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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Item 2(c) of the provisional agenda

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

Approval of the Programme of work 2008-2012

Note by the secretariat

1. The Inland Transport Committee reviews its programme of work every two years for the following period of four years. At its seventieth session, 19-21 February 2008, the Committee adopted its programme of work for 2008-2012 (ECE/TRANS/2008/11).
2. In accordance with the Work Plan on ECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), this programme of work is submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.
3. To facilitate the consideration by the Executive Committee, the objectives pursued by the programme of work are provided in Annex I to this document. The amended programme activities of the Inland Transport Committee in comparison to its programme of work for the period 2006-2010 are presented in Annex II where additional programme elements or elements replacing old text are in bold characters, while deleted text has been struck through.

ANNEX I

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE FOR 2008-2012

1. In order to allow a better understanding of the scope of work of the Inland Transport Committee, the general objectives pursued in carrying out the programme of work are outlined below.
2. Through the pursuance of these objectives, the Committee intends
 - (a) to promote the harmonization and improvement of technical and operational regulations, standards and recommendations in the various fields of inland transport in the UNECE region;
 - (b) to further the facilitation of international road, rail and inland waterway transport, particularly through the simplification and harmonization of administrative border crossing procedures and documentation;
 - (c) to promote the coordinated development of infrastructures for road, rail and inland waterway transport as well as for combined transport;
 - (d) to support the development of sustainable transport by means of promoting both the reduction of the negative impact of transport on the environment and the utilization of environmentally sound modes of transport;
 - (e) to develop appropriate methodologies and definitions for the collection, compilation and harmonization of transport statistics for the purposes of comparability and consistency;
 - (f) to contribute to the elaboration, administration and revision of Agreements, Conventions and other international legally binding instruments in the various fields of inland transport;
 - (g) to monitor progressively the implementation of these international legal instruments in the various countries;
 - (h) to promote subregional cooperation with a view to such implementation; and
 - (i) to advise and assist UNECE member countries, particularly those facing major economic changes, through workshops, training and other appropriate means on transport matters of specific interest in particular in developing transport systems and infrastructures.

ANNEX II

NEW OR AMENDED PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.1: TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS

Under Work to be undertaken, add:

- E. Establishment of a Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport links for the period 2008-2009, which will function under the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and report to it.**
- H Establishment of a Group of Experts on seaports connections to the hinterland for a period of one year, which will function under the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and report to it in 2009.**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.2: ROAD TRANSPORT ACTIVITY 02.2.2

Under Work to be undertaken, add/amend to read:

- (d) Evaluation of the survey (to be conducted each two years) on the effective application of the AETR and number of problem areas identified and proposals to address them within the framework of the follow-up to the survey.**
- (j) ~~Output expected by 2008-2009: Launching of a survey to evaluate the implementation of different agreements and conventions concerning road transport by Contracting Parties.~~ Adaptation of the contents of Annex 1B of the EU Regulation dealing with the digital tachograph to the context of Appendix 1B to the Annex to the AETR. Follow-up on the implementation of the digital tachograph in non-EU AETR countries.**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.3: ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

Under Work to be undertaken, add/amend to read:

- (a) Publication of consolidated versions of the Vienna Conventions in the three other UN languages (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish)**
- (b) ~~Consideration, development and incorporation into R.E.1 and R.E.2 of new recommendations concerning, in particular: seatbelts and child restraint devices, first aid to victims of road accidents, the safety of the most vulnerable road users, use of mobile phones while driving, safety in tunnels, skateboarders, roller skaters, etc., roadside checks, driving permits, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, road signing, motorcycle and moped safety, communication and road safety campaigns, daytime running lamps, driving at night, speed, aggressive driving, signs for fuelling stations selling compressed natural gas, etc.~~**

Consideration, development and incorporation into R.E.2 of new recommendations concerning, in particular, variable message signs and possibly signing for cycle routes.

- (g) ~~Output expected by the end of 2008/2009: Holding of the first Global UN Road Safety Week in 2007 on the theme of young road users including young drivers and organization of activities for this event. Analysis of the impact of the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week in the UNECE region and consideration of the possibility of holding a Second Global Road Safety Week and organization of a seminar in the UNECE region.~~

Follow-up of the implementation of the UNDA Project “*Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets*”, in particular through the organization of seminars in 2008 and/or 2009.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.6: INLAND WATER TRANSPORT, ACTIVITY 0.2.6.2

Under Work to be undertaken, add/amend to read:

- (b)(iii) **Consideration of the possibility to elaborate a comprehensive strategic policy for inland navigation, extending beyond the EC and covering also such countries as Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.**
- (iv) **Consideration of the questions of financing of inland waterway development. Certain basic aspects of possible distribution of cost among beneficiaries as well as the main economic indicators for such infrastructure development could become a subject of a White Paper on financing the infrastructure of inland waterway transport.**
- (c) (ii) ~~Elaboration of harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship's certificate to ensure a common and non-discriminatory approach to such a consideration (2008)]~~
- (d) ~~Application and updating the Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licenses in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (annex to resolution No. 31).~~
- (d) **Assisting Governments in facilitating the free movement of crew members across Europe.**
- (f) (ii) **Regular revision, in cooperation with EC and river commissions, the environmental standards taking into account the technological progress and the ever-increasing demand for the protection of the environment.**
- (g) ~~Preparation, in consultation with legal experts of member Governments, and circulation of relevant questionnaires on implementing UNECE legal instruments on inland water transport in force, analysis of the responses by Governments and presentation of appropriate recommendations to the Committee.~~
- (g) (i) **Discussing the question of practical implementation by member Governments of the provisions of the Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI) and its impact on national legislation;**

- (h) **Application and maintenance, in close cooperation with competent international groups of experts, of resolutions on common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service.**
- (k) **Assisting Governments and river commissions in facilitating transport of disabled people.**
- (l) ~~Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service.~~

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.10: CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

Under Work to be undertaken, add to read:

Output expected in 2008:

Review of Annex 10 of the TIR Convention on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets;

Finalization of a new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport;

Study the preparation of a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in International Railway Passenger Transport.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.11: TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS

Under Work to be undertaken, add to read:

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

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.
