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DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN TRANSPORT DATABASE SYSTEM

Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Databases

Note by the secretariat

1. BACKGROUND

At its thirteenth session, the Working Party learned about the progress made in the development of the TEM and TER databases, and of other activities undertaken by the ECE on the design and implementation of a European Transport Database System (TDS).

With a view to identifying only data needs that could develop its activities concerning the coherence of the European Transport System in the future, the Working Party asked the secretariat to report on the progress made in the development of these transport database systems (TRANS/WP.5/28, para. 41). Following this request, the secretariat has produced this note.

2. TEM AND TER DATABASES

The TEM and TER projects have developed databases that primarily intend to serve as a means for the follow-up of the implementation of the projects. Accordingly, each network is split into a large number of sections, and detailed information on traffic, infrastructure parameters and

on the degree of progress of the construction projects is gathered. Both databases are supported by Geographic Information Systems (ArcView (TEM) and Mapinfo (TER)).

The degree of data availability is different for TEM and TER. Whether the TEM database is fully operational, the TER database has been developed in two parts. The first part of the TER database includes 50 % of data on the traffic, infrastructure, and rolling stock. The second part of the TER database includes more detailed information on the nodes, railway rolling stocks and combined transport. Further it includes information about freight transport commodities, railway staff and productivity of rail transport.

The TEM Project has 2 databases – TEMSTAT 1 and 2. TEMSTAT 1 comprises data on the existing and future network of motorways and expressways in the member countries, while TEMSTAT 2 reflects the status of the existing national road systems, fulfilling the function of missing connections. Both databases are supported by graphic presentation (maps).

3. AGR DATABASE

The Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) is preparing the Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries for the year 2000. For the first time the European Commission is collaborating on the project. Therefore, the forthcoming database will include not only data on the E-Roads, but also on the supplementary roads in the TEN-T and TINA networks.

The Intersecretariat Working Group (IWG : UNECE, CEMT and Eurostat) is involved in the development of a Web-based Common Questionnaire that will enhance the efficiency of the transport data collection. The new questionnaire, based on web dynamic technology, will allow data providers to input their data directly into a database.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

The identification of data needs which will permit to develop a coherent European Transport System in the future is still under preparation. The data collected is not yet covering the whole region and does not include the E-networks. No assessment of future data needs were performed this year in order to improve data collection for the rail sector, so that it is put in line with road data.

In view of this lack of pertinent data for the development of a coherent European Transport System the informal meeting proposed under item 9 (b) may be charged to consider this question likewise in the context of its work on thresholds regarding the quality of transport services.
