



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.11/2007/2
16 August 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Sixty-third session
Geneva, 12-15 November 2007
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

1. At its 62nd session in 2000, the Inland Transport Committee decided to consider its programme of work every second year instead of every year (ECE/TRANS/133, para. 99). The present draft programme of work will be considered by WP.11 at its 63rd session and be transmitted for adoption by the ITC at its 70th session in February 2008. The Working Party is invited to examine in particular the continued relevance of priorities assigned to individual work elements and the expected outputs identified for the next two-year period, i.e. by 2008/2009. Proposals made by the secretariat for additions appear in bold text.

2. A new work element has been added to the programme of work to take into account the request made by the Economic Commission for Europe that Sectoral Committees and their subsidiary bodies conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes. The background and the objectives of these biennial evaluations are described below.

A. Biennial evaluations

Background

3. At its 69th session (6-8 February 2007), the Inland Transport Committee was informed of the request made by the Economic Commission for Europe that Sectoral Committees conduct
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biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes and take into account the results of these evaluations in determining their work programmes (ECE/TRANS/192, paragraph 110).

4. These biennial evaluations would be carried out for the first time in the 2008-2009 biennium. In 2008, the Committee on Inland Transport will have to agree on an expected accomplishment per cluster of activity together with related indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies.

5. To this end, in 2007, the Committee's Working Parties, in cooperation with the secretariat, will each have to draw up a draft expected accomplishment related to their work areas as well as indicators and appropriate methodologies and submit them to the Bureau.

6. The Bureau will review them and make a recommendation to the 2008 session of the Committee. In 2010, the Committee will be invited to review the draft accomplishment accounts prepared for each expected accomplishment by the secretariat. It will be expected to discuss the lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate. The Committee's Chair will be invited to report on the evaluations' key findings to the Executive Committee.

Objectives

7. The biennial evaluations will give the opportunity for countries to join forces with the secretariat in reviewing and reaffirming, on a continuous basis, the relevance of their activities. The results of these evaluations should contribute to effective programme management at all levels by: showing evidence of achieving expected accomplishments, defining future priority areas for action, and providing opportunities for making incremental and timely adjustments.

8. They are also intended to assist in measuring more precisely the impact of activities, which in itself is a challenge. Furthermore, the evaluations will bring more information on the effectiveness of different activities in obtaining results contributing to the objectives and expected accomplishments of a given subprogramme.

9. It is expected that these evaluations may also lead to conclusions concerning the efficiency of outputs and activities and subsequently to recommendations for maximizing benefits by improving the use of existing resources.

10. Finally, the results of evaluations are expected to constitute in the future the necessary arguments in the subsequent phases of programme management, such as defining priorities and the related redistribution of resources.

Planning

11. Firstly, Working Parties should define an expected accomplishment to be achieved within a two-year period as a result of implementing different outputs and activities.

12. Secondly, in order to be able to measure the extent to which expected accomplishments have been achieved, indicators of achievement should be defined. These indicators should allow for an unambiguous statement of achievement or deviation from it.

13. Thirdly, in order to facilitate the measurement, a methodology should be determined early in the process, including baseline and target values, sources of data and information as well as ways and means of their collection. External factors, which may influence the achievement of an expected accomplishment, should also be identified.

Evaluation and reporting

14. Working Parties are requested to evaluate, every second year, the performance of their activities in view of the expected accomplishments and related indicators drawn up at the beginning of the two-year cycle. For this purpose, they should review the accomplishment accounts, drawn up by the secretariat and consisting of an evaluation, both quantitative and qualitative, of the results achieved.

Proposal for WP.11

15. The expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement proposed by the secretariat for the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) appear below:

Expected accomplishment: Enhanced and updated requirements for the international transport of perishable foodstuffs

Indicator of achievement 1: Total number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment Used for such Carriage (ATP)

Indicator of achievement 2: Number of new amendments to the ATP adopted by the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11).

B. Programme of work

(modifications appear in bold)

ACTIVITY 02.11: TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS

Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operation Priority: 2

Description: Review of the harmonization and the facilitation of the international transport of perishable foodstuffs under the ATP Agreement and updating of this Agreement in order to keep it in line with technological developments, taking into account safety and quality standards.

Work to be undertaken:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Consideration of amendment proposals to ATP to ensure it is updated as necessary. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: Entry into force of the revision of annexes 1 and 2 to ATP.

(b) Exchange of information on the implementation of ATP by virtue of article 6. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: Consideration of the information exchanged between Contracting Parties and the consequences on the implementation of ATP.

(c) Follow-up of resolution No. 243 on “Improving the traffic flow of ATP vehicles for the transport of foodstuffs covered by ATP” for better facilitation. Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: To consider the difficulties encountered at border crossings, for the transport of perishable foodstuffs, on an annual basis.

(d) Review of the definitions and standards (in annex 1) for the carriage of perishable foodstuffs following the Montreal Protocol to take account of new refrigerants and insulating materials, and environmental constraints. Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: To contribute to the promotion of less polluting vehicles and fuels.

- (e) Consideration of methods developed by the IIR Sub-Commission on testing stations and study of the procedures for energy labelling. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: To be aware of the work done by IIR relating to the transport of perishable foodstuffs and to collect information on energy labelling.

- (f) Elaboration of an ATP Handbook. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: To have a final version of the Handbook including the revised annexes.

- (g) Compatibility between European legislation and ATP. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: To cooperate with the Commission of the European Communities with the aim of harmonizing European regulations with ATP.

- (h) **Review of activities on the transport of perishable foodstuffs.** Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: Adoption of the biennial evaluation of the work of WP.11 for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (i) Consideration of proposals on the conditions of transport of fresh fruit and vegetables (2007). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2008: To finish the consideration of the feasibility of introducing rules for the transport of fresh fruit and vegetables into ATP.

- (j) Consideration of amendment proposals relating to test methods and procedures for the approval of multi-compartment and multi-temperature vehicles, to take account of technical developments (2007). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: The entry into force of a new amendment to ATP on multi-compartment and multi-temperature vehicles.

- (k) Review of the approval of kit bodies (2006). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: The entry into force of a new amendment to ATP on the approval of kit bodies.

- (l) Securing of ATP documents (2006). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: **Entry into force of new amendments to the ATP and adoption of** recommendations on the best means of securing ATP documents.

- (m) Revision of ATP paragraphs 29 and 49 (2007). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: Drafting of a text for the revision of ATP paragraphs 29 and 49.
