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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Thirty-seventh session

Geneva, 25–27 September 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

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

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 September 2024, Room VIII, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Round table discussion on financing of transport infrastructure for corridor development in the Economic Commission for Europe region.
3. Development of transport networks and links:
 - (a) Euro-Asian Transport Links;
 - (b) Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects;
 - (c) Trans-European Transport Network;
 - (d) Transport in the Mediterranean Region;
 - (e) Other initiatives on transport corridors/ links development.
4. Transport infrastructure data:

International Transport Infrastructure Observatory.
5. Transport and climate change:

* 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 WP.5 thirty-seventh annual session webpage (<https://unece.org/transport/events/wp5-working-party-transport-trends-and-economics-37th-session>).

** Delegates (including those holding long-duration badge) are requested to register online at: indico.un.org/event/1007232/ and 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 ECE secretariat by phone +41 22 917 59 75 or email: maria.mostovets@un.org. For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.



- (a) Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport;
 - (b) Implementation of the Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport;
 - (c) 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 2024–2025;
 - (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) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Transport statistics analysis.
9. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party.
10. Other business.
11. Election of officers for the Working Party sessions in 2025 and 2026.
12. Date of next session.
13. Adoption of main decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/75

2. Round table discussion on financing of transport infrastructure for corridor development in the Economic Commission for Europe region

As part of the WP.5 cluster of work on development of transport networks and links a round table will be held at which representatives from governments and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) will discuss financing of transport infrastructure in support of corridor development in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 1 contains the concept note and the programme for the round table.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 1

3. Development of transport networks and links

(a) Euro-Asian Transport Links

Since WP.5 thirty-sixth annual session, the Coordination Committee on the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Corridors, convening as a Group of Friends of the WP.5 Chair, continued its work on enhancing operationalization of the two corridors as per its agreed biennial programme of work contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2023/1 (annex II). The WP.5 Chair, Vice-Chair and the 2024–2025 Corridor Coordinators Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan will report on progress made since the previous WP.5 session. ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/1 contains the progress report. In addition, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/2 provides an overview of ongoing and planned corridor operationalization initiatives by the en route countries.

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

The managers of the TEM (Trans-European Motorway) and TER (Trans-European Railway) projects will inform WP.5 about their activities implemented since the previous session. An overview of activities is provided in Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 2.

(c) Trans-European Transport Network

The European Commission will brief WP.5 about developments related to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

(d) Transport in the Mediterranean Region

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

(e) Other initiatives on transport corridors/ links development

Russian Federation will present a proposal for the creation, in the framework of WP.5, of a Coordination Committee on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Route No. 1 as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/3. Representatives of other organizations and/or institutions may wish to brief WP.5 about their activities on various other corridors.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2023/1, annex II; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/1;
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/2; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/3;
Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 2

4. Transport infrastructure data**International Transport Infrastructure Observatory**

The secretariat will provide a progress report and overview of next steps regarding the operationalization of the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) which is being used by a growing number of governments, representatives of regional cooperation organizations and other stakeholders.

5. Transport and climate change**(a) Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport**

The GE.3 Chair and 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 (WP.5/GE.3). Information will be also provided on workshops held on transport system resilience or climate change vulnerability assessments including in collaboration with other projects.

(b) Implementation of the Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport

The Chair and the secretariat will brief WP.5 on the adoption by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eighty-sixth annual session in 2024 of a Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Inland Transport. WP.5 will be invited to discuss its role in supporting implementation of the Strategy as per the actions and envisaged milestones defined in the action plan of the Strategy (ECE/TRANS/2024/3).

As part of this agenda item, an awareness raising workshop will be held on 26 September 2024 (a.m.) on the importance of duly reflecting the inland transport sector into Member States' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reporting process under the Paris Agreement. This workshop will target Ministry of Transport officials and representatives from other government agencies responsible for drafting NDCs. Discussions will, in part, focus on the development of a template to help governments better report on their ongoing and planned measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport. Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 3 contains the concept note and agenda for the workshop.

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

The secretariat will report on developments on the “For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS)” project since the last session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/2024/3; Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 3

6. Inland transport security

The Chair and the secretariat will provide information on the outcome of a special session of the ECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) which was held in Geneva on 18 and 19 June 2024 with a focus on “Security of Vulnerable Users in Railways”. The Working Party will also be invited to make proposals for possible topics of an inland transport security

workshop to be held as part of its annual session in 2025 (as per its adopted biennial 2024–2025 programme of work included in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/74, annex III).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/74, annex III

7. Sustainable urban mobility, cycling and public transport

Under this agenda item, the final report (contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/4) from the ECE Group of Experts on Cycling Infrastructure Module (WP.5/GE.5), which completed its mandate in May 2024, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by the Working Party. Furthermore, a Guide on the Designation of Cycle Route Networks (contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/5) developed as part of the work of WP.5/GE.5 will be presented too. The Guide offers step-by-step guidelines for countries to designate and implement national cycling route networks at all administrative levels will.

Moreover, under this agenda item, a designated workshop will be held on 27 September 2024 (a.m.) with a focus on urban mobility and cycling. As part of the workshop, a forward-looking round-table discussion featuring government and NGO representatives that were actively involved in the work of GE.5 will be held. Among other issues the panellists will be invited to shed light on the request by ITC at its eighty-sixth annual session for WP.5 to explore in collaboration with the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the Transport-Health and Environment Pan-European Partnership (THE PEP) the need for the elaboration of a new Convention on cycle route network based on the results achieved by WP.5/GE.5. Following the workshop, the Working Party will be invited to provide guidance on its role in this regard and in general in follow-up to the work of GE.5/WP.5. Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 4 contains the concept note and agenda for the “Urban mobility and cycling” workshop.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/4; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/5;
Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 4

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

(a) Transport trends and challenges in the road, rail, and inland waterways sectors

Further to the WP.5 request at its annual session in 2023 draft terms of reference for a dedicated informal task force on e-mobility were developed. They focused on driving and coordinating efforts related to electric vehicle developments and their charging infrastructure. ECE/TRANS/2024/21, which contains the terms of reference, was prepared for consideration by ITC at its eighty-sixth annual session. ITC welcomed the terms of reference for the informal task force and requested that a progress report be provided at its next session (ECE/TRANS/344, para 70).

WP.5 will be briefed on the outcomes of the first session of the e-mobility task force which was held, in virtual format, in May 2024. WP.5 will also be informed on the developed 2024–2025 programme of work by the informal task force and its implementation. Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 5 describes the activities of the task force.

Furthermore, an update will be provided on the preparations of the 2024 Transport Trends and Economics publication titled “Electrification of the inland transport sector: the UNECE region paving the way for a global mobility revolution”.

(b) Transport Trends and Economics 2024–2025

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

(c) **Technical assistance to countries with economies in transition**

(i) **Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators**

The secretariat will provide an update on the “Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN)” platform and next steps planned to further promote its use among government stakeholders.

(ii) **Regional adviser technical assistance**

The regional adviser will inform WP.5 about transport related technical assistance activities provided by ECE to countries with economies in transition (Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 6).

(iii) **Support for Landlocked Developing Countries**

The secretariat will brief on the next steps leading up to the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries scheduled to take place on 10-13 December 2024 in Gaborone.

(d) **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Transport statistics analysis**

The Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) secretariat will present its work on transport statistics since the previous WP.5 session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/2024/21; ECE/TRANS/344; Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 5;
Informal document WP.5 (2024) No. 6

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

ITC, at its eighty-sixth annual session in 2024, noting that the year 2023 marked the fourth cycle of reviews of Working Parties’ mandates by their parent sectoral committees, in line with the outcomes of the 2005 reform of ECE and the ensuing guidelines for the establishment and functioning of working parties within ECE (ECE/EX/1) and taking into consideration the submissions by the Working Parties as contained in the annexes to ECE/TRANS/2024/9 as well as the review and analysis contained in ECE/TRANS/2023/4/Rev.2, requested the secretariat to provide a review and analysis of the Working Party submissions, with a view to further identify opportunities for enhancing synergies and accelerating the implementation of the mandates of ITC and its Working Parties and submit it at the eighty-seventh ITC session for its consideration. In this context, WP.5 may wish to revisit its contribution from last year. To this end, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/6 builds on ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2023/10 and uses a suggested template applied for the review and analysis as referred to in the ITC decision.

Documentation

ECE/EX/1; ECE/TRANS/2024/9; ECE/TRANS/2023/4/Rev.2;
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2023/10; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2024/6

10. Other business

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

11. Election of officers for the Working Party sessions in 2025 and 2026

The Working Party will elect a Chair and up to two Vice-Chairs for its sessions in 2025 and 2026.

12. Date of next session

The next WP.5 session is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva on 24–26 September 2025.

13. Adoption of main decisions

In accordance with WP.5 decision 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 ITC.
