

Third Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group Meeting on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis

Geneva, 29 June 2021

WebEx meeting from 14:00 – 17:00 CET

DRAFT AGENDA

14:00-14:10 – Welcoming remarks

Ms. Els de Wit, Chair, Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)

Mr. Yuwei Li, Director, UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

14:10-14:20 – Introduction by the secretariat

Mr. Roel Janssens, Secretary, Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

14:20-15:20 – Session I – Impact of COVID-19: Vulnerabilities of the international transport system revealed

Moderator: Ms. Els de Wit, Chair, UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)

Selected topics:

- Identification of commonalities and lessons learned in the way that transport (sub-)sectors have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic
- Presentation of solutions developed by the different transport sub-sectors at the level of administrative and regulatory requirements, infrastructure, and hardware, as well as enhanced digitalization and automation

Inland transport sector perspectives

Ms. Julia Elsinger, Chair, UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)

Mr. Sim Turf, Chair, UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3)

Mr. Hinne Groot, Vice Chair, UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)

Maritime sector perspective

Mr. Julian Abril Garcia, Head, Facilitation Section, Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Aviation sector perspective

Mr. Courtney Robinson, Air Transport Officer for Air Cargo, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Q&A

15:20-15:30 – Coffee break

15:30-16:15 – Session II – Sectoral updates on measures put in place to strengthen preparedness for future international emergency situations

Moderator: Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski, Secretary, Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)

Selected topics:

- Sectoral measures put in place to strengthen preparedness for future international emergency situations
- Customs, social, labour and industry perspectives

Interventions:

Customs/ transit and border management sector

Mr. Samson Bilangna, Senior Technical Officer, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization (WCO)

Labour perspectives

Ms. Alejandra Cruz Ross, Transport Specialist, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Road transport industry perspectives

Mr. Jens Hügel, Senior Adviser, International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Q&A

16:15-17:00 – Session III – Exchange of views on possible recommendations to increase resilience to future outbreaks – by Governments, private sector operators and international organizations

Moderator: Mr. Roel Janssens, Secretary, Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

Selected topics:

- Identification of potential “whole of transport sector” policy responses aimed at strengthening transport system resilience to and preparedness for future outbreaks (in the inland, aviation and maritime sectors)
- Need for an enhanced and coordinated international transport regulatory frameworks? Making better use of what is already available/ exploring the potential for turning temporary “emergency” measures into coordinated and agreed protocols and emergency plans for the future
- Keeping border crossings open for cargo, crews, and passengers – Making best use of the opportunities offered by digitalization and automation tools across different transport sectors

Speakers:

Dr. Ihor Perehinets, Acting Programme Area Manager, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Mr. Raul Torres, Counsellor, Development Division, World Trade Organization (WTO)

Ms. Regina Asariotis, Chief, Policy and Legislation Section, Division on Technology and Logistics, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Q&A

17:00 – Closing remarks/ Wrap up