



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-fifth session**

Geneva, 21-24 February 2023

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Strategic Questions of a Horizontal and
Cross-Sectoral Policy or Regulatory Nature:
Challenges and Emerging Trends of Inland Transport****Impact of the war on regional connectivity****Note by the secretariat***

1. For information of the Committee, this document briefly introduces one of the activities by the secretariat to counter the negative impact of the war on regional connectivity.
2. Following a request, received in July 2022, by the Government of Ukraine, which included a list of proposed areas for cooperation / projects mainly concerning the recovery of inland transport infrastructure for the country, the secretariat initiated its technical assistance. The activity was financed by the regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) budget in the framework of several sectoral proposals with a focus on Ukraine and the broader impact of the war in the ECE programme countries. The activity title is “*support the enhancement of Ukrainian rail and road transport capacity in order to meet the emerged national and international needs*”.
3. The main objective is to enhance the railway and road transport capacity of Ukraine with Poland and Romania in order to faster and more efficiently handle abruptly surged cargoes from and to Ukraine. The objective will be achieved through the implementation of the following activities:
 - (a) Identify and prepare with the assistance of national rail and road experts a list of infrastructure and rolling stock / resources (wagons, transshipment costs, trained personnel, trucks, flexi tanks etc.) requirements based on the current supply chain needs of the Ukraine (for instance export of grains and import of fuel) that would operationally boost the capacity of railways / road transport to deliver.
 - (b) Organizing “friends of the chair meetings” with the chair of the working party of road transport (SC.1) and the chair of the working party on rail transport (SC.2) to further discuss the list of requirements and prepare concrete action plans / next steps in order to fulfil those requirements.
4. Following the initial discussions with the Government agencies, it was decided that projects on inland waterways and border crossings facilitation would be also included. Practically, the activity is about assessing current challenges and opportunities for immediate

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improvements / enhancement of Ukraine's inland transport network (road, rail, inland waterways, port-hinterland connectivity and border crossings) and its connectivity with neighbouring countries considering the extra volumes of cargoes and passengers that needs to be handled following the disruptions/ elimination of air and maritime transport.

5. When the list of projects is finalised by the Government, the secretariat will assist the Government to prioritize those project proposals. Then friends of chairs meetings will be organized by the chairs of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30) where those project proposals will be presented to the Governments and institutions invited to seek their assistance and contribution.
