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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport  
Working Party on Rail Transport

Joint Meeting of the Working Parties on  
Combined Transport and Rail Transport  
(First session, 19 April 2001,  
agenda item 3 (c))

**THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT**

**Note by the Chairman**

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1. In the framework of the Joint Meeting of the Working Party on Combined Transport and the Working Party on Rail (TRANS/WP.24/2001/1 and TRANS/SC.2/2001/2) it is important to focus on a positive discussion which will move forward the understanding of combined transport. The principal objectives of the meeting are:

- (a) To explore the views of governments with regard to combined transport, the extent to which it is seen as fitting into transport policy, and the extent to which it is seen as offering benefits to the environment, the community, and the economy.
- (b) To underline the partnership between the railway companies, road hauliers, and combined transport operators which is essential to the working of combined transport.
- (c) To explore the approaches necessary to ensure the promotion of combined transport that is viable for all the partners.
- (d) To explore the possibility of a closer approach between these partners, between those responsible at government level for the different sectors concerned, and in particular to consider the role of the UN/ECE and other intergovernmental bodies.

2. The meeting should be carried out in the most constructive manner and result in good pointers to the way in which combined transport could be viewed and handled at government level in the future.

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