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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**  
(Sixty-fourth session, 18-21 February 2002,  
agenda item 2)

**REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF THE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the decision taken by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixty-third session (ECE/TRANS/136, para. 111), its Bureau met on 16 February 2001, 5 June 2001 and from 28-29 November 2001. The reports of the Bureau's three meetings are reproduced below for consideration by the Committee. The Committee may wish to discuss the questions in greater detail under the respective items of the agenda.

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**Annex 1**

**REPORT ON THE BUREAU MEETING OF THE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
(16 February 2001)**

**ATTENDANCE**

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee, which was chaired by Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium), was attended by the following members: Mrs. P. Buch (France), Mrs. U. Einsfelder (Germany), Mrs. S. Mnimatidou (Greece), Mr. B. Griffioen (Netherlands), Mrs. L. Renne (Russian Federation), Mr. J.-C. Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mrs. U. Armangil (Turkey) and Mr. M. Mezheryskyi (Ukraine). The Chairperson, Mrs. V. Tănase (Romania) and the representatives of Hungary and the European Commission were unable to attend.

**ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS**

(a) **Agenda**

2. Continuing the discussion of its meeting on 12 February, the Bureau reconsidered the three alternatives for the presentation of the annotations of the agenda of the Inland Transport Committee, prepared by the secretariat, France and Ukraine. While appreciating the layouts of the annotations prepared by France and Ukraine, the Bureau decided, in light of the successful conduct of the sixty-third session of the Committee, to continue with the presentation of the annotations as prepared by the secretariat and endeavour to streamline the explanatory notes contained therein.

3. Referring to the problems of subregional importance (concerning e.g. Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), Special Programme for the Economics of Central Asia (SPECA), South-East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), etc.), the Bureau agreed to include an item on this question in its future agenda.

(b) **Assessment of the discussion of the sixty-third session of the ITC**

4. The Bureau noted that the Committee had managed to deal with all items on the agenda for its sixty-third session. While some concern was expressed about the large number of items on the agenda and the lack of time for in-depth discussion of some items, the Bureau found the level of discussion satisfactory on the whole.

(c) **Availability of documentation**

5. The Bureau reiterated the concern expressed by several delegations at the Committee session that the non-availability of documents was impeding their ability to participate effectively in meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Moreover, the reading of the report of the Committee had been adversely affected by the late arrival of language versions of several Conference Room Papers.

### **HOLDING OF A ROUND TABLE**

6. In line with the mandate given to it by the Committee (ECE/TRANS/136, para. 6), the Bureau discussed possible subjects for a round table to be held back to back with one of the future sessions of the Committee, including such topics as new vehicle propulsion technologies, Europe-Asian transport links as well as transport and energy.

7. The Bureau felt that the subject of a Round Table should (i) be linked to the practice-oriented work carried out by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and new developments, (ii) provide an input to the transport-related ECE legal instruments, and (iii) deal with an issue on which it was difficult to reach a consensus. Bearing these requirements in mind, the Bureau reviewed the proposals mentioned in the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/136, para. 6) and decided to hold a Round Table on "New Vehicle Propulsion Technologies" on the occasion of the next Committee session. It was of the opinion that this subject would allow an analysis of the obstacles faced by the introduction of new vehicle propulsion technologies, highlight the possibilities for improvements of such technologies, and provide a useful input to the regulatory work of WP.29. The Bureau agreed that the organization of the Round Table should be carried out in close cooperation with WP.29. In respect of the organization of the sixty-fourth session of the Committee and the Round Table in the week of 18-22 February 2002, the Bureau felt that (i) substantive discussion of the Committee could take place on Monday and Tuesday of that week, (ii) the Round Table might be convened on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, and (iii) the ITC report could be read on Thursday afternoon.

8. The Bureau agreed to consider the other subjects for a Round Table mentioned in ECE/TRANS/136, para. 6 at a future meeting. In this context, it also discussed the possibility of holding round tables on subjects of subregional interest such as the navigation on the Danube.

### **INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS**

9. Regarding the international legal instruments administered by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Bureau suggested that the Transport Division and, particularly, its Regional Advisers undertake a rigorous campaign to promote those instruments in countries which are not yet Contracting Parties and to explain the content of the agreements and conventions to the competent national authorities.

10. In this connection, the Bureau was informed of the recruitment of a second Regional Adviser who would support TEM and TER activities. Noting that the second Regional Adviser

was working on the basis of a six-month contract, the Bureau felt that the contract should be extended to secure continuity and stability of the work carried out by the incumbent.

### **PROPOSALS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

11. The representative of the Russian Federation, Mrs. L. Renne, recalled the proposal made by her country during the third meeting of the Bureau as contained in paragraph 11 of TRANS/2001/5. She pointed out that there had been a misunderstanding in the proposal in that the proposed permanent Working Group on Transport and the Environment should be set up in the framework only of the ITC. The Bureau took note of this clarification and asked the Russian Federation to make a short written proposal on this matter for consideration at a forthcoming Bureau meeting.

12. Moreover, she referred to two additional proposals as contained in paragraph 16 of TRANS/2001/5: (a) further development of the work of the UN/ECE in countries of central and eastern Europe as well as in CIS countries through the establishment of a system of information and analytical consulting and training centres on key transport-related programmes (e.g. sustainable transport development, etc.); and (b) close cooperation of the UN/ECE with international financial institutions with a view to ensuring the support to major projects for countries with economies in transition (aimed, in particular, at ensuring the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action adopted at the Vienna Conference with a view to rendering technical assistance to CIS countries).

13. In respect of point (a), the representative of the Russian Federation agreed to provide an explanatory document to the secretariat to be circulated to members of the Bureau. Regarding point (b) she asked the secretariat to undertake all necessary steps so that the proposed seminars on (i) transport of dangerous goods, (ii) transport and the environment, and (iii) multimodal transport could be organized in due course (see also TRANS/1999/11).

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**Annex 2****REPORT ON THE BUREAU MEETING  
OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
(5 June 2001)****ATTENDANCE**

1. The Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee met on 5 June 2001 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. V. Tănase (Romania). The Bureau was attended by the following members: Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium), Mrs. P. Buch (France), Mr. P. Päßgen (Germany), Mrs. Z Egyhazy (Hungary), Mr. B. Griffioen (Netherlands), Mr. V. Donchenko (Russian Federation), Mr. J.-C. Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mrs. U. Armangil (Turkey), Mr. M. Mezheryskyi (Ukraine), and Mr. D. Stasinopoulos (European Commission). The representative of Greece, Mr. G. Patsiavos, was unable to attend.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The Bureau adopted its agenda, as circulated in TRANS/BUR.2001/6.

**PREPARATION OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUX OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (JMTE) TO BE HELD ON 6 JUNE 2001**

3. The Bureau examined the agenda of the Joint Meeting, focusing on the decisions and recommendations adopted at the High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (4 May 2001) and on the follow-up proposals contained in an informal note by the secretariat. These proposals concerned: (i) the rationalization of work at the international level in the fields of transport, environment and health, aiming at a merger of the Vienna and London processes, including both the institutional mechanisms and work programmes, (ii) the draft terms of reference of the tripartite Task Force which will carry out the preparatory work for the decision on whether to start negotiations on a Framework Convention.

4. The Bureau also noted that transport is an economic growth-generating sector which should not be hampered in its development, particularly in countries with economies in transition, where economic growth was a top priority.

5. The Bureau:

- agreed that the tripartite Task Force should be set up for one year on the basis of existing resources, i.e. the Joint Ad hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment and the Steering Group for the realization of the London Charter in order to ensure continuity of work carried out in the past.
- noted that the main tasks of the existing Joint Ad hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment should be (i) to provide support to the JMTE in implementing the

Vienna process; (ii) to prepare the Mid-Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Joint Action; (iii) to enable the Task Force to consider the possibility of using existing international instruments regarding transport and environment issues; and (iv) to consider the modalities for the merging of the Vienna and London processes.

- agreed that, during its one year life, the Task Force should focus on the preparatory work to enable a decision to be made on whether and on what issues a Framework Convention could be negotiated.
- regarding the Russian proposal as contained in TRANS/BUR.2001/7 concerning the establishment of a permanent Working Party on Transport and the Environment, supported the proposal and specified the need for supplementary information (e.g. detailed mandate, schedule of work, etc.) from the Russian delegation and agreed to revert to this question at its next meeting. It also asked the secretariat to explore the possibilities for implementing such a proposal within existing resources.

## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE**

6. Mr. Courtois, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, presented to the Bureau some thoughts on strategic elements likely to give direction to its work. His presentation emphasized the need to orient the work of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies, which was often very technical and juridical, more towards policy-making, thus addressing more directly the major problems Europe is and will be facing in the future. Mr. Courtois pointed out that, while the mandate (adopted in 1993) of the Committee amply covers the whole gamut of inland transport activities, it is drafted more as a definition of sectors and of the work of those sectors than as a plan for inland transport policy. With a view to encouraging more input to the process of reflection and to the debate - and possibly allow the Bureau to present to the Committee a real strategic plan - Mr. Courtois' text will be attached to the report of the Bureau meeting. Bureau members were invited to communicate their comments on this text and their own thoughts so that a more extensive debate could be held during the next meeting of the Bureau on 28 and 29 November 2001.

7. The Bureau:

- noted that Mr. Courtois will prepare his paper on ideas for a strategic approach of the Committee to be annexed to the report of the current Bureau meeting. All Bureau members are also asked to provide a written contribution on this paper for the next Bureau meeting.
- asked the secretariat to inform Mr. Courtois about the resources assigned to the various sectors of activity of the Committee.
- stressed the importance of maintaining a balance in the strategic objectives between (i) transport and other socio-economic sectors as well as (ii) between countries and subregions.

- asked the secretariat to explore whether some activities (e.g. transport of dangerous goods) could be funded partially by extrabudgetary resources.

### **HOLDING OF A ROUND TABLE**

8. The Bureau took note of information provided by the Director of the Transport Division on preparations under way for the Round Table on “New Vehicle Propulsion Technologies” and was informed that a detailed programme would be available at the next Bureau meeting.

### **ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

9. The Bureau considered a proposal made by the Russian Federation in document TRANS/BUR.2001/7 to develop further the work of the UNECE in the countries of central and eastern Europe as well as in CIS countries through the establishment of a system of information, analytical and consulting centres on key transport-related programmes (e.g. sustainable transport development, etc.) A second proposal addressed the need for close cooperation of UNECE with international financial institutions with a view to ensuring support to major projects for countries with economies in transition (aimed, in particular, at ensuring technical assistance for CIS countries) in the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action adopted at the Vienna Conference.

10. The Bureau:

- noted that the Russian proposal as contained in TRANS/BUR.2001/7 regarding the creation of an Information, Analytical and Consulting Centre on Sustainable Transport Development was interesting but needed further discussion. The Bureau asked the Russian delegation to elaborate its proposal and the secretariat to provide assistance in identifying possibilities of support for such a Centre.
- having been informed of the limited secretariat resources which would not allow the maintaining of a second Regional Adviser, urged the Executive Secretary to provide adequate resources for the permanent assignment to the Transport Division of a second Regional Adviser, which is indispensable to ensure continuity of the TEM and TER projects and their integration in the pan-European transport context, ongoing activities concerning assistance to the New Independent States and Euro-Asian transport links.

### **FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

11. The Bureau was informed by a member of the secretariat about the results of the fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe concerning such questions as intersectoral cooperation in the ECE, in particular, between environment, energy and transport; ECE strategic directions; the Millennium Declaration; as well as operational activities (E/2001/37-E/ECE/1387, paras. 27-41).

12. The Bureau:

- took note of the results of the fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe;
- stated its support for intersectoral cooperation, the aim of which should be to advise transport bodies in the processing and completion of international instruments in the context of e.g. ECE and ECMT. Any intersectoral approach should take account of the different needs of ECE member countries;
- noted that the Inland Transport Committee had clearly defined competencies and had the obligation to exert them;
- stressed that the decisions of the ITC should be taken into account when issues affecting transport are considered within ECE or other relevant international meetings;
- felt that the positive benefits of transport should receive at least equal attention to the negative aspects, such as the environmental ones, and that the public awareness of the positive aspects of the transport sector should be improved.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) **Tribute to the Chairperson**

13. The Bureau appreciated the effective way in which its Chairperson, Mrs. V. Tanase, had led the discussion during its meetings and provided a common platform among its members.

(b) **Gender mainstreaming**

14. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the Transport Division that the General Assembly had requested all UN agencies to incorporate the gender dimension into their work and that a document would be provided to that effect during the next Bureau meeting.

(c) **Date of next meeting**

15. The Bureau noted that its next meeting is scheduled to be held on 28 and 29 November 2001.

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Appendix

**SUGGESTIONS FOR A STRATEGIC APPROACH**

**Working Paper**

**1. General**

1. The terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee are set forth in document ECE/TRANS/97, annex 2.

They are extremely broad, covering all the topics addressed by the Committee.

2. These terms of reference do not set precise objectives or establish priorities.

Their general and permanent nature prevents them from being seen as a real strategic tool.

The Inland Transport Committee therefore has to develop its own strategy within these terms of reference.

3. If strategic thinking is to be undertaken by the Committee, this must be done in a supranational perspective, i.e. considering the European continent as a whole, and analysing the issues from that standpoint.

4. In the field of transport, a policy on mobility should have three major goals:

?? accessibility (or fluidity);

?? safety;

?? environmental and health protection.

5. A review of the Inland Transport Committee's various working parties and the scope of their work (including secretariat services and meeting days) shows that some activities are very well developed, and others very little, or not at all.

There are many reasons for these differences: the internal dynamics of each working party (or, indeed, of the secretariat), relevance and "sensitivity" to the current situation, outside pressures, the technical complexity of some subjects, the lack of own resources, etc.

6. The most well developed activities (in quantitative terms) cover the transport of dangerous goods and technical questions relating to road vehicles (which account for two thirds of the meetings and half of the secretariat services).

The first activity is concerned with safety and the second embraces all three goals. Both activities are highly technical (which partly explains the large number of meetings).

7. The question that may be asked, however, is whether the emphasis placed on these activities does not mean that other activities, addressing needs which are just as great, are deprived of funding.

8. During the presentation of the programme of work, the Inland Transport Committee (and the Bureau) did not really establish any hierarchy for the projects or activities to be pursued. Each working party prepares its own projects and assigns a priority ranking, and the Committee endorses them without any substantial changes.

9. Of the above three major goals, accessibility would appear to be the most “traditional”, but also perhaps the most neglected. Yet the many problems of network capacity (bottlenecks, interoperability, underutilization of rail and waterways networks, management of flows, etc.) are of key importance.

10. A strategic vision also entails paying attention to new problems as they arise, to new technical or technological options and to the trends that will shape transport operations in the future.

11. New problems, trends and technologies are continuing to emerge.

We may therefore note several issues that could become major problems for the future, or may change the course of our work today:

?? the progressive development of Europe-Asia transport links;

?? the gradual reduction in the market share of petroleum as a fuel;

?? the (necessary?) return of (automatic?) guided transport systems to provide for the development of exchanges of goods;

?? the use of telematics in transport management (vehicles, infrastructure);

?? more delays due to overloading of the road network;

?? population ageing;

?? increasing public concern about poor road safety and the environmental problems caused by transport operations;

?? European integration and unification;

?? the emergence of cleaner propulsion technologies, which may still be difficult to promote in the market place;

?? a growing stock of older vehicles, responsible for keeping pollution at a high level whereas new vehicles are much cleaner.

## **2. Resources**

The Inland Transport Committee has various working parties, for which secretariat services are provided by the Transport Division.

Whatever the urgency and magnitude of the problems and their technical complexity, the work of our Committee and its subsidiary bodies are limited by:

?? ECE's capacity to provide material support for meetings (documentation, meeting rooms, interpretation);

?? the availability of delegates (preparation of the work, participation in meetings);

?? the staffing of the Transport Division (secretariat services, monitoring and evaluation, studies, etc.).

The fact that two activities (WP.29 and WP.15) absorb approximately 60% of the resources available creates a problem: the remaining 40% are insufficient to ensure more rapid progress and to work to achieve new goals.

An increase in our resources can hardly be counted on, moreover, because of budget cutbacks in the United Nations and also because the national limitations imposed in most States require us instead to limit the number of meetings, the size of delegations and the length of sessions.

The question of transferring part - the more "technical" part - elsewhere (to new locations?) and finding alternative funding for that purpose certainly deserves to be explored.

The trend towards intersectoriality and greater cooperation with the sectors concerned also encourages us to take that course of action.

## **3. New activities**

The list of "major problems for the future" - cf. paragraph 1.11 - should encourage the Inland Transport Committee to develop a real strategy for action.

The existing working parties are not actually in a position to include most of these problems in their work: either they fall outside their respective fields of competence or concern areas which go well beyond them, or else the working methods employed are such that we concern ourselves only with today's problems.

A first step might be to establish a working group on strategies to consider these questions and propose concrete measures.

Bureau meetings are too short for the necessary time to be set aside for that purpose.

On each of the issues mentioned, documentation (often plentiful) is available, especially from international seminars, symposiums, conferences, etc.

The main question is how to organize work to exploit that information and use it in activities which are part of our mission.

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### Annex 3

## **REPORT ON THE BUREAU MEETING OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (28-29 November 2001)**

### **ATTENDANCE**

1. The Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee met on 28 and 29 November 2001 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. V. Tănase (Romania). The Bureau was attended by the following members: Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium), Mrs. P. Buch (France), Mr. P. Päßgen (Germany), Mrs. S. Mnimatidou (Greece), Mrs. Z. Egyhazy (Hungary), Mr. B. Griffioen (Netherlands), Mrs. L. Renne (Russian Federation), Mr. V. Donchenko (Russian Federation), Mr. J. C. Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mrs. U. Armangil (Turkey) and Mr. D. Stasinopoulos (European Commission). The representative of Ukraine (Mr. M. Mezheryskyi) was unable to attend.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The Bureau adopted its agenda, as circulated in TRANS/BUR.2001/9.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS CONCERNING THE AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

#### Matters arising from the fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the substantive session in 2001 of the Economic and Social Council

3. The Bureau agreed:
- to consider the different points raised in document TRANS/2002/3 under the relevant agenda items and take their content into account for any follow-up.
  - to recommend to the Committee to pay special attention in its activities to the gender aspect whenever appropriate, e.g. timely delivery of information also during the ITC sessions regarding the availability of posts, extending gender disaggregated data collected by the Working Party on Transport Statistics such as road accident statistics.

#### Follow-up to Conferences on transport and the environment

4. The Bureau:
- noted the oral report provided by the secretariat on the first session of the Joint UNECE-WHO Ad hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health which was held on 26 and 27 November 2001. It also noted the following three priority areas identified by the Group: integration and environmental management tools; demand-side management; and urban transport (including also sensitive areas).

- asked the secretariat to review the annotations regarding this item of the agenda in light of the results of the meeting of the Joint UNECE-WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health which took place on 26 and 27 November 2001 and of the Bureau meeting.
- was informed by the secretariat that the above meeting also discussed options available for addressing priority issues in transport, environment and health, including a possible Framework Convention.
- recalled the decision taken at the sixty-third session of the ITC which reads as follows: "... the Committee stressed that further steps in this field should provide for real value-added, particularly by promoting the implementation and further development of existing relevant conventions and regulations and by addressing areas which are not covered by these instruments, especially since the international legal and other instruments developed under the Committee's auspices already include numerous aspects related to the environment and health and are constantly updated to take into account the latest developments in both areas." (ECE/TRANS/136, para. 15).
- emphasized the fact that only after having explored all the possibilities of making use of existing instruments, new legal instruments could be considered. The secretariat was asked to reflect this view of the Inland Transport Committee and the Bureau in the appropriate documents and meetings.
- recommends to the ITC to clarify the mandate of the Joint UNECE-WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health in view of the work already carried out in the transport and environment framework.
- requested the secretariat to transmit the report of the meeting of the Joint UNECE-WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health which took place on 26 and 27 November 2001 to Governments as soon as it becomes available.
- emphasized the importance for the experts of the transport sector to be present in future meetings of the above-mentioned joint expert group to ensure the reflection of issues of interest to transport.
- asked the ITC to take a decision on the follow-up to the Vienna Conference, including the rationalization of the Vienna and London processes and the Vienna mid-term review.
- agreed that a constructive and coherent approach of the transport, environment and health sectors has to be taken by all parties concerned taking into account the expressed interest areas of all parties.

- recognized the usefulness of a permanent Working Party on Transport and the Environment as proposed by the Russian delegation (TRANS/BUR.2001/7). The Bureau felt that this item should be considered among the strategic objectives after the High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health scheduled for 5 July 2002 and agreed to revert to this question at its December meeting in 2002. It was of the opinion that the setting up of a permanent Working Party on Transport and the Environment had to be seen in connection with the establishment of a system of information, analytical and consulting centres on key transport related programmes (see also para. 16 below).

#### Transport and security

5. The Bureau agreed that :

- the ECE secretariat should contact the ECMT secretariat in order to establish how best to handle this issue before the setting up of an ad hoc group is considered.
- the secretariat should prepare a note identifying the problems which may be focused on in future in this area.

#### Assistance to countries with economies in transition

6. The Bureau agreed:

- to ask the secretariat to reiterate its appeals to potential donors in order to replenish the TFACT.
- to recommend to the Committee to request the Commission to consider the appropriateness of keeping the issue relating to the TFACT on the agendas of PSBs.
- to ask the secretariat to study the present and future possibilities of assistance activities.

#### Status of application of international UNECE transport agreements and conventions

7. The Bureau agreed that:

- individual subsidiary bodies of the ITC should be invited to monitor the implementation of the various legal instruments in the transport sector.

Transport trends and economics

(c) Euro-Asian transport links

8. The Bureau:

- agreed that the first paragraph of the notes for this agenda item should read as follows:

“The Committee may wish to **endorse** the common ECE/ESCAP Strategic Vision on Euro-Asian transport links which was adopted by the Working Party at its fourteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/2001/14) (TRANS/WP.5/30, para. 31) and which took into account the findings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport which was held in St. Petersburg from 12-13 September 2000.”

- noted that the Committee will be informed of the follow-up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport held in St. Petersburg from 12-13 September 2000.
- noted that a third International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport is scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg in the autumn of 2003.
- agreed that the fourth paragraph of the notes for this agenda item should read as follows: “The Committee may also wish to **encourage** the work related to the development of the southern corridor and the future run of the demonstration block-train between Istanbul (Turkey) and Almaty (Kazakhstan) which is scheduled to take place on 19 December 2001 and **underline** its importance for the further promotion of railway links between Europe and Asia (TRANS/WP.5/30, para. 38-39).”

(d) Transport in the Mediterranean

9. The Bureau agreed that:

- in (d) (ii) the title of this sub-item should read as follows: “Work of the Transport Study Centres in the Mediterranean” and recalled that the Study Centres are not “UN” centres.
- in (d) (iii) the title of this sub-item should read as follows: “Major Transport Projects in the Mediterranean” with an indent to read ‘Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar’.



Road Transport**(d) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)**

10. The Bureau agreed that an informal document by the IRU on the facilitation of visa issuance should be submitted to the next session of the ITC.

Safety in tunnels**(b) Future work**

11. The Bureau agreed:

- to recommend to the Committee to reconvene the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels to deal with safety provisions for long rail tunnels.
- to recommend to the ITC to ask its competent subsidiary bodies to consider urgently the recommendations on safety in road tunnels in order to determine those that may be incorporated in the relevant legal instruments.

**REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVES**

12. The Bureau discussed in great detail the paper presented by its Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Courtois, on "Suggestions for a Strategic Approach" (TRANS/BUR.2001/8, Annex) and commented at great length on numerous aspects contained therein.

13. It felt that, in order to deal with this issue adequately, a group on strategy might be needed to redefine the objectives and priorities. Once these have been defined the question has to be addressed of how to reach the objectives.

14. The Bureau agreed:

- that the document prepared by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Courtois, on "Suggestions for a Strategic Approach" regarding the work of the ITC was an excellent basis for discussion of the Committee's future and expressed its high appreciation for it.
- that a clarification of the objectives and priorities of the Committee was needed taking into account the pan-European scope of the Committee and the institutional, social and technological changes foreseen.
- that a joint meeting of the Bureau and the Chairpersons of ITC subsidiary bodies is envisaged to be held on 21 February 2002 to reflect on and discuss the strategic directions of the Committee's work.

- that an extended Bureau meeting, which could be held for 2 days in May-June 2002, should continue consideration of strategic issues and that, at a later stage, a small drafting group might be convened to draw up a final text concerning strategic objectives of the Committee.

## **ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

### 15. The Bureau:

- asked the secretariat to examine the sources of financing, proposed by the Russian Federation (TRANS/BUR.2001/7), and present the results of this assessment to the sixty-fourth session of the Committee.
- considered a proposal made by the Russian Federation in document TRANS/BUR.2001/7 to develop further the work of the UNECE in the countries of central and eastern Europe as well as in CIS countries through the establishment of a system of information, analytical and consulting centres on key transport-related programmes (e.g. sustainable transport development, etc.).
- noted that this proposal could be incorporated in a strategic objective as outlined in Mr. Courtois' paper in the forthcoming discussions on strategic directions.
- noted the financing arrangements set up by the European Commission through the Bangkok and BISTRO facilities for economic development projects.

## **HOLDING OF A ROUND TABLE**

### 16. The Bureau:

- noted the detailed programme of the Round Table on **New Vehicle Propulsion Technologies** to be held during the sixty-fourth session of the ITC as circulated to Bureau members in document TRANS/BUR.2001/10.
- noted the proposal made by WP.29 to organize, together with the secretariat, on the occasion of the session of the ITC in 2003 a Round Table on "Intelligent Transport Systems".
- felt in this connection that additional themes for a Round Table should also be examined by the ITC such as Transport Safety, Euro-Asian transport links or Multimodal Transport. It asked the ITC to identify a theme for a possible Round Table in 2003.

## **GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

17. The Bureau took a decision on this item in the framework of item 2 of its agenda: “Matters arising from the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies”.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Documentation**

18. The Bureau:

- noted the difficulties encountered by the secretariat in making documentation available in the three official languages sufficiently in advance of meetings of the Committee's subsidiary bodies.
- welcomed the electronic storage in the Transport Division's website of original versions of documents as soon as available and encouraged the Committee members to use this facility.
- suggested to the secretariat to establish priorities for translations of documents of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and contact the UNOG Conference Services in order to ensure their timely distribution.

### **(b) Dates of next meetings**

19. The Bureau noted that its next meetings are scheduled to be held on:

- 18 February 2002 (morning)
- 21 February 2002 (afternoon).

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

20. The Bureau had an exchange of views on the election of officers for the future sessions of the Committee.

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