14 December 2006

English only

#### INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Statistics

Workshop on Statistics on Long-Distance Transportation by Buses and Coaches (Maastricht, The Netherlands, 29 November 2006)

#### REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

#### STATISTICS ON LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORTATION BY BUSES AND COACHES

held at Grand Hotel de L'Empereur, Maastricht, The Netherlands

#### **ATTENDANCE**

- 1. The Workshop on on Statistics on Long-Distance Transportation by Buses and Coaches was hosted by the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), organised by the CBS and the UNECE Transport Division.
- 2. The workshop was held at Grand Hotel de L'Empereur, Maastricht, the Netherlands under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Smeets (The Netherlands). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden. The UNECE secretariat, both DG TREN and Eurostat from the European Commission and the ECMT were also present. The representative from the IRU also took part in the Workshop (see Annex).

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

3. The Task force meeting elected Mr. Peter Smeets (the Netherlands) as the Chairman of the Meeting.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Task force meeting adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (<u>AC.6 Informal document 1</u> and <u>AC.6 Informal document 1/Rev.1</u>).

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

5. The host country, the secretariat and the chairman welcomed the participants.

#### PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 6. The participants presented papers on their experience regarding statistics of long-distance transportation by buses and coaches according to the agenda. The exception is Poland, as the delegates could not attend because of weather conditions. Each presentation was followed by an in-depth discussion of problems and achievements.
- 7. Discussions revealed that the actual <u>size</u> of the transport market for buses and coaches is known only to an extent. The <u>structure</u> of this market is not fully known either. Statistical data on these transport related issues are necessary for policymaking. In addition, there is a need for more common: definitions, harmonisation and standards.
- 8. In general, there is a need for more work in the area of statistics of long-distance transportation by buses and coaches.
- 9. Presented papers, as well as all other workshop-related documents, will be available on the following web address: http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac6agenda.html

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- 10. The Workshop participants accepted the offer by the IRU (Brussels) to host the next meeting in Brussels on
  - 22 February 2007 (afternoon) and
  - 23 February 2007 (morning)

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

- 11. The Workshop participants decided to create a Task force on statistics of long-distance transportation by buses and coaches.
- 12. The UNECE Transport Division will provide the secretariat of this Task force.
- 13. The initial Task force will include representatives from the following countries: the Czech Republic, Estonia, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden. This initial group of countries is fully open to other countries to join in the future.
- 14. Sweden agreed to be the initial lead country in this Task force.

The agreed timetable for action and deadlines are:

• 20 December 2006: Delegates should send to the UNECE Transport Division the final versions of their papers and presentations that they wish to be put on the web.

- 31 December 2006: Sweden to prepare a short and focused questionnaire for UNECE countries on available national statistical data on long-distance transportation by buses and coaches.
- 15 January 2007: UNECE secretariat to send the questionnaire prepared by Sweden to the UNECE member countries.
- 1 February 2007: UNECE should receive replies from member countries.
- 22 February 2007: Meeting of the Task force in Brussels.
- 15. Delegates to the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) interested in the work of this Task force are welcome to join its ongoing work and efforts on the project. This is an open invitation.
- 16. The interested parties are invited to visit regularly the allocated web page in order to get information about the general activities of the Task force: <a href="http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac6agenda.html">http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac6agenda.html</a>
- 17. The Workshop participants decided to submit this document to the next meeting of the WP.6.

#### **Annex**

# WORKSHOP ON STATISTICS ON LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORTATION BY BUSES AND COACHES

Maastricht, The Netherlands, 29 November 2006

# LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS - ADDRESS INFORMATION LIST

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