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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Thirty-fourth session

Geneva, 15–17 September 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session*, **

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday,
15 September 2021, Room TPS 1, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop on green urban transport.
3. Development of transport networks and/or links:
 - (a) Euro-Asian Transport Links;
 - (b) Inter-regional transport connectivity;
 - (c) Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects;
 - (d) Trans-European Transport Network;
 - (e) Transport in the Mediterranean Region;
 - (f) Other initiatives on transport corridors/ links development.
4. Transport infrastructure data:
 - (a) International Transport Infrastructure Observatory;
 - (b) Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs.

* Delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=OsWKgH or to complete the registration form available for download at the ECE Sustainable Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the ECE secretariat two weeks prior to the session by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org). Delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on our website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).



5. Transport and climate change:
 - (a) Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport.
 - (b) Climate Change mitigation: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe For Future Inland Transport Systems tool.
6. Inland transport security.
7. Sustainable urban mobility, cycling and public transport.
8. Review and monitoring of emerging issues and sustainable development goals:
 - (a) Transport Trends and Challenges in the road, rail and inland waterways sectors.
 - (b) Transport Trends and Economics 2021–2022.
 - (c) Technical assistance to countries with economies in transition:
 - (i) Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators.
 - (ii) Regional Adviser technical assistance.
 - (iii) Support for Landlocked Developing Countries.
 - (d) ECE Transport statistics analysis.
9. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party.
10. Other business.
11. Date of next session.
12. Adoption of main decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/69

2. Workshop on green urban transport

As part of the WP.5 cluster of work on `sustainable urban mobility, public transport, and cycling` and as per the recommendation of the Working Party at its thirty-third session in 2020 a workshop on green urban transport will be organized by the secretariat. Interested stakeholders, including city authorities, urban and spatial planners, national Ministry of Transport/ Mobility experts, NGOs and academia have been invited to present case studies discussing how urban transport systems both for passengers and freight can be made more sustainable. The workshop will draw upon policy recommendations put forward in an ECE Nexus publication entitled "People-Smart Sustainable Cities – Sustainable and Smart Cities for All Ages" (April 2021). Furthermore, the workshop will build further on the momentum generated by the adoption at the fifth Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) High-Level Meeting (Vienna, May 2021) of the first-ever Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion. Inter alia, the workshop will explore the applicability of the Master Plan in an urban context and identify opportunities to further strengthen the infrastructure component of the Master Plan through the development of internationally agreed standards and harmonized traffic signs. The workshop will be expected to provide further guidance to the work of the Working Party in this field.

Informal document No.1 contains the programme and concept note for the workshop.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

3. Development of transport networks and/or links

(a) Euro-Asian Transport Links

At its thirty-third session, in September 2020, as requested one year earlier at its thirty-second session, WP.5 considered working document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/1 prepared by the secretariat which provides a consolidated set of inputs from relevant ECE Working Parties (WP.24,¹ SC.1,² SC.2,³ SC.3/WP.3⁴ and WP.30⁵) on operationalization of international corridors. At its thirty-second session, the Working Party took note of the proposals from the secretariat contained in this document to enhance transport connectivity in ECE region and linkages with other regions and sub-regions. The Working Party furthermore invited the secretariat to provide additional details on the proposals and feedback from the ECE members on the operationalisation of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL), in particular from those countries most concerned by the individual corridors, at its next session in 2021 (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/68, paras. 17 and 18). In an immediate response to this request, the secretariat with the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) organized a virtual round of Consultations on the next steps in the operationalization

¹ Working Party on Intermodal Transport

² Working Party on Road Transport

³ Working Party on Rail Transport

⁴ Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

⁵ Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

of Euro-Asian transport corridors held on 26 November 2020. The event gathered 155 registered participants (public/private sector representatives, research institutions and academia) from 32 EATL and non-EATL countries including from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. On this occasion, the Governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine and Kazakhstan expressed their interest to provide feedback on and contribute towards the development of a corridor management mechanism proposal clearly defining its principles, role for each stakeholder as well as a draft institutional set-up. They also expressed their readiness to participate in the pilot implementation of such a corridor management mechanism (possibly on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, Baku-Poti and Baku-Batumi sections of EATL Rail Route 3 and/or other segments or routes) including the preparation of a concrete and prioritized list of actions and activities to be undertaken under a concrete time schedule. A summary of these deliberations has been made available in the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) document ECE/TRANS/2021/17. At its eighty-third session, the ITC noted the interest expressed by these Governments and encouraged WP.5 to continue the activities on the operationalization of EATL and report back to ITC (ECE/TRANS/304, para. 59).

Working document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/1 is submitted by the five interested Governments with the aim to provide additional details on their proposal. WP.5 will be expected to consider this document and provide guidance on the way forward.

(b) Inter-regional transport connectivity

At its thirty-third session WP.5 agreed that regular exchanges of information on interregional connectivity may be beneficial. At the same time, it noted that ITC should be advising WP.5 on hosting such information exchanges. At its eighty-third session (Geneva, 23–26 February 2021), ITC considered ECE/TRANS/2021/3 on the “Implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030” and invited its Working Parties to implement the next steps, as formulated in this document, to further advance the implementation of the ITC Strategy. For the priority task on support to interregional inland transport connectivity and corridors, the next step calls for continuation and further strengthening dialogues through round table discussions on interregional connectivity in the framework of WP.5/WP.24, in accordance with ITC guidance on further ideas for interregional connectivity. In this context, under this agenda item, United Nations Member States and Regional Commissions will be invited to share information on ongoing activities in support of interregional connectivity and make proposals for further ideas for enhancing interregional connectivity.

(c) Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects

The managers of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/2) and Trans-European Railway (TER) (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/3) projects will inform WP.5 about the activities implemented over the reporting period 2020–2021.

(d) Trans-European Transport Network

The European Commission will brief WP.5 about the recent progress of Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) activities.

(e) Transport in the Mediterranean Region

The Mediterranean Transport Study Centre (CETMO) will update WP.5 on CETMO activities. The European Commission will brief WP.5 on its activities in developing the Euro-Mediterranean transport network.

(f) Other initiatives on transport corridors/ links development

Representatives of other organizations and/or institutions may wish to brief WP.5 about their activities along various corridors.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/68, ECE/TRANS/2021/17; ECE/TRANS/304; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/2; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/3

4. Transport infrastructure data

(a) International Transport Infrastructure Observatory

The ECE and ESCWA secretariats will jointly provide a demonstration of the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO). It will inform the Working Party about the multiple functionalities that the Observatory offers to various user categories, Governments, Multilateral Development Banks, Regional Cooperation Organizations, and the broader public. Detailed information will be provided on how interested users can start utilizing the platform. The Working Party may wish to consider Working Document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/4 which describes the Observatory and the services it will offer and provide guidance on the way forward.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/4

(b) Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs

The Chair of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (GE.4) will inform the Working Party that following the request put forward at its session last year the ITC at its eighty-third session in February 2021 has agreed to extend the mandate of the Group for one more year until 2022. The purpose of the extension as defined by ITC will be to continue and revamp the data collection efforts of the Group across all modes resulting in a more data rich final report as well as to prepare an additional benchmarking analysis of transport infrastructure maintenance and operation costs. At its eleventh session which took place in April 2021, GE.4 decided to submit two revised working documents for consideration by WP.5: a compilation of good practices at national levels for evaluating and calculating transport infrastructure construction costs ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/7/Rev.1 and a revised consolidated terminology list for related road, rail and inland waterway infrastructure, maintenance and operation costs as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2019/1/Rev.3.

WP.5 will be invited to consider these revised working documents as well as the new questionnaires on maintenance and operation costs for road and rail infrastructure (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/5) as already submitted for consideration by the responsible Working Parties (SC.1 on Road Transport and SC.2 on Rail Transport). It may then wish to provide further guidance and directions to GE.4 on how to fulfil its mandate most effectively by the anticipated end date.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/7/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2019/1/Rev.3;
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/5

5. Transport and climate change

(a) Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

The secretariat will report on the progress made in implementation of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport so far.

(b) Climate Change mitigation: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe For Future Inland Transport Systems tool

The secretariat will update WP.5 about new developments on the “For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS)” project during 2020–2021.

6. Inland transport security

Under this agenda item an Expert Round Table on Security Aspects of Dangerous Goods Transportation will be held by the secretariat as part of the 2021 ECE Inland Transport Security Forum. This round table will give WP.5 the opportunity to take stock of the security threats faced by the transport of dangerous goods sector and identify possible policies and approaches that can help to address these challenges most effectively. WP.5 may then wish to suggest which topic related to inland transport security to discuss at its next session.

Informal document No. 2 contains the programme and concept note for the roundtable.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

7. Sustainable urban mobility, cycling and public transport

The secretariat will report on the adoption of THE PEP Pan-European Cycling Master Plan at the THE PEP High-Level Ministerial Meeting which was held in May 2021 and the role that the infrastructure module for cycling will play in implementing the Master Plan. In this context, WP.5 will be updated on the work done on the infrastructure module in the run-up to the THE PEP High-Level Ministerial Meeting. Moreover, further to the request made at the thirty-third session by WP.5, the secretariat will present an idea for a more long-term work plan aimed at the full development of the infrastructure module. To this end, a draft proposal for a 2022–2024 mandate and the terms of reference for a Group of Experts on the development of a cycling infrastructure module in the pan-European region will be presented. WP.5 is invited to consider Working documents ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/7 which are providing an overview of information and data gathered so far. The latter also describes the draft terms of reference for the possible establishment of a designated group of experts.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/7

8. Review and monitoring of emerging issues and sustainable development goals

(a) Transport Trends and Challenges in the road, rail and inland waterway sectors

Under this agenda item the secretariat will hold the fourth informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group Meeting on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis. As on previous occasions, the event will gather Ministry of Transport, Health and Customs/ border officials from the ECE region and beyond as well as representatives of other transport (sub-sectors). The advisory group at its sessions held in June and September 2020, provided inputs to ECE/TRANS/2021/2 considered by the ITC at its eighty-third session in February 2021. These inputs are also reflected in an official ECE publication entitled “Inter-Modal Transport in the Age of COVID-19 – Practices, Initiatives and Responses” (February 2021). The ITC at its eighty-third session considered the aforementioned working document and decided to prolong the work of the Advisory Group for one more year until February 2022 and to enhance cooperation between working parties, and between the ITC and other specialized agencies of the UN System, including IMO and ICAO contributing to a better coordinated delivery of programme of work and increased interoperability. It is with the above in mind that a third session of the multidisciplinary advisory group was organized in June 2021 with participation of other transport sectors. The outputs and recommendations of this third session have been included in working document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10/Rev.1 which is a revised/ up-dated text of the original report submitted to WP.5 in September 2020 and also to the ITC at its eighty-third session in February 2021 as ECE/TRANS/2021/2.

WP.5 will be expected to consider the document and provide guidance on next steps aimed at enhancing the inland transport sector's resilience to and preparedness for future pandemics and/or international emergency situations. Furthermore, WP.5 may wish to consider additional evolving trends and challenges in the inland transport sectors and contemplate if it should undertake any specific analytical work on such trends and challenges in addition to the ongoing work.

Informal document No. 3 contains the programme for the fourth advisory group meeting.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10/Rev.1; Informal document No. 3

(b) Transport Trends and Economics 2021–2022

WP.5 may wish to provide further guidance and directions for future work in this field.

(c) Technical assistance to countries with economies in transition

(i) Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators

Under this agenda item, ECE, ESCWA and ECLAC secretariats will be co-hosting an Inter-Regional Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) Workshop aimed at presenting the full set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators as developed within the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) and applied across the four inland transport sectors including, road, rail, inland waterways and inter-modal transport. Emphasis will be put on how the SITCIN may be used to help countries in assessing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their commitments under the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Senior-level stakeholders from the five pilot countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Jordan, and Paraguay) under the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project in the framework of which these indicators have been developed will attend and share their experiences in using the indicators. WP.5 will be invited to consider the working documents ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/8 and ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/9 outlining the SITCIN, as well as their use, purpose, methodological basis, and applicability. It may then wish to provide further guidance and directions on how the SITCIN can be used and further promoted in the future. Informal documents No. 4 and No. 5 provide summaries of the SITCIN National Connectivity Reports developed so far following the testing and validation process in the five pilot countries.

(ii) Regional Adviser technical assistance

The Regional Adviser will inform WP.5 about ongoing technical assistance activities provided by ECE to countries with economies in transition (Informal document No. 6).

(iii) Support for Landlocked Developing Countries

The secretariat will provide information on its ongoing support to LLDCs in the framework of the Vienna Programme of Action Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for 2014–2024.

WP.5 will then be invited to discuss the information and provide its recommendations for areas in which technical assistance should be further strengthened.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/8; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2021/9; Informal documents Nos. 4, 5 and 6

(d) ECE Transport statistics analysis

The secretariat will present its work on transport statistics data for 2020.

9. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party

The secretariat will inform WP.5 about the main decisions of the eighty third session of the Inland Transport Committee (Geneva, 23–26 February 2021) on issues of its interest.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/304

10. Other business

At the time of drafting this provisional agenda, there were no proposals under this item.

11. Date of next session

The WP.5 session is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 5 to 7 September 2022.

12. Adoption of main decisions

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party taken at its fifteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/32, para. 56), decisions taken at the session will be adopted at the end of the session. The report of the session, including the decisions, will be established by the Chair and Vice-Chair with the assistance of the secretariat, for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.
