

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

119th meeting

Geneva, 16 December 2021

Item 15

Informal Document 2021/47

Update
Eighty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee

Note by the secretariat

1. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was founded in 1947, so **its eighty-fourth session (22-25 February 2022) will mark its seventy-fifth anniversary**. In the last 75 years, the ITC and its subsidiary bodies provided an intergovernmental forum for Member States to forge tools for economic cooperation and negotiate and adopt international legal instruments on inland transport. Due to historical circumstances, ECE/ITC is the custodian of both global and regional transport conventions that form the basis of regulatory governance for sustainable inland transport and mobility (see Annex). More than half of the Conventions serviced by the Committee have Contracting Parties that are non-ECE member States. In fact, of the 193 United Nations Member States, 151 States (78 per cent) are Contracting Parties to at least one legal instrument on inland transport, in addition to 2 Permanent Observers and one non-State Contracting Party. These legal instruments are considered indispensable for developing efficient, harmonized and integrated, safe and sustainable inland transport systems.
2. The Anniversary Ministerial will be on **“75 Years of Inland Transport Committee: Connecting Countries and Driving Sustainable Mobility” (A/C/E/F/R/S) (22 February 2022, 10 a.m. - 6 pm)**.
3. The Ministerial will be opened with:
 - Opening statements and the launch of the 75th Anniversary publication **“75 Years of Inland Transport Committee – 75 Documents that Changed the World of Transport”** and
 - A Ministerial keynote from the host country (**H.E Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga**, former President of the Swiss Confederation and current Head (**Minister**) of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication of Switzerland).
4. The opening will be followed by three consecutive Ministerial panels on:
 - Ministerial Panel I: ITC – The United Nations Platform to promote inland transport connectivity
 - Ministerial Panel II: ITC – Achieving a decade of delivery for Road Safety
 - Ministerial Panel III: ITC – Inland transport as a catalyst of sustainable mobility and sustainable development
5. The conference will conclude with the endorsement of the Ministerial Resolution on “Ushering in a decade of delivery for sustainable inland transport and sustainable development”.

Associated side events

6. The Anniversary Ministerial will be enriched with side events on:
 - Global Road Safety Film Festival (21-22 February 2022)
 - Automation, Connectivity and E-mobility (21 February)
 - Used Cars side event (23 February)
 - Euro-Asian transport links (24 February)
 - ITC Roundtable: “On the road to sustained and full recovery: Post-Covid-19 initiative for inland transport and the role of the Committee” (25 February).

Proposed next steps:

- **Ministerial Resolution:** EXCOM members are invited to consider favourably Draft 1 of the Ministerial Resolution that is being circulated to Permanent Missions in Geneva under separate cover in early December 2021 and the possibility of being added to the list of countries endorsing the Ministerial Resolution.
- **RSVP for participation and high-level speaking arrangements:** Noting that the secretariat has already received several Ministerial confirmations from different regions of the world, ECE member States are invited to confirm their high-level participations, in order to ensure appropriate speaking opportunities and protocol arrangements.

For further information, please contact Mr. George Georgiadis, Secretary, Inland Transport Committee (george.georgiadis@un.org).

Annex

1. Today, UNECE ITC services 59 United Nations inland transport conventions. In addition to negotiating the amendments to existing legal instruments, ITC has been active in facilitating new legal instruments. Its normative activities are enhanced with developing methodologies, guidelines, and definitions on subjects such as transport planning, data collection and the collection of transport statistics.
 2. ITC functions with the support of the work of its 20 Working Parties which are in turn supported by more than 40 formal and informal expert groups and in cooperation with 11 Treaty bodies (Administrative Committees).
 3. Annual sessions of ITC are key moments of this comprehensive intergovernmental work, when its results from all subsidiary bodies and secretariat, as well as the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, are presented to ITC members and contracting parties.
 4. In addition to servicing ITC and its subsidiary bodies, the Sustainable Transport Division also services other intergovernmental bodies including the ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as well as 11 treaty bodies of United Nations legal instruments and the TIR Executive Board. In cooperation with ESCAP, UNECE Transport supports the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. It also annually alternates with ESCAP as the secretariat to the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity. In cooperation with the UNECE Environment Division and WHO Europe, the division services the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP). It ensures the management and oversight of the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) projects. Finally, since 2015, UNECE hosts the secretariat of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and since 2018 the secretariat of the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF). Additionally, as part of the United Nations, the ITC secretariat has been responsible supporting the accession and implementation of the legal instruments through policy dialogues, technical assistance, and analytical activities with the priority of promoting regional and subregional cooperation and capacity-building.
-