureau was of the opinion that the document provided an appropriate follow-up to a request by the Committee, at its seventy-fourth session, to its members to pay appropriate attention to transport issues in the context of preparing for the forthcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development, including the possibility of inclusion of a SDG on transport (ECE/TRANS/224, paragraph 14). The Bureau requested the secretariat to submit Informal document No. 6 to the Committee as background paper for discussion at its seventy-fifth session.

VIII. Capacity-building by the UNECE Transport Division

Documentation: Informal document No. 7

15. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 7 by the secretariat and agreed that it provided an in-depth overview of all activities of the UNECE Transport Division over the last ten years in the fields of technical assistance and capacity-building. At the same time, the Bureau felt that the document could be further improved by adding information on the use of resources and by providing more considerations with regard to the strategic relevance of technical assistance and capacity building for the future activities of the

UNECE Transport Division. In particular, the Bureau requested the secretariat to include in the document, at least, the following strategic observations:

- (a) Capacity building should not be considered as a separate activity, but as an integral part of the efforts by the UNECE Transport Division to support and strengthen the other two main pillars of its activities (viz: legal/political and analytical);
- (b) Efforts should be undertaken to assess how, within the existing structures, more technical assistance could be made available to countries beyond the ECE region in order to support the global outreach of UNECE legal instruments in the field of transport;
- (c) In view of the current resource limitations, careful consideration should be given to generating extra-budgetary funds to support the Transport Division's activities in the field of technical assistance and capacity-building.

IX. EATL Ministerial and other ITC related events

Documentation: Informal document No. 8; Informal document No. 9; Informal document No. 10

16. The Bureau recalled that the morning session of the first day of the forthcoming ITC (26–28 February 2013) would be devoted to the Second Meeting of Ministers of Transport of countries in the Euro-Asian region to endorse the results of the Phase II of the Euro-Asian Transport Linkage (EATL) Project and to sign a joint statement on the EATL cooperation. To that end, the Bureau took note that the draft report of Phase II of the AETL project will be available towards the end of January 2013 as document ECE/TRANS/230 and considered Informal document No. 8, containing the “Draft Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links”. Although some members of the Board provided suggestions for further improvement, the Board understood that, at this stage, no further amendments of a substantial nature could be made and approved the text of joint statement.

17. The Board considered Informal document No. 9, containing the “Draft Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law”. The Board expressed its satisfaction with the fact that, after extensive preparations, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), had finally reached agreement on the draft text. However, looking at the scope of the declaration, Bureau members wondered if that many ministers (or their accredited representatives) would sign it. The secretariat stressed that, in addition to all UNECE member States, countries to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and the Agreement on Direct International Goods Transport by Rail and Procedure Instruction attached thereto (SMGS) had been invited and that it expected a maximum number of countries to sign the declaration.

18. The Board approved the draft programme of the Ministerial meeting on 26 February 2013 as well as of two conferences taking place on 25 February 2013 (Informal document No. 10), dedicated to road and rail financing.

19. The Board expressed its support for the organization of an exhibition to mark the occasion of the seventy-fifth Jubilee session of the Committee, aimed at show casing infrastructure achievements which make inland transport routes operational.

X. Preparation of the seventy-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/235; ECE/TRANS/235/Add.1

20. The Bureau considered document ECE/TRANS/235, containing the draft agenda of the seventy-fifth session of the Committee, as tentatively approved at its June 2012 session. The Bureau agreed with the contents of the draft agenda, but felt that the structure needed improvement, in order to allow the Committee to dedicate more time to meeting with the Chairs of subsidiary bodies and to discussing regulatory issues dealt with by the Committee's subsidiary bodies. Subject to these changes, the Bureau approved the draft agenda.

21. The Bureau considered and approved document ECE/TRANS/235/Add.1, containing the draft annotated agenda, subject to minor changes. In order to ensure that the meeting of ITC would be conducted in the most efficient way, the Bureau requested the secretariat to inform the Chairs of subsidiary bodies that their contributions under agenda item III (Transport policy and regulatory issues dealt with by the Committee's subsidiary bodies), should be short, to the point and should highlight main achievements only. The Bureau reconfirmed that item III is not intended to include references to the various reports of subsidiary bodies, as these will be approved separately, under agenda item IV, 7 (a) of the agenda (Approval of the reports of the Committee's subsidiary bodies). The Bureau requested the secretariat to inform the Chairs of subsidiary bodies that the time limit for their presentations will be limited, most probably not exceeding 5 minutes, and will be strictly observed.

XI. Resource and staffing requirements of the Transport Division

22. The Bureau took note of information on the recruitment process and results with regard to vacant posts in the Division. The Bureau, while fully acknowledging the competence of the UNECE Executive Secretary in resource and staffing issues, kindly appealed to his authority to ensure that all resources, once allocated to the Transport Division, remain fully honoured.

XII. Other business

A. Access to documents

23. The Bureau mandated the secretariat to assess how to better inform members of meetings, including access to restricted ITC Bureau documents, possibly by creating a separate ITC Bureau webpage, with restricted access (username and password) for Bureau members only.

B. Date of next meeting

24. The Bureau decided to hold its next session on Monday 25 February 2013, from 15.00–18.00.