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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Inland Transport Committee

**Eighty-third session**

Geneva, 23–26 February 2021  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda  
**Adoption of the agenda**

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighty-third session[[1]](#footnote-2)\*, [[2]](#footnote-3)\*\*

Addendum

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, and virtually starting at 11 a.m. on Tuesday,   
23 February 2021

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/303 and Add.1

I. Policy oriented segment

2. Back to a sustainable future: achieving resilient connectivity for post-COVID-19 sustained recovery and economic growth

Building on recommendations by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and Bureau debates, the general theme of the policy segment will be on Back to a sustainable future: achieving resilient connectivity for post-COVID-19 sustained recovery and economic growth (ECE/TRANS/2021/1). This theme will provide an opportunity to reflect on the unique assets of the Committee, highlighting its value added and underlining its future potential in a heavily impacted global economy due to the pandemic as well as a fast-changing production and trade landscape regionally and globally. The high-level policy segment will consist of two panels:

(a) Leveraging existing international transport connectivity solutions as enablers of economic growth and development: what room for enhanced international agreements?

(b) First or last response in a global emergency? International transport conventions as a catalyst of concerted national responses

The meeting will conclude with the announcement of the Ministerial Resolution on Enhancing resilient inland transport connectivity in emergency situations: an urgent call for concerted action (ECE/TRANS/2021/2).

The Committee’s attending Heads of Delegations of Contracting Parties are **invited to endorse** the Ministerial Resolution.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/1, ECE/TRANS/2021/2

II. 11th Meeting for Government Delegates only with the Participation of the Chairs of the Committee’s Subsidiary Bodies

3. Meeting on the implementation of the ITC Strategy for Government Delegates only with the Participation of the Chairs of the Committee’s Subsidiary Bodies

The Committee **may wish to recall** that, following the adoption at its eighty-first session of the ITC Strategy until 2030 (ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2), it had welcomed at its eighty-second session ongoing alignment activities by its Working Parties. In response to the Committee’s invitation to its subsidiary bodies to take follow-up actions to align their work with the ITC Strategy (ECE/TRANS/288, paras. 15 (a) and (c)) the Committee requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Working Parties and in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare a report on alignment activities of Working Parties as well as possible future activity for the consideration of the Committee at its eighty-third session (ECE/TRANS/294, para. 19). In line with this decision, the Committee will have the opportunity **to be apprised** of the status of the implementation of the ITC Strategy and proposed future steps (ECE/TRANS/2021/3).

The Committee **may also recall** that at its eighty-second session, as part of the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030, it adopted the ITC Capacity Development Action Plan (2020–2025) (ECE/TRANS/294, para. 118). The Committee **will also be informed** about ongoing activities in the implementation of its Capacity Development Action Plan.

Further substantive aspects of the implementation of the ITC Strategy are integrated in the regular session items of the annotated agenda.

The Committee **may recall** that at its eighty-second session it had requested the secretariat to conduct research on provisions in existing frameworks and new needed areas of work to promote cooperation between transport authorities in the field of counteracting the effects of emergency situations of cross-country nature, including epidemics and pandemics, and present this information to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) for consideration of further steps (ECE/TRANS/294, para 15). Further to its request, the Committee **will be presented** with a report prepared by the secretariat, with inputs from the informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis (ECE/TRANS/2021/4). The Committee **will be invited** to consider the key recommendations of the prepared report and **endorse** possible next steps to be taken.

The Chairs of the Administrative Committees and of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies, the members of the Bureau and government delegates attending the eighty-third session of the Committee are **invited to participate** in this meeting.

Due to the restricted status, the results of the discussions will be circulated in the form of Chair’s conclusions among the participants of the meeting and the Chairs of the Working Parties. The Committee may, however, decide to include them as an annex to the report of its annual session.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/3, ECE/TRANS/2021/4

III. Governance and Programmatic issues requiring decisions by the Committee

4. Governance issues and other matters arising from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies and Conferences

The Committee **will be informed** by the secretariat about recent matters arising from the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies and Conferences of interest to the Committee.

The Committee **will also be informed** by the secretariat about recent matters arising from activities of the Commission of interest to the Committee, including about further development of ECE-wide nexus areas, i.e. intersectoral (horizontal) coordination workstreams in ECE, as part of aligning the work of ECE to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee will be informed about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the liquidity crisis on the implementation of the Committee’s programme of work (ECE/TRANS/2021/5).

The Committee may wish to **give guidance to** its Chair on the key messages in the report — to be prepared in consultation with the secretariat — to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) at a future session.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/5

5. Governance issues and business critical decisions for the ITC and its subsidiary bodies

(a) Decisions on subsidiary bodies and on the structure of the Committee

The Committee is **invited to adopt** the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), as requested by SC.2 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/234). The revised Terms of Reference, as contained in ECE/TRANS/2021/6, have been prepared in line with the ITC Strategy to 2030.

The Committee **may wish to emphasize** the importance of Groups of Experts as efficient and effective platforms for the delivery of its mandates, while **noting** that they are established and function according to the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Teams of Specialists within UNECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). In this regard, the Committee **may wish to inform all interested stakeholders**, that establishing or extending the mandates of Groups of Experts supervised by the ITC or its subsidiary bodies (supervising bodies) requires the Committee’s positive decision, which is then submitted to EXCOM for approval.

The Committee may wish **to approve the establishment** of a new Group of Experts tasked with drafting a new legal instrument on international rail passenger hubs, as requested by SC.2 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/234). The Terms of Reference of the new Group of Experts are contained in ECE/TRANS/2021/6.

The Committee **will be invited to approve** the establishment of a new Group of Experts tasked with drafting a new legal instrument on the use of automated vehicles in road traffic, as requested by WP.1 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/173, para. 27; ECE/TRANS/2021/7). The Terms of Reference of the new Group of Experts are contained in ECE/TRANS/2021/6.

The Committee **will be invited to approve** the extension of the mandates of the following Groups of Experts:

* the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals to 31 December 2022, as requested by WP.1 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/173, para. 31; ECE/TRANS/2021/7) to allow the Group to complete the work on the additional road signs i.e., the signs which could be considered to be part of the 1968 Convention in the future.
* the Group of Experts on AETR until the end of June 2023, as requested by SC.1 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/414, para 8).
* the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs for one more year, as requested by WP.5 (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/68, para 34) to continue and revamp its data collection efforts across all modes resulting in a more data rich final report by 2021.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/6

(b) Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee

The Committee will **consider** document ECE/TRANS/2021/7, containing the results of the meetings held by the ITC Bureau in 2020. The Committee may wish to refer to the decisions of the Bureau under the relevant items of its agenda.

The Committee **may wish to note** that, in light of the exceptional circumstances triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, EXCOM adopted on 6 April 2020 Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period, authorizing decision making for EXCOM under silence procedures during remote informal meetings replacing official meetings and in paragraph 6 encouraged the subsidiary bodies of ECE to explore, in full respect of the above temporary measures, innovative formats to conduct business remotely. Furthermore, the Committee **may note that**, at the invitation of EXCOM, in accordance with paragraph 6 above, the Bureau of the ITC requested the extension, mutatis mutandis, of these limited decision-making modalities for ITC subsidiary bodies, to ensure business continuity, noting that, if the silence is not broken, the recommendations on decisions shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the eighty-third session of ITC for consideration, as appropriate. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to note that document ECE/TRANS/2021/7 contains the decisions taken by ITC subsidiary bodies under silence procedures during remote informal meetings replacing official meetings.

The Committee may **wish to note** that on 5 October 2020, the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe adopted Special procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation (ECE/EX/2020/L.12).

The Committee may **wish to** **note** that the adoption of the report of the eighty-third session will be limited to a list of main decisions, in line with the above extraordinary special procedures for decisions in formal meetings with remote participation. The complete report of the Committee will be circulated at a later stage.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/7

6. Programmatic issues

The Committee **may wish to recall** that in December 2017 the seventy-second session of the General Assembly adopted resolution A/72/266 Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations. In this resolution, Member States approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, and requested the Secretary-General to conduct a review of the budgetary cycle in 2022, following the completion of the first full budgetary cycle. The General Assembly also decided to review at its seventy-seventh session, with a view to taking a final decision, the implementation of the annual budget.

The draft programme of work for 2021 and the draft Programme Plan for 2022 of the Transport subprogramme presented below follow the annual format introduced from 2020, with amendments reflecting General Assembly resolution 74/251 and further refinements recommended by the 60th session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (document A/75/16).

(a) Programme of work for 2021

The Committee is **invited to adopt** the draft Programme of work of the Transport subprogramme for 2021 (ECE/TRANS/2021/8) and **recommend** it to the Executive Committee for approval.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/8

(b) Programme Plan for 2022

The Committee is invited to **review and comment** on the draft Programme Plan for 2022 for the Transport subprogramme (ECE/TRANS/2021/9).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/9

(c) List of publications for 2022

The secretariat will **inform** the Committee about the publications programme for 2022, in line with the United Nations management reform. The Committee is **invited to consider, support and endorse** the list of publications contained in ECE/TRANS/2021/10.

The Committee **recommends** that the relevant Working Parties take part in the preparation of these publications, if appropriate.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/10

(d) Schedule of meetings in 2021

A preliminary list of meetings has been circulated for **consideration** and **adoption** by the Committee, based on proposals from the Committee’s subsidiary bodies.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/10

IV. Strategic Transport Policy and Regulatory Issues

7. Strategic questions of a horizontal and cross-sectoral policy or regulatory nature

(a) Status of accession to international United Nations inland transport conventions and agreements

The Committee, in performing its role as the United Nations platform for sustainable inland transport, may wish **to discuss** **ways to strengthen** the regulatory governance of inland transport internationally, in light of its strategic role in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030. In this regard, the Committee may wish **to emphasize** the urgency of accelerating accessions to and implementation of the United Nations transport conventions and agreements under its purview that form the international regulatory framework.

The Committee may also wish to **invite** countries, which have not yet done so, to accede to the United Nations conventions and other legal instruments in inland transport. The Committee may wish to **decide** on concerted actions in support of accession to and implementation of United Nations transport conventions.

When considering these issues, the Committee may wish to **take note** of ECE/TRANS/2021/11 on the status of accessions to United Nations legal instruments on inland transport administered by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as of December 2020.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/11

(b) Implementation of the international United Nations inland transport conventions and agreements (statements by delegates)

Representatives of United Nations Member States which are contracting parties to United Nations inland transport conventions and agreements will have the opportunity to share national and regional experiences, including challenges and special needs, in their efforts to implement conventions to which they have acceded.

The Committee **may wish to take into consideration** ECE/TRANS/2021/12 that contains an analysis of regional accession trends and dynamics in relation to key clusters of United Nations inland transport conventions and agreements.

The Committee, mindful that improving implementation worldwide is a core element of the ITC Strategy and its vision in the run-up to 2030, is invited to **take note** of this information and may wish to **provide guidance to the secretariat** on ways to strengthen accession to and the implementation of these legal instruments.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/12

(c) Challenges and emerging trends of inland transport in different regions (statements by delegates)

Representatives of United Nations Member States that are contracting parties to United Nations inland transport conventions and agreements will have the opportunity to share challenges and emerging trends of inland transport in their respective regions.

The Committee **may wish to take into consideration** ECE/TRANS/2021/13 which contains a review of challenges and emerging trends on inland transport in different regions. This year’s thematic focus is on COVID-19.

The Committee, in performing its role as the United Nations platform for sustainable inland transport, is invited to **take note** of this information and may wish to **provide guidance to the secretariat** **and its subsidiary bodies** on ways to integrate these experiences in their work, in order to strengthen its relevance and impact.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/13

(d) Intelligent transport systems

The Committee will be **informed** about the status of implementation of the ITS Road Map (ECE/TRANS/2021/14) that was launched at its seventy-fourth session. Furthermore, the Committee will be **informed** of the activities of the Informal Working Group on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) which adopted revised terms of reference in June 2019 and of the **joint meeting of WP.1 and WP.29**.

The Committee is invited to **encourage** continuation of the work of SC.3 on smart shipping, River Information Services, and innovative technologies in the recently adopted European Code for Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways (SIGNI); of WP.1 on the conditions of use of automated vehicles in traffic; of WP.15 on telematics for the transport of dangerous goods; of WP.29 on the implementation of the framework document on the safety of automated vehicles; of WP.29/GRVA on regulating autonomous/automated and connected vehicles (incl. Artificial Intelligence); and of WP.30 on eTIR, as fostering regulatory and other activities in these areas would ensure the benefits that ITS could provide in terms of safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and traffic management.[[3]](#footnote-4)

The Committee **may wish to note** that a draft updated ITS Road Map has been developed, following the decision during its eighty-second session requesting the secretariat to prepare it, in cooperation with the ITC Working Parties and with the ITC Bureau (ECE/TRANS/294, para 32). The draft received a number of comments, despite disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, that were all incorporated. The Committee may wish to **take note** that in full recognition of the fast pace of technological change and in order to ensure the relevance of the Road Map, it is proposed that it covers a five-year period. On this basis, the Committee is **invited to consider and endorse** the draft updated ITS Road Map (ECE/TRANS/2021/15) for the period 2020–2025.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/14, ECE/TRANS/2021/15

(e) Environment, climate change and transport

(i) Inland Transport Committee follow-up to the 2030 Agenda

The Committee will be **informed** about progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, despite the impacts of the pandemic and major global processes/initiatives to track progress, including the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (Informal document No. 1). The Committee is invited to **consider** ways to strengthen its possible role and contribution within the Sustainable Development Goals framework in the period until 2030.

**Documentation**

Informal document No. 1

(ii) Inland Transport Committee acting on Climate Change and the Paris agreement: Decarbonisation and adaptation requirements

The Committee will be **informed** about the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) Tool[[4]](#footnote-5) in the activities to support governments to mitigate the negative impacts of transport on the environment (Informal document No. 2). ForFITS is a monitoring and assessment tool for CO2 emissions in inland transport, including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation. The Committee is invited to **decide** how to best use the ForFITS tool to assist member States to reach their goals and obligations.

**Documentation**

Informal document No. 2

(iii) Mitigation of environmentally harmful effects of inland transport

The Committee will be **informed** about progress in relation to work on green transport across the division, particularly in relation to implementing the ITC Strategy.

(iv) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

The Committee may wish **to take note** of the report of THE PEP Steering Committee on its eighteenth session (25-27 November 2020, Online) (ECE/AC.21/SC/2020/2).

The Committee may wish to be **informed** about the preparations for the upcoming fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment which is due to take place virtually on 17–18 May 2021. These preparations also include the finalisation of a Declaration to be supported at the High-level Meeting. As part of the deliverables for the High-Level Meeting identified at the ITC session of 2020, the Committee may wish to **endorse** the completion of Recommendations on Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport, the Handbook on Sustainable Urban Mobility and Spatial Planning, the Study on Eco-Driving, Mobility Management: A Guide to International Good Practices, the study on Jobs in Green and Healthy Transport and the finalisation of a masterplan on cycling promotion.

The Committee is **invited to consider taking actions** towards strengthening the presence of the transport sector in THE PEP, in particular, by designating national focal points as well as supporting the successful outcome of the Fifth High-level Meeting.

(f) Inland transport security

The Committee **will be briefed** on the results of a Round Table on Intelligent Transport Systems and Cyber Security co-organized with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in conjunction with WP.5 on 8 September 2020.

(g) Analytical work on transport

The Committee will be **informed** about the analytical work of 2020 carried out in the framework of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) (ECE/TRANS/2021/16). WP.5 serves as a think tank for ITC. It leads policy discussions on subjects of a horizontal nature that are relevant for ECE member States, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and for the legal and regulatory framework of inland transport.

Among other analytical outputs, the Committee will be presented with:

* Key lessons learned and recommendations arising from the report of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (GE.4) and a proposal on the way ahead (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/9)
* Progress in establishing the ECE‐led Transport Infrastructure Observatory to be hosted on a GIS platform.
* Progress in developing a set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators in the framework of a UN Development Account project (Informal document No. 3)
* Progress in preparing THE PEP Pan‐European Cycling Master Plan (Informal document No. 4)

Furthermore, at the request of the Bureau at its session in November 2020, the Committee **will be presented** with a concise substantive report of the deliberations of the informal consultations on next steps in the operationalization of Euro-Asian transport corridors, jointly organized with OSCE on 26 November 2020 (ECE/TRANS/2021/17).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/16, ECE/TRANS/2021/17, Informal document No. 3, Informal document No. 4

(h) Road safety

The Committee will be **informed** about recent developments in the work carried out by the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1). This will include information about subject areas such as automated vehicles in traffic, international driving permits, powered two-wheeler policies, the Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic (R.E.1), and road safety and Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee will also be **informed** about the work and achievements of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals (GERSS). The Committee will be informed on the progress of developing e-CoRSS which is an electronic version of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

The Committee may wish to **take note** of progress in implementing the ECE Road Safety Action Plan (Informal document No. 5).

In line with the ITC Strategy 2030 and with the purpose of strengthening the Committee’s contribution to the global efforts to address the road safety crisis, the Committee will **take note** of the adoption on 1 April 2020 of the ITC Recommendations for Enhancing National Road Safety Systems (ECE/TRANS/2020/9), which were prepared on the basis of the experiences of ECE member States and aim to provide a full picture of the National Road Safety Systems, in order to support the successful, step-by-step integration of the safety system principles to national efforts to improve road safety. The Committee may wish to invite all road safety stakeholders to apply the ITC recommendations.

The Committee may wish to **welcome** the adoption on 31 August 2020 of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/299 on Improving global road safety including, among other key provisions, (i) the endorsement of the Stockholm Declaration, (ii) the proclamation of a Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021 – 2030, with a goal to reduce road fatalities and injuries by 50 per cent by 2030, (iii) the request for WHO and the UN regional commissions in cooperation with UNRSC partners and other stakeholders to prepare a plan of action of the Second Decade.

The Committee will be **informed about** the main developments in the activities of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety and areas of cooperation with the Committee (ECE/TRANS/2021/18). The Committee may wish to **express its appreciation** to the Special Envoy for his efforts in particular in promoting accession and implementation of the UN road safety conventions.

The Committee will be **informed** about the latest activities of the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), including the launch of the second formal call for proposals, as well as the future plan for the Fund (ECE/TRANS/2021/19).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2020/9, Informal document No. 5, ECE/TRANS/2021/18, ECE/TRANS/2021/19

(i) Harmonization of vehicle regulations

The Committee will be **informed** about the most recent developments in the work carried out by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and its six subsidiary Working Parties (GRBP, GRE, GRPE, GRSG, GRSP and GRVA), the Administrative Committee of the 1958 Agreement, the Administrative Committee of the 1997 Agreement and the Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement (ECE/TRANS/2021/20).

The Committee will also be **informed** about the activities of the World Forum and its Working Parties as reflected in ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2020/1/Rev.2 which provides a detailed overview of the distribution of the areas of work among the different groups as a result of the processes of work prioritisation and of the alignment with the ITC Strategy.

The Committee may wish to **note** that over 40 informal groups worked during 2020 in parallel to the World Forum and to its subsidiary bodies to assist them in developing new vehicle regulations and updating the 152 existing UN Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement, 20 UN Global Technical Regulations (UN GTRs) associated to the 1998 Agreement and four UN Rules annexed to the 1997 Agreement with 96 amendments and established nine UN Regulations and UN GTRs.

The Committee may wish to **note** the number of contracting parties to the 1958 Agreement (57), to the 1998 Agreement (36), and to the 1997 Agreement (16).

The Committee may wish to be **informed**, that the first set of UN Regulations for automated vehicles adopted at the June 2020 session of WP.29 entered into force on 22 January 2021. These new UN Regulations not only cover the UN Regulation on Automated Lane Keeping Systems – the first application of vehicle automatization of level three, but also forward-looking UN Regulations on Cyber Security and on Over the Air Software Updates. On the same date the new UN Regulation on Fuel System Integrity and Electric Power Train Safety at rear-end collision and the new UN Regulation on Worldwide harmonized Light vehicles Test Procedure (WLTP Regulation) entered into force as well. Two new UN Regulations aiming at the protection of vulnerable road users, the new UN Regulation on Reversing Motion and on Moving Off Information Systems were adopted during the November 2020 session.

The Committee may wish to **note** that the third amendment of the 1997 Agreement entered into force on 13 November 2019. This amendment will not only enhance clarity of the provisions by adding further definitions, but it also provides for an enhanced level of quality based on the requirements of the new appendix three on conformity of the periodical technical inspection process. The supporting Resolution R.E.6 related to requirements for testing equipment, for skills and training of inspectors and for supervision of test centres was amended with elements related to Technical Roadside Inspections of commercial vehicles. This amendment will further enhance the maintenance of vehicle safety even between mandatory periodic inspections.

The Committee may wish to **note** that the Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement established a new Global Technical Regulation No. 21 on the Determination of Electrified Vehicle Power and adopted eight amendments to Global Technical Regulations No. 3 (Motorcycle braking), No. 6 (Safety glazing), No. 7 (Head restraints), No. 15 (Worldwide harmonized Light vehicle Test Procedure), No. 16 (Tyres), No. 18 (On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) systems for L-category vehicles) and to No. 19 (Evaporate Emission Test Worldwide harmonized Light Duty Test Procedure).

The Committee may wish to be informed about the status of establishing the type-approval database DETA[[5]](#footnote-6) being currently hosted by Germany.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/20

(j) Transport of dangerous goods

The Committee may wish to **note** that both sessions of the ECOSOC Sub-Committees of experts scheduled to be held in June/July were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic measures.

The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods of the Economic and Social Council met from 30 November to 8 December 2020 (see report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/114 and Add.1). The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals met from 9 to 11 December 2020 (see report ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/78).

The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its tenth session on 11 December 2020, to consider the work of both Sub-Committees over the 2019–2020 biennium (see report ST/SG/AC.10/48). It adopted recommendations (ST/SG/AC.10/48/Adds.1–3) that will be reflected in publications to be prepared by the secretariat in 2021 (twenty-second revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations; eighth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria; and ninth revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals).

The Committee **will be informed** that the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as well as the ECE bodies dealing with land transport of dangerous goods, will begin work in 2021 on transposing the recommendations made by the ECOSOC Committee into their respective legal instruments, to ensure their simultaneous application for all modes of transport as of 1 January 2023.

The Committee may wish to **note** that Uzbekistan acceded to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) in January 2020 bringing the number of contracting parties to 52. The Protocol amending articles 1 (a), 14 (1) and 14 (3) (b) of the ADR, adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties on 28 October 1993, has not yet entered into force as not all contracting parties to ADR have become parties to it (36 contracting parties have done so to date). The Committee **may wish to urge** the remaining contracting parties (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, North Macedonia, San Marino, Tajikistan and Tunisia) to take the necessary steps to allow the Protocol to come into force.

The Committee may also **wish to note** that the Protocol amending the title of the Agreement (deleting the word "European"), which was adopted in May 2019 by the Conference of the Parties to the 1957 European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, entered into force for all Parties to the Agreement on 1 January 2021. Following the removal of the word “European” and taking into account General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/299 of 30 August 2020 on Improving global road safety, reaffirming the role and importance of ADR as one of the main United Nations legal instruments contributing to road safety and encouraging Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming contracting parties, the Committee may wish to **encourage** all United Nations Member States to join and fully implement ADR.

The Committee may wish to **note** that the draft amendments to annexes A and B of the ADR adopted in 2018, 2019 and May 2020 for an intended entry into force on 1 January 2021, as reproduced in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/249 and Corr.1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/249/Add.1 have been transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of France, and thereafter by the Secretary-General to the contracting parties for acceptance. They were deemed accepted on 1 October 2020 and will enter into force on 1 January 2021. The secretariat has published accordingly a new “2021” consolidated edition of ADR (ECE/TRANS/300, Vols. I and II).

The Committee may wish to **note** that draft amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN adopted in 2018, 2019 and 2020, as reproduced in ECE/ADN/54, were deemed accepted on 1 October 2020 for entry into force on 1 January 2021. Other amendments adopted in August 2020, reproduced in ECE/ADN/54/Corr.1 and ECE/ADN/54/Add.1, have also been circulated for acceptance and entry into force on 1 January 2021. The secretariat is publishing accordingly a new “2021” consolidated edition of ADN (ECE/TRANS/301, Vols. I and II). The number of contracting parties to ADN remains at 18.

The Committee may wish to **note** that other draft amendments to ADR, RID and ADN have been adopted by the Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, by the Working Party itself and by the Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to ADN, which are intended to enter into force on 1 January 2023 (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/158 and Add.1).

The Committee may wish to **note** that the thirty-seventh session of the Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to ADN (ADN Safety Committee) (WP.15/AC.2) and the twenty-fifth session of the ADN Administrative Committee, scheduled to be held in August 2020, were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic measures.

**Documentation**

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/114 and Add.1, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/78, [ST/SG/AC.10/48 and Adds.1–3], ECE/TRANS/WP.15/249 and Add.1 and Corr.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/158 and Add.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/74, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/76, ECE/ADN/54 and Add.1 and Corr.1, ECE/ADN/56, ECE/TRANS/300, ECE/TRANS/301

(k) Strengthening border crossing facilitation (Harmonization Convention, TIR Convention, eTIR Project and other Customs transit facilitation measures)

The Committee **will be informed** about the main outcome of the 154th and 155th sessions of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/310) and **will be** **invited to take note** of the activities of the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) in the year 2020, including, but not limited to, amendments adopted (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/147 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/149), as contained in document ECE/TRANS/2021/21.

In particular, the Committee **will be informed** about the adoption, by AC.2 at its February 2020 session, of amendment proposals introducing the eTIR procedure in new Annex 11 of the TIR Convention and about progress in the development of the eTIR international system, efforts to interconnect the eTIR international system with national customs systems and activities of the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1). The Committee **will be also informed** about the latest developments in the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and efforts to make the electronic submission of data to ITDB mandatory.

The Committee **will be informed** about progress in 2020 in the implementation of recommendations further to an audit of the TIR trust fund by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2020.

The Committee **will be informed** about the latest amendment proposal to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls for Goods, 1982, extending the interval between surveys among contracting parties on progress made to improve border crossing procedures in their countries from two to five years.

The Committee **will be informed** about the intention of ECE and the International Touring Alliance / International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA) to conclude a memorandum of understanding on the revitalization and digitalization of relevant United Nations inland transport conventions.

The Committee **will be informed** about follow‐up actions taken by WP.30 in 2020 in alignment of its work with the ITC Strategy.

The Committee **will be informed** of activities in the field of border crossing facilitation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/21

(l) Transport of perishable foodstuffs

The Committee may wish to **note** that, due to COVID-19 pandemic measures, the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs, scheduled to be held in April 2020 were cancelled, resulting in only one session for the year 2020 (13–16 October 2020). Therefore, the Committee may wish to **postpone** its revision of the decision of the Working Party to extend the number of sessions from two to three per biennium to its session in 2023.

The Committee will be **informed** about the status of proposed amendments to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) adopted at the seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) in 2019 and 2020 (ECE/TRANS/WP.11/241, Annex I and ECE/TRANS/WP.11/243, Annex I).

The Committee may wish to **note** that the number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement remains at fifty.

The Committee will be **informed** of the outcome of a discussion that WP.11 held at its seventy-sixth session, on some pending issues from the round table discussion on the ways of improving the functioning of the Working Party held during its seventy-fourth session.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.11/241, ECE/TRANS/WP.11/243

(m) Road transport

The Committee **will be informed** about the latest developments in the work carried out by the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) and by the Group of Experts on the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR).

In particular, the Committee **will be updated** on the progress of proposals to amend the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles (AETR) Article 14 (eligibility to accede), 22 and 22bis (amendment procedures) as well as to create a new Appendix 1C (on the basis of European Union Regulations 165/2014, 2016/799 and 2018/502).

The secretariat **will also inform** the Committee about the reconciliation of the differences in “AETR regimes” in European Union and non- European Union contracting parties following the compulsory adoption of the smart tachograph by the European Union AETR contracting parties on 15 June 2019.

The Committee **will then be informed** about the number of contracting parties to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) and its Protocols, including the Additional Protocol to the CMR Convention (e-CMR). The Committee **will also be updated** on the progress of the informal group of experts on e-CMR to prepare a paper detailing the research and other actions needed and/or recommended for the operationalization of e-CMR, which was requested by the Committee at its eighty-first session. The secretariat **will also inform** the Committee about its involvement in a project of the Islamic Development Bank in promoting accession to and implementing e-CMR in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Finally, the Committee **will be informed** about the progress in developing a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBus).

(n) Rail transport

The Committee **will be informed** that, due to limitations imposed by UNOG, a significantly reduced agenda was discussed in three languages at the session of the Working Party.

The Committee **will be informed** about the results of the seventy-third session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/234). The Committee may wish also **to be informed** about the results of the workshop on the development of international passenger rail transport in the context of ITC Resolution No. 264 held during the last session of SC.2.

The Committee may wish to **take** **note** of developments in relation to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC). The Committee may wish to **be informed** about progress on the second phase of the master plan on high-speed trains for the TER region and the cooperation with the TER project. In addition, the Committee **may wish to be updated** on progress in relation to the other key areas addressed by the Working Party aimed at making rail transport more competitive.

The Committee may wish to be **informed** about progress of the Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law on preparing a new legal regime for rail transport.

The Committee may wish to be **informed** about progress of the Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock.

The Committee is **invited to give guidance** on these activities.

(o) Intermodal transport and logistics

The Committee **will be informed** about the results of the sixty‐third session of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/147). In particular, the Committee will be informed on the work carried out by the Working Party on:

(a) amendments to European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and to the Protocol of the AGTC;

(b) proposals towards enhanced operationalization of the Euro-Asian Transport Links;

(c) strengthening intermodal freight transport as a transport solution for response to pandemics;

(d) elaboration of an ECE Handbook for national master plans for freight transport and logistics; and

(e) the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) and progress in establishing the Group of Experts on CTU Code;

The Committee will be then **invited to consider** the draft resolution on strengthening intermodal freight transport, to adopt it and to request the Working Party to work with the ECE member States in implementing this resolution (ECE/TRANS/2021/21).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/21

(p) Project related activities: Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway Projects

The Committee **will be informed** about the recent developments in the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) projects (Informal document No. 6).

Furthermore, the Committee **may wish to be informed** that TER Strategy until 2025 will be finalized in 2021. The Committee may wish to **express its support** for the publication of the strategy to facilitate their dissemination and thus strengthen impact in relevant countries.

The Committee will be **informed** about the status of the TEM project management.

The Committee **may wish to support** the activities carried out in the two projects and ask for further engagement of member States which offered candidates for TEM project managers for finalization of its contracts as considered in Informal document No. 6. Furthermore, the Committee is invited to **express its support** for the publication in 2021 of the TEM report *TEM Guidelines on Work Zone Safety* and **encourage** its members to facilitate its dissemination and thus strengthen their impact in relevant countries.

**Documentation**

Informal document No. 6

(q) Inland water transport

The Committee **will be informed** about the results of the work carried out by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) and the outcome of the sixty-fourth session of SC.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/213).

In particular, the Committee **may wish to take note of** the documents adopted by SC.3:

(a) Amendments to the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (Blue Book) and the Inventory of most important bottlenecks and missing links in the E Waterway Network (resolution No. 49);

(b) Amendment No. 2 to the Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (resolution No. 61, revision 2) 61 as its resolution No. 98;

(c) Revised list of reception facilities for transfer of waste generated on board vessels on the E waterway network as an appendix to the annex to resolution No. 21, revision 2, as resolution No. 99;

(d) Revised International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (annex to resolution No. 63, revision 2), as its resolution No. 100 and the revised International Standard for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation (annex to resolution No. 79, revised) as its resolution No. 101.

The Committee **may wish to take note of** the adoption of amendments to the fifth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) which were preliminarily approved by SC.3/WP.3 in 2020 and the ongoing preparatory work for the sixth revision of CEVNI by the CEVNI Expert Group.

The Committee **may wish to take note of** (a) the main findings of the workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals and how they can be achieved in inland waterways, held on 12 February 2020 at the fifty-sixth session of SC.3/WP.3, (b) the outcome of the workshop Circular economy in inland water transport held at the sixty-fourth session of SC.3 and (c) the progress in automated and smart shipping on inland waterways.

The Committee **may also wish to take note of** the ongoing work on (a) the categoriazation of waste generated on board vessels, (b) the glossary of terms and definitions in inland water transport and (c) the promotion of recreational navigation, including the activities of the Informal Working Group on Recreational Navigation, updating annex IV to resolution No. 40, International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC) and the online database of ICC specimens.

The Committee **may wish to take note of** the progress made by SC.3 and its subsidiary bodies, **express its support** to the activities of the secretariat in the field of the implementation of circular economy in inland water transport and **encourage** other Working Parties to do so.

(r) Transport statistics and data

The Committee **will be informed** of the latest activities in transport statistics, including updates regarding the virtual, informal session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics held in June 2020.

The secretariat **will describe** some exceptional activities related to the COVID-19 crisis, including providing policy makers with all the necessary timely transport data through its wiki on short-term data sources, and assisting countries with exploring innovative transport data sources through webinars held in conjunction with the International Transport Forum.

The Committee **will be informed** that the secretariat has recently prepared the Transport Statistics in Europe and North America publication, as well as Transport Statistics Infocards (ECE/TRANS/2021/22 and Informal document No. 7).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/22, Informal document No. 7

8. Approval of the reports of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies

The Committee may wish to **approve** as a whole the reports and related activities of its subsidiary bodies and **request** the secretariat to incorporate related references in the complete ITC report on the basis of the respective annotations contained in this document.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.1/171, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/173; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/68; ECE/TRANS/WP.11/241, ECE/TRANS/WP.11/243; ECE/TRANS/WP.15/249 and Add.1 and Corr.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/158 and Add.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/74, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/76, ECE/ADN/54 and Add.1 and Corr.1, ECE/ADN/56; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/147; ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1151, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1153, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1155; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/310; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/147, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/149, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/24; ECE/TRANS/SC.1/414; ECE/TRANS/SC.2/234; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/213

9. Strategic questions of partnerships and technical assistance

(a) Policy dialogue and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition and developing economies

In line with the ITC Capacity Development Action Plan (2020–2025), a number of capacity development activities took place in the SPECA region. The secretariat will **inform** the Committee about the outcomes of capacity development activities, especially the Regional Dialogue Strengthening transport connectivity in the SPECA region and beyond in the era of COVID-19 and the Ashgabat Initiative on reducing barriers to trade and transport using United Nations legal instruments, norms, standards and recommendations while bolstering connectivity in the SPECA region.

The Committee is invited to **provide guidance** to the secretariat on the implementation of the ITC Capacity Development Action plan in the SPECA region.

(b) Continued support to land-locked countries: the Vienna Programme of Action

The Committee **will be informed** about the newly designed Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in the remaining five years and the role of the ECE and other UN regional commissions in this regard.

(c) Partnerships and activities of other organizations of interest to the Committee

(i) Transport developments in the European Union

The Committee will be **informed** by a representative from the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission about the most important legislative and policy initiatives in transport undertaken by the European Union in 2020.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/23

(ii) Developments related to the work of the International Transport Forum

The Committee will be **informed** by a representative of the International Transport Forum about the latest developments in the work of the Forum.

(iii) Activities of other organizations of interest to the Committee

The Committee may wish to be **informed** by representatives from other organizations about their recent activities of interest to the Committee.

(iv) Dialogue with United Nations Regional Commissions on ongoing activities related to inland transport

The Committee **will invite** representatives of the other United Nations regional commissions to share information and discuss ongoing activities of inland transport in their regions.

(d) Draft Annual Report of activities undertaken by the Committee’s subsidiary bodies in 2020

The Committee will be **presented** with a comprehensive report of activities undertaken by the Committee’s subsidiary bodies during 2020, in administering the 59 United Nations conventions, agreements and other types of legal instrument which shape the international legal framework for road, rail, inland waterway, intermodal transport, dangerous goods transport and vehicle construction (ECE/TRANS/2021/25). The focus is on the impacts of the work of the Working Parties and contribution to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee is invited to **discuss** the annual report and to **provide guidance** on improving the visibility and awareness of the results, noting that the annual report would benefit greatly from substantive feedback from contracting parties on the *impacts* of the Committee’s work especially at the national context.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/25

V. Miscellaneous

10. Any other business. Dates of next session

The Committee may wish to **note** that its eighty-fourth session is tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva from 22–25 February 2022.

VI. List of decisions

11. Adoption of the list of main decisions of the eighty-third session

The Committee will **adopt** the list of main decisions of the eighty-third session (ECE/TRANS/2021/R.2).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/R.2

VII. ITC Roundtable on the 4-Platforms of the Committee’s Strategy

12. Roundtable theme: “Road safety at a crossroads at the dawn of the new Decade of Action”

Despite strong and consistent efforts by Member States, the international community was not able to achieve by 2020 the target of the Sustainable Development Goals on road safety as evidenced by increasing, rather than decreasing, road fatalities and injuries globally.

There were three milestones in 2020 for the global community’s and United Nations’ efforts to recognize the shortcomings and address this challenge. First, the international community came together at the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference (Stockholm, 19–20 February 2020), in order to reach global consensus through the Stockholm Declaration on continued international collaboration on road safety up to 2030. Second, the ITC of ECE adopted at its eighty-second session (Geneva, 25–28 February 2020), effective 1 April 2020, the ITC Recommendations on Enhancing National Road Safety Systems, providing much needed direction and guidelines to Member States on how to strengthen systematic improvement of road safety in a sustainable manner. Third, the General Assembly adopted on 31st September 2020 Resolution 74/299 on Improving global road safety, inaugurating the second Decade of Action for Road Safety, setting new ambitious goals and calling for the preparation of a plan of action of the Second Decade as a guiding document to support the implementation of its objectives. All three milestones recognize the unique and critical role of ECE and ITC.

The ITC Roundtable will bring together key worldwide stakeholders for a strategic discussion on the new course of action that is needed in order to make measurable progress in successfully addressing the continuing crisis (ECE/TRANS/2021/25).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2021/25

VIII. Tentative timetable

Tentative timetable of annual session under hybrid settings:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tuesday, 23 February | 11 a.m.–1 p.m. | Items 1,2 |
|  | 3–5 p.m. | Item 3 (restricted session) |
| Wednesday, 24 February | 11 a.m.–12 p.m. | Items 4 – 6 |
|  | 12.00 –1 p.m. | Item 7 |
|  | 3–5 p.m. | Item 7 (cont’d) |
| Thursday, 25 February | 11 a.m.–12 p.m. | Items 7 (cont’d) – 8 |
|  | 12.00 –1 p.m. | Items 9 – 10 |
|  | 3–5 p.m. | Item 11 |
| Friday, 26 February | 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | Item 12 |

1. \* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no formal documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the website of the ECE Sustainable Transport Division ([www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itc.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itc.html)) or from the website of the public United Nations Official Document Systems ([http://documents.un.org/](http://documents.un.org/welcome.asp?language=E)). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. \*\* Delegates are requested to complete the online registration form (available at the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/35212/> ). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by email (anastasia.barinova@un.org) or by phone (+41 22 917 2761). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. More details on automated vehicles and traffic regulations are also addressed under agenda item 7 (i); elements on the use of automated vehicles are addressed under agenda item 7 (h). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Originally developed by ECE with funding from the United Nations Development Account. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Database for the Exchange of Vehicle Type Approvals (DETA). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)