



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

ECE/EX/2008/L.6
5 March 2008

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND RUSSIAN

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Twenty-second meeting
Geneva, 20 March 2008

**DECISION ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND TRANSPORT**

Establishment of a Group of Experts on hinterland connections of seaports

Note by the secretariat

1. The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics decided at its twentieth session (13-14 September 2007) to support the establishment of an ad hoc Group of Experts on seaports as nodal points. The Working Party agreed that the Group of Experts would report to it and could benefit from close working collaboration with the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant bodies within the United Nations system.
2. At its seventieth session (19-21 February 2008), the Inland Transport Committee adopted the establishment of a Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports and its Terms of Reference (annexed). The Committee requested its approval by the Executive Committee.
3. The Terms of Reference have been prepared in line with the UNECE Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2). The expert group aims at taking stock of the work done so far in the field of hinterland connections of seaports and preparing recommendations to UNECE Governments in this area. The Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports would function under the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) for a period of one year, with possible further extension if necessary.

GE.08-21582

4. In accordance with the Guidelines, the Inland Transport Committee decided that participation in the expert group would be open to all UNECE member countries. The European Commission will also be invited to participate.

5. The expert group will be established without the need for additional resources. Support work will be provided within the existing capacity of the UNECE secretariat. Resources of the United Nations Office at Geneva will be used for translation and conference services.

6. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports according to the attached Terms of Reference.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON HINTERLAND CONNECTIONS OF SEAPORTS

1. The Group Experts will define the scope of activities of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and its involvement in this area.
2. The Group Experts will take stock of the situation in major UNECE ports regarding problematic areas in their connectivity with inland transport modes, dealing with capacity issues.
3. The Group Experts will collect information on all relevant planning, management, organizational and other issues at national and international level important for hinterland connections of seaports with a view to sharing and drawing on best practices.
4. The Group Experts will prepare in a coordinated manner recommendations and/or proposals to UNECE Governments for consideration by the Inland Transport Committee for improving hinterland connections of seaports in, inter alia, following areas: infrastructure (networks, terminals etc.); personnel, and information exchange.
5. The above recommendations and/or amendments to existing legal instruments should be aimed at improving the efficiency in seaports operations and their connectivity with inland transport modes by taking into account the need for maintaining fluidity and facilitation of international transport at an economically adequate level for transport users.
6. It is proposed that the Group of Experts should be composed of experts having knowledge, in particular, about hinterland connections of seaports and their connections with maritime transport, appointed by UNECE member States as well as representatives of relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
7. The Group of Experts is expected to start its work in February 2008, pending the approval by the Executive Committee, and terminate before January 2009 with the submission of a full report of its accomplishments, including the above recommendations. The recommendations will first be considered by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee, then by the Committee for subsequent consideration, where relevant, by its relevant subsidiary bodies.
8. If Governments decide to hold the International Conference agreed by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its twentieth session, the Group will also act as a steering committee for its preparation.
9. The Group of Experts will be assisted in its work by the UNECE secretariat and will report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics.
