



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2019

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Thirty-second session

Geneva, 2–4 September 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-second session*, **

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Monday,
2 September 2019, Room XII, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop on strengthening security on inland freight routes.
3. Workshop on quantifying transport costs for landlocked developing countries.
4. Ports Hinterland connections.
5. Monitoring of the developments in pan-European transport networks:
 - (a) The European Commission briefing on the progress made in developing the Trans-European Transport Network;
 - (b) Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects.
6. Transport in the Mediterranean Region:
 - (a) Report of the Mediterranean Transport Study Centre;
 - (b) The Euro-Mediterranean transport network;
 - (c) Report of the Union for the Mediterranean;

* Delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the ECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=iRIqQh or to complete the registration form available for download at the ECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the ECE secretariat two weeks prior to the session by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org). Delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on our website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

- (d) Project for a Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar: report on activities carried out during the period 2017–2019 and programme proposed for the period 2020–2022.
- 7. Euro-Asian Transport Links:
 - (a) Progress in Euro-Asian Transport Links work;
 - (b) International Transport Infrastructure Observatory;
 - (c) Other Euro-Asian transport corridors.
- 8. Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs.
- 9. Urban mobility and Public Transport: Pan-European master plan for cycling and Sustainable mobility and urban planning.
- 10. Climate Change and Transport:
 - (a) Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes;
 - (b) Climate Change mitigation: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe For Future Inland Transport Systems tool.
- 11. Review of the transport situation, transport trends and economics in ECE region:
 - (a) Transport Trends and Economics 2018–2019: Mobility as a Service;
 - (b) Transport Trends and Challenges in the road, rail and inland waterways sectors;
 - (c) ECE Transport statistics analysis.
- 12. Technical assistance to countries with economies in transition.
- 13. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party.
- 14. Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2020–2021 and Work Plan for 2018–2022.
- 15. Other business.
- 16. Date of next session.
- 17. Adoption of main decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda for its thirty-second session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/65

2. Workshop on strengthening security on inland freight routes

The secretariat in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and other partners will hold a workshop on strengthening security on inland freight routes. The workshop will give WP.5 the opportunity to discuss recurrent and emerging transport security issues as well as existing solutions for addressing these issues. It will also allow to consider the solutions and identify ways forward and the role for the international community, including for WP.5, to mainstream or further enhance the solutions or their implementation.

Informal document No.1 contains the programme for the workshop.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

3. Workshop on quantifying transport costs for landlocked developing countries

The secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and other partners will hold a workshop on quantifying transport costs for landlocked developing countries. This workshop will give WP.5 the opportunity to take stock of the various approaches and methodologies used to quantify transport costs, consider gaps and discuss tools to further develop cost quantification for landlocked countries by international community, including by WP.5.

Informal document No.2 contains the programme for the workshop.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

4. Ports Hinterland connections

The secretariat will inform WP.5 on the progress in including the data collected in the Mediterranean Network (MedNet) programme in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) International Transport Infrastructure Observatory.

WP.5 will be invited to consider the information provided. WP.5 may then wish to establish an agenda item on "ECE-led International Transport Infrastructure Observatory" with the current item on "Ports Hinterland connections" to be placed as a sub-item.

5. Monitoring of the developments in pan-European transport networks

(a) The European Commission briefing on the progress made in developing the Trans-European Transport Network

The European Commission will brief WP.5 about the recent progress of TEN-T activities and extending the network to countries neighbouring the European Union.

(b) Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects

The managers of the TEM (Trans-European Motorway) (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/1) and TER (Trans-European Railway) (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/2) projects will inform WP.5 about the activities implemented over the reporting period 2018–2019.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/2

6. Transport in the Mediterranean Region

(a) Report of the Mediterranean Transport Study Centre

The Mediterranean Transport Study Centre (CETMO) will update WP.5 on CETMO activities.

(b) The Euro-Mediterranean transport network

The European Commission will brief WP.5 on its activities in developing the Euro-Mediterranean transport network.

(c) Report of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) secretariat will brief WP.5 on its activities in developing the Mediterranean transport network.

(d) Project for a Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar: report on activities carried out during the period 2017–2019 and programme proposed for the period 2020–2022.

The secretariat will inform WP.5 about the Project for a Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Informal document No. 3).

Documentation

Informal document No. 3

7. Euro-Asian Transport Links

(a) Progress on Euro-Asian Transport Links work

The Inland Transport Committee at its eighty-first session (ECE/TRANS/288, para. 22) expressed its support to WP.5 to continue its work on the operationalization of Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and other transport corridors. Under the term “operationalization” the following topics are covered: harmonization and simplification of border-crossing formalities, infrastructure connections and interoperability standards, efficient corridor management and bringing the standards and rules/regulations in line with international standards, in particular those provided in the United Nations transport conventions, as well as application of new technologies and digitalization.

WP.5 may wish to set up a new agenda item on “Operationalisation of Transport Links/Corridors” and include therein all existing items on transport networks and monitoring. Under this item, WP.5 should serve as a platform to foster and to monitor operationalisation activities along key corridors and exchange information and share experience. In this way,

WP.5 would manage the operationalisation of transport links/corridors, building up on the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, phases I, II and III, and their findings and recommendations. Such a development would constitute a natural continuation of the past effort invested by WP.5 in EATL project.

In this context, WP.5 may wish to:

- Review the networks and corridors and agree on key corridors under its purview;
- Consider establishment of key corridor management groups to manage and facilitate the operationalisation activities on the basis of agreed plans; and/or
- Set up a programme/process of corridor operationalisation performance review (COPR) based on the rationale of a well-established programme of Environmental Performance Review. In such a programme, a performance of a country could be assessed vis-à-vis the operationalisation objectives agreed for an international corridor or corridors crossing that country. WP.5 at its sessions would be then peer-reviewing the conclusions and recommendations from each COPR as well as monitor their implementations.

Informal document No.4 elaborates on the options provided above.

Documentation

Informal document No. 4

(b) International Transport Infrastructure Observatory

The secretariat will report on the progress in setting up the ECE-led International Transport Infrastructure Observatory. More specifically, it will inform about challenges faced and ways to address these challenges.

WP.5 will be invited to consider the information provided. With reference to item 4, WP.5 will be invited to establish a self-standing agenda item on ECE-led International Transport Infrastructure Observatory

(c) Other Euro-Asian transport corridors

Representatives of other organizations and/or institutions may wish to brief WP.5 about their activities along various corridors, such as BRI, CAREC or TRACECA corridors. In view of its decision under item 7 (a), WP.5 may wish to discontinue inclusion of item 7 (c) in its agenda.

8. Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs

The Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs resumed its work after its mandate had been extended until end of June 2020. The Chair of the Group of Experts and the secretariat will report on the outcome of the eighth session of the Group of Experts which should have taken place on 15 and 16 July 2019.

WP.5 will be invited to consider the progress reported from the Group of Experts. It then may wish to provide further guidance and directions to the Group of Experts.

9. Urban Mobility and Public Transport: Pan-European master plan for cycling and Sustainable mobility and urban planning

The secretariat will report on the preparation of the infrastructure module of the THE PEP¹ Pan-European Cycling Master Plan.

¹ Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

The secretariat will further report on the elaboration of a Handbook on Sustainable Mobility and Urban Planning (Informal document No. 5). The workshop organized during the thirtieth session of WP.5 on “Integrated Transport and Urban Development including environmental, health and quality of live perspective” reached an agreement on the content of the Handbook.

WP.5 should consider the information on the THE PEP pan-European Cycling Master Plan and take note of the Handbook on Sustainable Mobility and Urban Planning. With regard to the latter, WP.5 may wish to explore possibilities for a follow-up.

Documentation

Informal document No. 5

10. Climate Change and Transport

(a) Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes and the secretariat will present the report on the implementation of the Group’s mandate (Informal document No. 6, Conclusions and recommendations as ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/3).

The Chair will further make a proposal for the continuation of work on the adaptation of transport assets to climate change based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Group’s report. To this end, he will present a proposal for a new mandate for the Group of Experts and draft terms of reference (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/4).

WP.5 will be expected to consider the report and endorse its conclusions and recommendations. WP.5 will be also expected to consider the new mandate and terms of reference.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/4, Informal document No. 6

(b) Climate Change mitigation: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe For Future Inland Transport Systems tool

The secretariat will update WP.5 about the developments on the “For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS)” project during 2018–2019.

11. Review of the transport situation, transport trends and economics in ECE region

(a) Transport Trends and Economics 2018–2019: Mobility as a Service

WP.5, at its last session, decided that the discussion on a Road map on the contributions of member States and of the Working Party sessions in implementing the 2030 Agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2018/4) should be discussed at the current session in parallel to discussing the WP.5 plan of work.

This discussion, at the request of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/288, para. 25), should be facilitated by a document prepared by the secretariat presenting the work of the ECE Inland Transport Committee’s Working Parties towards assisting the ECE member States in achieving the inland transport-related Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/5).

WP.5 may wish to consider establishing a self-standing agenda item on trends in achieving transport-related Sustainable Development Goals.

The secretariat will present the draft publication on Mobility as a Service (Informal document No. 7).

WP.5 will be invited to consider the draft publication and endorse it.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2018/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/5, Informal document No. 7

(b) Transport Trends and Challenges in the road, rail and inland waterway sectors

WP.5 may wish to consider evolving trends and challenges in the inland transport sectors and contemplate if it should undertake any specific analytical work on such trends and challenges in addition to the ongoing work.

(c) ECE Transport statistics analysis

The secretariat will present its work and transport statistics data for 2018.

12. Technical assistance to countries with economies in transition

The Regional Adviser will inform WP.5 about on technical assistance activities provided by ECE to countries with economies in transition (Informal document No. 8).

The Secretariat will provide information on the ongoing implementation of a United Nations Development Account's project on developing a set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN).

WP.5 will be then invited to discuss the information and provide its recommendations on transport issues on which technical assistance should be strengthened and to provide its feedback on the SITCIN project.

Documentation

Informal document No. 8

13. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party

The secretariat will inform WP.5 about the main decisions of the eighty first session of the Inland Transport Committee (Geneva, 19–22 February 2019) on issues of its interest.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/288

14. Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2020–2021 and Work Plan for 2018–2022

WP.5 may wish to consider the decision of the Inland Transport Committee, who at its eighty first session, requested the secretariat to discontinue the preparation of programmatic documents with a biennial coverage previously adopted by the Committee, including on evaluation and monitoring, since they will no longer be relevant for the new programmatic cycle.

Further to that decision, WP.5 will be invited to consider whether the biennial programme of work and the five-year plan be maintained and, if so, in which format. The secretariat prepared ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/6 containing draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2020–2021 and long-term programme of work.

WP.5 may wish then to set up its biennial work plan. When doing so, WP.5 may wish to consider the impacts of the ongoing United Nations reform and budgetary situation.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/6

15. Other business

At the time of drafting this provisional agenda, there were no proposals under this item.

16. Date of next session

The WP.5 thirty-third session is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 7 to 9 September 2020.

17. Adoption of main decisions

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party taken at its fifteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 56), decisions taken at the session will be adopted at the end of the session. The report of the session, including the decisions, will be established by the Chair and Vice-Chair with the assistance of the secretariat, for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.
