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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Statistics  
(Fifty-second session, 14-16 November 2001,  
agenda item 12 (c))

**ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY**

**Proposal for a collaboration between the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the  
Intersecretariat Working Group on transport statistics (IWG)**

**Note by the UIC and the Secretariat**

**I. IWG ROLE**

1. In February 1991, the Intersecretariat Working Group on transport statistics (IWG), was created by EUROSTAT, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the UNECE. The main task of the IWG is to harmonize as far as possible transport statistics at the international level, in order to allow a better comparability of the data published by the three organizations, to simplify statistical procedures and also to reduce the statistical burden over member States.
2. To carry out this task successfully, the IWG has to cooperate with specialized and professional organizations with expertise in the transport sector.

**II. UIC ROLE**

3. Created in 1927, UIC has made available since 1932 reliable statistics compiled in an international environment which are published in its main known publication "International Railway Statistics". Based on leaflets, rules defined and applied by UIC members, UIC has

been co-operating with international organizations for many years. Furthermore, UIC Statistics

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Centre Correspondents are in many cases the same contact for National Statistical Institutes: so the Common Questionnaire is well known to railway companies.

### **III. BACKGROUND**

4. On 6 March 2001, the UIC Statistical Group invited the members of the Intersecretariat Working Group (i.e. UNECE, ECMT and Eurostat) to participate in a discussion regarding an eventual cooperation.
5. UNECE, CEMT and Eurostat are pleased with the interest that UIC has shown in the work of the IWG. They are aware of the important role that the UIC has to play in the matter of rail transport. Therefore, cooperation between the organizations would certainly increase the efficiency of the work as well as the reliability of the statistical data.
6. The following proposal, if accepted by the member States, could hopefully benefit all concerned:

### **IV. DATA EXCHANGE**

#### Data

7. The IWG would be pleased to receive, in an electronic format, UIC data for all variables contained in the Common Questionnaire (CQ) of Transport Statistics and for all the 55 UNECE member countries. As a counterpart, the IWG would send to the UIC the data on other transport modes in a similar format.

#### Schedule

8. The exchange of data should take place as soon as the data have been processed and validated by the respective organizations.

#### Data Use/Data Status

9. The data will have 2 types of status:
  - Status “provisional”: these data will not have been yet published officially. These data can only be used for internal purposes.
  - Status “published”: these data will have been published officially (on paper or electronic format). These data can be only used in official documents or IT application where public users could have access.

#### IWG

10. The IWG will be free to use the UIC data for internal and external purposes.
  - *Internal purposes*: see “Copyright”

- *External purposes:* The UIC data will not be used as official data unless a country mandates the UIC as a data provider. In consequence, this data will only be used in models that will calculate statistical estimates for missing data. These estimates will be mentioned as based on UIC data.

## UIC

11. The UIC will be free to use the CQ data for internal and external purposes.
  - Internal purposes: see “Copyright”
  - External purposes: see “Copyright”
    - ⇒ small volume of data : free of charge
    - ⇒ large volume of data : a special agreement will be needed

## Copyright

12. Data use will be free of charge. Although the source will have to be specified by the following texts: “Source: UIC” or “Source: IWG Common Questionnaire (UNECE, CEMT and Eurostat)”.

## **V. METHODOLOGY**

13. The UIC will be a main partner of the IWG when it comes to rail methodological work. The IWG and UIC will make the maximum effort to ensure data comparability across transport modes.

## **VI. KEY MEETINGS FOR IWG TO PRESENT THEIR NEEDS TO UIC**

14. The IWG could take the advice of UIC when it comes to introducing new variables. On the basis of documents approved by IWG, UIC will provide comments within 3 months. In addition, the IWG will have the opportunity to participate at least once a year in the UIC Statistics Group to present their work and needs.

## **VII. KEY MEETINGS FOR UIC TO PRESENT THEIR NEEDS TO IWG**

15. The UIC will have the possibility to underline the rail data which are not easy to provide by the railways. The IWG will provide comments at the following UNECE WP.6 meeting.
  16. The UIC could make proposals to introduce new variables. The IWG will provide comments at the following UNECE WP.6 meeting.
  17. The UIC will have the opportunity to participate once a year in the UNECE WP.6 meeting to present their work and needs. In addition, UIC could be invited to IWG meetings when rail questions have to be discussed.
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