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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Twenty-eighth session

Geneva, 7–9 September 2015

Item 15 (b) of the provisional agenda

Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017:

Draft work plan for 2016–2020

Work plan for 2016–2020*

Note by the secretariat

1. As requested by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Bureau at its sixth meeting on 20 June 2011, the Working Party should review and approve its traditional 4-year work plan for 2016–2020 in addition to the mandatory programme of work for 2016–2017 and biennial evaluation (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2015/8).

2. The text of the work plan reproduced below is based on the work plan, approved by the ITC on 27 February 2014 (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 105, ECE/TRANS/2014/26) and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its twenty-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/54, para. 77). The changes proposed are in **bold** (text to be added) or ~~struck through~~ characters (text to be deleted).

I. Programme Activity 02.2: Transport Trends and Economics

Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy, and analysis of specific transport economic issues Priority: 1

Description:

Review and exchange of information on general trends in the development of transport and of specific transport economic issues including transport development in the Mediterranean Region. *Work to be undertaken:*

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

The Committee and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will consider and carry out the following activities:

A. Continuing Activities

1. Study of economic aspects of transport taking into account (i) the integration process going on within the UNECE region, and (ii) the reform processes under way in member countries by monitoring current changes in transport in order to identify, promote and spread positive examples for transport development.

Output expected:

Report on transport developments every ~~5~~ 2 years (~~2014~~) (2016). Priority: 2

2. Periodical review of new important policy developments **or of new topical issues** relating to inland transport in UNECE member countries in order to make the medium- and long-term evolution of transport more transparent **but also in order to further facilitate discussions and analysis of these issues that might lead to future concerted actions possibly with other working parties**. The Working Party ~~WP.5~~ will examine all decisions, general and specific, recently taken in member countries likely to have implications in the organization of transport and **will** take into account the findings arrived at during international meetings focusing on salient issues of transport development.

Output expected:

Reports on developments in inland transport of member countries (every ~~five~~ two years; next report: (~~2014~~) (2016)). Priority: 2

3. Monitoring of the developments relevant to the Pan-European Transport Corridors in cooperation with the EC.

Output expected:

Report on progress made in the implementation of the Pan-European Transport Corridors. Priority: 1

4. Study of the interrelationship of the UNECE Agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC and its Protocol, AGN) and the UNECE projects (TEM, TER **and EATL**) with the Pan-European transport network planning procedure with a view to:

(a) indicating the major international transport routes to be considered for improvement and modernization, establishing priorities and a timetable taking into account those parts of the networks where there are bottlenecks and missing links;

(b) assessing the cost of this infrastructure plan and making suggestions for financing it.

Output expected:

Preparation ~~Production~~ of a biannual report **or workshop or set of presentations** on coherent European system of international transport infrastructure. Priority: 1

5. Implementation of Phase III of the Euro-Asian transport links work under the related expert group, as well as continuation of co-ordinating infrastructure planning, evaluating and prioritizing of infrastructure projects; studying and analyzing economically viable inland transport options; examining non-physical obstacles and facilitating international transport along EATL routes; collecting transport flows data in the EATL region; strengthening national capacities; sharing experience and best practices along the Euro-Asian transport

routes; and further developing and updating the Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

Output expected:

Final Report on Euro-Asian transport links Phase III (within 2015). **Possible continuation of the work beyond 2015 if experts have not finalized their final report during 2015.**

Priority: 1

6. Financing schemes of transport infrastructure

Output expected:

Report on national experiences

Priority: 1

7. Development of efficient management frameworks for transport infrastructure maintenance and operation, thus optimizing the need for new investments (linked to the development of the Quality-of-Service concept). **Concerted actions towards the benchmarking of transport infrastructure construction costs.**

Output expected:

Report on the ~~quality of transport services~~ **benchmarking of transport infrastructure construction costs**

Priority: 2

8. Improving inter-modal coordination and integration with a view to establishing a balanced European transport system. This also includes activities related to seaports **and their hinterland connections** as important nodal points for a change of transport mode.

Priority: 2

9. Assistance regarding institutional adaptation of government administration and of transport enterprises to market economy. This also includes support through the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).¹

Output expected:

Annual report for information

Priority: 1

10. Strengthening of cooperation with the Mediterranean Study and Training Centre, to enable all UNECE countries to benefit from the activities carried out including the organization of workshops. The Working Party will also analyze evolution of transport developments in the Mediterranean basin and the Black Sea region, as well as consider information on the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar.

Output expected:

Production of an annual report for information on the activities of the Study and Training Centre.

Priority: 2

Biennial report for information on the progress made in the analysis of the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Priority: 3

11. **Review on a regular basis of the developments in urban mobility and transport, including public transport and particularly, the inter-linkages between urban, regional, national and international transport networks and services.**

¹ A detailed list of subjects is circulated in document TRANS/1999/11.

Priority: 2

B. Activities of a limited duration

- ~~1. As follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment: Development and implementation of programmes to establish attractive networks taking into account such aspects as intermodality, interoperability and environmentally sound vehicles.²~~
2. Work on adaptation aspects of Climate Change and Transport under the continuation of the Group of Experts on climate change impacts and adaptation for transport networks and nodes.

Duration: two years (2015–2017)

Output expected:

Report of policy-oriented recommendations that aim to improve the long-term sustainability of international transport in areas such as: infrastructure, risk-assessment methodology, evaluation of adaptive measures, risk management, training tools, and cross-border information sharing by national transport authorities.

Priority 1

² In addition to the above item, the Working Party wishes to be associated with activities on transport and environment concerning, in particular, development of methodologies for setting up databases, implementation of scientific programmes, assistance to countries in transition, development of environmental guidelines, external costs, analysis of questions related to the protection of sensitive areas (see also items I (c), (d), (g), (h); III (e); IV (c), (f) in the Programme of Joint Action).