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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Twenty-first session

Geneva, 9-10 September 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION^{1, 2}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 9 September 2008

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Monitoring of developments relevant for pan-European transport corridors and areas
 - (a) The European Commission briefing on the progress made in the implementation of Pan-European Transport Corridors

¹ 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 UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html>).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat 2 weeks prior to the session by email (bernadette.healy@unece.org) or by fax (+41-22-917 0039). 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 <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>).

- (b) The relationship between the UNECE transport infrastructure Agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC, AGN) and the UNECE Projects (TEM and TER) with Pan-European transport infrastructure network planning procedures
 - (c) Infrastructure bottlenecks and missing links
- 3. Development of Euro-Asian transport links
 - (a) Results of the Ministerial Meeting on Euro-Asian transport
 - (b) Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links
 - (c) Organization of demonstration trains
- 4. Transport in the Mediterranean region
 - (a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centre and Transport Training Centre
 - (b) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region
- 5. Activities related to seaports
 - (a) Report on the progress of the Expert Group on Hinterland Connections of Seaports
 - (b) The UNECE Conference in Piraeus on the Role of Seaports
- 6. Emerging transport trends in the ECE region
 - (a) Review of the transport situation in the ECE region
 - (b) The Belgian experience
- 7. Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies
 - (b) The Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment
- 8. Assistance regarding institutional adaptation of government administration and of transport enterprises to market economy
- 9. Biennial evaluation 2008-2009
- 10. Other Business
- 11. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/43 - Annotated provisional agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

Item 2 Monitoring of the developments relevant to pan-European transport corridors and areas

(a) The European Commission briefing on the progress made in the implementation of pan-European Transport Corridors

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/1 – Communication from the European Commission concerning the progress of exploratory talks regarding cooperation in the field of transport with neighbouring countries

2. At its twentieth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/42), the Working Party reiterated that one of its priority areas of concern should be to follow-up of all initiatives and activities relevant for the future development of Pan-European transport corridors and infrastructure. Since then the European Commission released an important Communication on the progress of exploratory talks regarding cooperation in the field of transport with the neighbouring countries (document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/1). A representative of the European Commission is expected to provide the Working Party with an update on subsequent developments in the implementation of the Pan-European Transport Corridors.

(b) The relationship between the UNECE transport infrastructure Agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC, AGN) and the UNECE Projects (TEM and TER), with Pan-European transport infrastructure network planning procedures

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/2 - Biennial report on a coherent European system of international transport infrastructure; Informal documents Nos. 1-4 - Developments in selected Pan-European Transport Corridors, TEM and TER projects

3. Managers of selected Pan-European Transport Corridors and TEM and TER projects are expected to provide an update on relevant developments and activities regarding the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries as well as in respective Corridors and Areas (Informal documents No. 1-4). The secretariat will then present the Biennial report on a coherent European system of international transport infrastructure (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/2), in line with the programme of work for 2008-2012. Representatives of the countries concerned who will attend the session may wish to provide additional information on major developments relevant to pan-European transport networks in their respective countries.

4. In view of recent developments of UNECE infrastructure agreements as well as the TEM and TER Master Plans, the Working Party may wish to discuss how future developments related to transport corridors and areas could be most effectively monitored for the benefit of all UNECE member countries.

(c) Infrastructure bottlenecks and missing links

Documentation: Informal document No. 5 - Infrastructure bottlenecks and missing links

5. The Working Party decided at its twentieth session that the secretariat should ensure the completion of the report entitled “Methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks” and submit it to the twenty-first session. The final draft of the report, reproduced in the informal document No. 5, will be presented to the Working Party.

Item 3 Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links

(a) Results of the Ministerial Meeting on Euro-Asian transport

6. The Working Party decided at its twentieth session to support convening of the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of countries in the Euro-Asian region during the first day of the seventieth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (19-21 February 2008) and suggested a draft statement pledging endorsement of the future development of Euro-Asian Transport Links as a basis for a final statement to be signed by Ministers. The secretariat will brief the Working Party about the Ministerial Meeting on Euro-Asian transport links, held in Geneva on 19 February 2008. The Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links, signed by 18 participating countries from Europe and Asia is available at the UNECE website < http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/min_jointstatement.htm>.

(b) Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/3
- Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links

7. At its twentieth session, the Working Party asked to be informed about relevant developments pertaining to Phase II of the joint UNECE-UNESCAP project on Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) and proposed to the ITC to assign the monitoring and coordinating responsibility related hereto to an ad hoc Group of Experts for a period of two years (2008-2009) that would report to it. The ITC approved at its seventieth session the formation of the Group as well as the terms of reference proposed by the Working Party. The ITC decision was endorsed by the UNECE Executive Committee at its twentieth session on 22 March 2008. A report on the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links will be presented to the Working Party for its consideration (ECE//TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/3). The Working Party may also wish to consider and endorse the programme of work adopted by the Group of Experts (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2).

(c) Organization of demonstration trains

8. At its twentieth session the Working Party asked member Governments to provide it with information about new developments concerning demonstration runs of block trains along the Euro-Asian corridors on their respective territories. The Working Party also supported the decision of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to circulate widely its recommendations on the organization of demonstration runs of container block trains on Euro-Asian routes. These recommendations are now available in electronic form on the SC.2 website <http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/brochures/SC2_Container_Block_Trains_e.pdf>.

Item 4 Transport in the Mediterranean Region

(a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centre and Transport Training Centre

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/3, Informal document No. 6
- Mediterranean Transport Study Centre and Transport Training Centre

9. The Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) had been asked to report on its activities since the sixteenth session of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/38, para. 18). Relevant information on the recent activities of CETMO will be circulated in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/3 for consideration by the Working Party. At its twentieth session, the Working Party asked the CETMO and TRANSCEM secretariats to prepare a presentation on their organization, functioning and activities for its next session. This presentation (Informal document No. 6) will be introduced by the CETMO secretariat.

(b) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region

10. At its eighteenth session, the Working Party asked the secretariat to request from the EC DG TREN a regular update on the situation regarding the development of the Euro-Mediterranean transport network and the European Commission's ongoing activities in this field. The update will be presented by a representative of the Commission.

Item 5 Activities related to seaports

(a) Report on the progress of the Expert Group on Hinterland Connections of Seaports

Documentation: ECE/EX/2008/L.5, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/2008/3

11. At its twentieth session, the Working Party decided to support the creation of an ad hoc Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports for a period of one year. The ITC approved at its seventieth session the formation of the Group of Experts as well as the terms of reference proposed by the Working Party. The ITC decision was endorsed by the UNECE Executive Committee at its twentieth session on 22 March 2008 (ECE/EX/2008/L.5). The Chair of the Group of Experts will present the report of the first session of the Group held on 18 April 2008 (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/2008/3) and inform the Working Party about the progress achieved since then.

(b) The UNECE Conference in Piraeus on the Role of Seaports

12. The Chair of the Group of Experts will inform the Working Party about the final programme of the UNECE Conference in Piraeus on the Role of Seaports (17-18 September 2008), hosted by the Hellenic Ministry of Merchant Marine and aiming to identify problems and share best practices pertaining to seaport efficiency and connectivity with inland transport modes.

Item 6 Emerging transport trends in the ECE region

(a) Review of the transport situation in the ECE region

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/4

13. The secretariat prepares once a year a review of the transport situation in the ECE region, based on available statistics and national contributions (available at the Transport Division website at <http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>). Following a brief introduction of the latest review (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/4), the Working Party may wish to consider the usefulness of this kind of information and, if necessary, provide the secretariat with suggestions concerning the format and timing of the next review.

(b) The Belgian experience

Documentation: Informal document No. 7

14. The representative of the Belgian Federal Ministry of Transport will make a presentation (Informal document No. 7) concerning the country's experience with improving the quality of transport services (while becoming a major international logistics hub) and inter-modal coordination (including hinterland connections of seaports) in the context of the unfinished EU-wide liberalization, EU enlargement, expansion of EU trade with China, etc. The Working Party may wish to consider the Belgian experience with the adaptation to structural changes in the market for inland transport services and decide whether it would like to receive a similar national report next year.

Item 7 Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party

(a) Inland Transport Committee

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/200 – Report of the seventieth session

15. The Committee held its seventieth session in Geneva from 19 to 21 February 2008. The Working Party will be informed about the Committee's decisions on the issues related to its work areas, appearing in paragraphs 6-9, 29-31, 39-41, 43-44 and 52-54 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/200). The Working Party will be also informed about the formal approval by the Committee of the report on its twentieth session (para. 60) and selected issues of an informative character (paras. 70, 114-116).

(b) The Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment

16. The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the joint UNECE-WHO Pan-European Programme on Transport Health and Environment (THE PEP) and its Clearing House in general and the forthcoming Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health in particular.

Item 8 Assistance regarding institutional adaptation of government administration and of transport enterprises to market economy

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/5

17. The Working Party will be informed about the activities of the Regional Adviser and the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT). The information about these items is provided in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/5.

18. The Working Party may also invite Governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) and indicate the type of assistance which may be forthcoming.

Item 9 Biennial evaluation 2008-2009

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/6

19. The secretariat will introduce a questionnaire aiming to evaluate the session and invite delegates to complete it.

Item 10 Other business

20. The Working Party's twenty-second session is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva on 9 –10 September 2009. It is to be preceded by a session of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links on 8 September 2009.

Item 11 Adoption of the report

21. 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.
