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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Transport Statistics

Sixty-eighth session  
Geneva, 7-9 June 2017

### Report of the Working Party on Transport Statistics on its sixty-eighth session

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## **I. Attendance**

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its sixty-eighth session from 7 to 9 June 2017 in Geneva. According to the decision taken at its sixty-seventh session (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/171, para. 45) the session was to be chaired by Ms. O. Kastlova (Czechia) who was not able to attend. As such the session was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mr. P. Smeets (Netherlands).

2. The session of the Working Party was attended by the following countries: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America (by teleconference).

3. The following United Nations specialized agency was present: the World Health Organization (WHO).

4. Representatives of the European Union (EU) were also present: Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and Eurostat. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Eurasian Economic Commission; European Railway Agency (ERA), International Transport Forum (ITF); International Road Federation and the International Union of Railways (UIC).

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/172

5. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/172).

## **III. Workshop on Data Sources for Rail Statistics (agenda item 2)**

6. The first morning of the session was dedicated to a workshop on data sources for rail statistics.

7. The representative of Canada described the methods they use for collecting rail statistics given their federal structure. During questions, the presenter noted that balance sheet data were considered a reliable source of data, as the rail industry is heavily regulated.

8. The Netherlands described some of the challenges they face on measuring freight statistics because of many more market entrants due to market liberalization. One interesting feature of their data collection was the use of train spotters for data gathering, and despite being provided by unpaid hobbyists this was considered a reliable data source, having been crosschecked with other sources.

9. The Russian Federation presented rail data collection activities and the organization of statistical observation of production processes, from the viewpoint of a state-owned enterprise. One point of interest was the use of the rail data as a leading economic indicator to foresee economic rises and downturns.

10. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented various methods for data collection and particular challenges they face, from the perspective of the state-run regulator. During questions, it was noted that no formal memoranda of understanding exist between the rail regulator and the freight companies (unlike the

passenger sector), but goodwill and positive engagement led to a normally strong response rate.

11. The UIC presented their work on data collection specifically related to infrastructure and train movements. During questions UIC mentioned that their data are disaggregated by type of traction (i.e. electrified versus non-electrified), and that origin/destination data were also available.

12. The ERA presented on harvesting railway statistics from EU registers, and on the Platform of Rail Infrastructure Managers in Europe (PRIME). Currently the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that the ERA produces are only used for monitoring, rather than used for target setting.

13. Following the presentations was a general discussion on who the key users of these data are, such as government entities, the rail companies themselves, academic institutions and the general public.

14. The Working Party welcomed the initiative to start the session with a workshop dedicated to a specific theme, and appreciated the contributions and discussion brought on by the presentations delivered by member States and international organizations. The Working Party considered topics for next year's workshop, and suggestions were made including the environmental and safety impacts of all modes of transport, road or rail safety statistics, and statistics concerning inland waterways. The Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the secretariat, will consider these suggestions and propose a theme.

#### **IV. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies (agenda item 3)**

*Documentation:* Informal document ITC (2017) No. 11

15. The Working Party took note of the main decisions of the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (22-24 February 2017), in particular all activities of its subsidiary bodies and the UNECE secretariat of interest to the Working Party.

16. The Working Party was informed that the ITC had approved as a whole the report and related activities of the Working Party on Transport Statistics in 2017 (ECE/TRANS/254, para. 151, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/171), noted the decision related to transport statistics and welcomed the numerous references to the activities of the Working Party within the ITC strategy document discussed at the session (ECE/TRANS/254, paras. 143-145).

#### **V. Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics (agenda item 4)**

##### **A. Glossary for Transport Statistics**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/8

17. The Working Party was informed of the proposed process for producing the fifth edition of the Glossary, and agreed that efforts to improve the Glossary's global reach were useful. As such, outreach to other international organizations for inputs, particularly pertaining to transport modes and vehicles that are not currently represented in the Glossary, was welcomed.

18. The Working Party decided to establish an informal group of experts to provide input into the updating process and to review contributions, and noted the terms of reference (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/1). The work of the informal group of experts will be organized around transport modes to allow the relevant delegates to concentrate on their own areas of expertise. The secretariat will send, in cooperation with Eurostat and ITF, letters to countries asking for nominations of relevant experts for each mode, in addition to taking into account overall modal split, passenger mobility and multimodal issues.

19. After the informal group of experts has made its recommendations and proposed Glossary updates (following the provisional timeline set out in ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/1), it is understood that Eurostat plans to launch a call for tender with the aim of finding a consultant to, in addition to other tasks, finalize the publication of the Glossary.

20. The Working Party encouraged all delegates to participate in the meetings of the informal group of experts.

21. The Working Party considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/8 related to amendments to be included in the fifth edition of the Glossary, as proposed by the Russian Federation. These documents shall be discussed further during the coming review of the Glossary, in addition to documents ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/2 from the previous session. While it would not be desirable to significantly change the wording of established and well-used definitions, clarifying remarks and explanations that may be particularly relevant in certain countries and regions could be added to the Glossary, allowing both continuity of definitions and greater region-specific understanding.

22. Delegates noted the importance of being consulted when translations of the Glossary will be done, to ensure that transport statistics experts in each language ensure that correct terms are used.

23. The Working Party invited all member States to submit suggestions for improvements or/and additions to the Glossary, even if they are unable to contribute to the informal group of experts.

## **B. Classification system for transport statistics**

24. The Working Party took note of the update from the Chair on the use of the NST 2007 as a classification system for the transport of goods.

25. Delegates were invited to inform the Working Party of their experiences on the use of NST 2007 at the next session. They are welcome to submit to the secretariat any questions or requests, comments, concerning the classification.

## **C. Common Questionnaire**

26. The Working Party took note of the availability of data collected through the Common Questionnaire for transport statistics. This update was provided by Eurostat, who also gave an update on their project for improving the quality and availability of rail infrastructure statistics, and on their Rail Market Monitoring System.

27. The Working Party discussed how different countries upload data into the Common Questionnaire, either inputting the data manually or through the bulk upload function. The delegate from Spain noted that collating the data from multiple sources within different

government departments was often the main challenge, rather than the uploading of the data themselves.

28. The Working Party was informed of a draft new code list for use with the web common questionnaire, prepared by the ITF.

29. The Working Party insisted on the importance of providing data for the Common Questionnaire, and encouraged the non-reporting countries to at least provide the top-level data.

#### **D. Road traffic accident statistics and rail traffic accidents statistics**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/4, Informal documents WP.6 No. 3 (2017) and No. 4 (2017)

30. The Working Party took note of the ongoing work in relation to road and rail traffic accident statistics, and road and rail safety in general, by the secretariat.

31. The Working Party noted a presentation on the importance of a gender breakdown with respect to road safety statistics, given by the UNECE Statistical Division. The Working Party invited the secretariat to consider the importance of a gender breakdown when sending out the questionnaire in the future. The secretariat will consider if any further gender perspectives can be ascertained from manipulating the data currently collected.

32. The Working Party noted the road traffic accident questionnaire sent by the secretariat to member States in April, and recalled the 9 June 2017 deadline. The secretariat informed the Working Party that receiving the data as soon as possible would allow the Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America publication to be completed in good time.

33. The Working Party noted a presentation by DG MOVE concerning the work conducted by the European Commission on road safety.

34. The Working Party noted the results of the pilot questionnaire on rail traffic accident statistics presented by the secretariat, and decided to collect these data permanently. Eurostat offered to host the collection mechanism for this through the existing web common questionnaire, if desired.

35. The Working Party confirmed that the pilot questionnaire on statistics of accidents at level crossings would be sent out in 2017, after hearing from the secretariat of the Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings on the importance of these data.

36. The Working Party decided to keep this issue on its agenda.

#### **E. Pilot questionnaire on road traffic performance**

37. The Working Party took note of a presentation from Eurostat. The pilot questionnaire would continue for another cycle.

#### **F. Intermodal transport statistics**

38. The Working Party was informed that the Guidelines on the compilation of intermodal statistics at national level using the “German Approach” will be used for a pilot collection of intermodal indicators by Eurostat.

## VI. Traffic censuses in the UNECE region (agenda item 5)

### A. 2015 E-Road traffic census

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/5, Informal document WP.6 No. 1 (2017)

39. The Working Party was informed on the responses so far for the 2015 E-Road Traffic census, the deadline for which was 30 November 2016. Member States who have submitted at least partial census results were currently Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

40. The Working Party took note of the secretariat's aim to disseminate the E-Road census results using a Geospatial Information System (GIS) platform. This should be possible as long as countries could provide the maps of their census results in a Shape (SHP) file format or similar.

41. The secretariat informed the Working Party of some of the uses of the geospatial census data, such as by the Group of Experts on Climate Change and Adaptation for International Transport Networks, whereby the census data can be combined with climate change "hot spot" maps to identify areas of potential disruption.

42. The Working Party encouraged all member States to actively participate in this round and future rounds of the road census.

### B. 2015 E-Rail traffic census

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2013/5

43. The Working Party noted the deadline of the E-Rail census of 30 June 2017 and encouraged all member States to submit their E-Rail census results by then, noting that some of the required data for EU countries are available through Eurostat.

44. The Working Party asked the secretariat to provide similar resources, in particular a GIS platform, for the dissemination of the rail census results as it will for the road census results.

## VII. Development of a global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 6)

45. The Working Party took note of the activities of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG), in particular about the list of indicators proposed to measure the Sustainable Development Goals, the update for which was given by the Statistical Division of UNECE. The presentation included details on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators most relevant to transport, and the updates on which tiers (1, 2 or 3) that each one was currently classified as, based on whether data and agreed methodology exist.

46. The Working Party took note of the secretariat's involvement in the Sustainable Mobility for All (Sum4All) initiative, and requested future updates on the Mobility Global Tracking Framework.

47. The Working Party noted an update from the WHO on their draft document entitled "Developing voluntary global targets for road safety risk factors and service delivery mechanisms".

## **VIII. Dissemination of transport statistics by UNECE (agenda item 7)**

48. The Working Party took note of the work on the UNECE transport statistics database and the status of the publications: Statistics for Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS) and the UNECE Transport Statistics for Europe and North America, and the timescales for their publication. The secretariat described efforts to make the online database more user-friendly by merging some similar tables together, and to publish all of the data that are currently collected through the Common Questionnaire.

## **IX. Capacity-building activities (agenda item 8)**

*Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/2*

49. The Working Party took note of the workshop on transport statistics in Turkmenistan (8-9 September 2016) on the use of the Web Common Questionnaire with the purpose of improving the response rate, as mandated by the Inland Transport Committee in 2016.

50. The Working Party welcomed the planned future workshop in Kazakhstan (1-3 November 2017) with the same goals. The Working Party will be informed of the outcome of the workshop at its next session in 2018.

## **X. Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) (agenda item 9)**

51. The Working Party took note of the IWG activities during the past year.

## **XI. Statistical activities of international organizations of interest to the Working Party (agenda item 10)**

### **A. European Commission (DG MOVE)**

52. The representative of DG MOVE informed the Working Party about the developments in the Community transport policy and their statistical implications, including the “Europe on the Move” strategy and a study into the internalisation of external costs relating to the extent to which the “user pays” and the “producer pays” principles are implemented in EU member States. He presented an interactive tool to compare member States’ performances.

53. The representative of DG MOVE also outlined the expected statistical needs of DG MOVE in the future. These may include measurements for on-demand mobility, the sharing economy, autonomous driving and intelligent vehicles.

### **B. European Commission (Eurostat)**

54. The representative of Eurostat informed the Working Party about the activities of his organization and the main objectives of their programme of work.

55. The Working Party was also informed about the Safety Project carried out by Eurostat.



### **C. International Transport Forum**

56. The representative of ITF reported on the results of the annual Summit in Leipzig (31 May-2 June 2017, Germany), which this year had a theme of governance in transport. He also informed the Working Party about the fourth ITF Transport Statistics Meeting (14-15 March 2017) and the third Meeting of the Working Group on Big Data and Open Data (16-17 March 2017).

### **D. International Union of Railways**

57. The delegate from UIC informed the Working Party about their latest statistical work.

## **XII. Statistical activities of member States of interest to the Working Party (agenda item 11)**

### **A. Canada**

58. The Working Party heard about developments of transport statistics within Canada, and the particularities and challenges faced due to the country's federal structure. The presenter mentioned the Canadian Federal Government's "Open Data" initiative, which aims to make all data collected (that are not confidential) available to the general public through an open data portal.

### **B. Russian Federation**

59. A delegate from the Russian Federation made a presentation on "Corridors and Logistics Centres in the Global Transport System", and the "Role of Statistics, cartography and geoinformational technologies in the transport system of the Russian Federation".

## **XIII. Programme of work, biennial evaluation and work plan (agenda item 12)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/4 and Informal document WP.6 No. 2 (2017)

60. In accordance with the decision of ITC to review its programme of work every two years, (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party reviewed and adopted its programme of work for 2018-2019 as well as the relevant parameters allowing for its biennial evaluation as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2017/4. Further, it reviewed and adopted the performance assessment and lessons learned/areas for improvement as set out in Informal document WP.6 No. 2 (2017), as required for the biennial evaluation by ITC.

## **XIV. Other business (agenda item 13)**

### **A. Date of next session**

61. The Working Party decided to hold its next session from 12 to 14 June 2018. The first half-day will be dedicated to a workshop on a specific item of interest to be decided based on proposals from delegates as discussed under item 2.

### **B. Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics**

62. The Working Party took note of preliminary dates and venues of meetings in 2017-2018. This list does not include meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee, although statistics is an agenda item for all the Working Parties of the individual transport modes.

Working Group on Inland Waterways Statistics (Eurostat)	18-19 October 2017
Coordinating Group for Statistics on Transport (Eurostat)	30-31 October 2017
Workshop on Transport Satellite Accounts (ITF)	November 2017
Eightieth session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC)	20-23 February 2018
ITF Statistics Meeting	March 2018
Working Group on Inland Waterways Statistics (Eurostat)	26 April 2018
Working Group on Road Freight Statistics (Eurostat)	30-31 May 2018
UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6)	12-14 June 2018
Working Group on Maritime Transport Statistics (Eurostat)	27-28 September 2018
Coordinating Group for Statistics on Transport (Eurostat)	29-30 November 2018

### **C. Bus and coach statistics**

63. The Working Party decided to continue the pilot questionnaire on bus and coach statistics. The secretariat will disseminate these data through the current online database, in order to increase the value of this exercise and generate more interest in the data, possibly leading to a better response rate.

**D. Cycling statistics**

*Documentation:* Informal document WP.6 No. 5 (2017)

64. The Working Party noted the final draft of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme's Pan-European master Plan for Cycling Promotion, in particular recommendation 8 referring to the collection of statistics on cycling. The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda.

**XV. Summary of decisions (agenda item 14)**

65. As agreed and in line with the decision of ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, para. 6), the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, prepared this report.

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