

6 February 2003

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT UNION
(IRU)
AND THE
UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
(UNECE)**

Memorandum of Understanding
on co-operation between the
International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

I. PREAMBLE

The UNECE, as an Executing Agency of the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project (hereafter called TEM), and the International Road Transport Union (hereafter called IRU)

- Acting with the common objective of European road transport integration and development,
- Desiring to promote the European road and motorway infrastructure,
- With the view to increasing their efficiency and avoiding duplication of efforts,
- Having regard to the decision of the 37th session of the TEM Steering Committee held on 5 – 7 June 2002 at Geneva

have agreed on the following Memorandum of Understanding, aimed at establishment of closer co-operation in the fields described below, subject to applicable internal rules and regulations of both Organisations, the UNECE and IRU.

II. FIELDS OF CO-OPERATION

1. Efficient usage and improvement of road infrastructure and development of the motorway and European (AGR) network in Central and Eastern Europe and identification of investment needs and priorities to meet the future road traffic demand efficiently and cost-effectively;
2. Creating of conditions for improved mobility of people and goods and for fluency of traffic flows by preventing congestion due to bottlenecks and low capacity sections and by removing barriers, traffic restrictions, road, bridge and tunnel closures and other impediments to road transport;
3. Supporting and maintaining the free choice of transport modes, based on their economic efficiency and operability;
4. Promotion of development of international combined transport, wherever viable from an economic, operational and environmental point of view, in close collaboration with combined transport operators and in accordance with the UNECE European Agreement on International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC);

5. Investigation of a possible increase of additional financial resources from financial institutions needed for road/motorway construction and maintenance, taking into account high economic benefits of such infrastructure expenditures and huge revenues raised from the road transport;
6. Development and establishment of relations with private sector in order to achieve effective application of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) concept in designing, building, operating and maintaining the European road/motorway infrastructure;
7. Collaboration with the European Commission and its bodies in monitoring the development of Pan-European Corridors and in preparing the extension of the Union's Trans-European Road Network (TERN) to the accession countries of Central and Eastern Europe, taking into account also the IRU Enlargement Strategy;
8. Promotion and co-ordination of actions, activities and measures aimed at increased road traffic safety, especially in road and motorway tunnels in light of the recommendations of the UNECE Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Road Tunnels;
9. Harmonization of legal conditions of road transit through the TEM network and of levels of road user charges in Central and Eastern Europe as well as of modern technologies and methods of their collection;
10. Supporting efforts and activities aimed at the development of the necessary Roadside services along the TEM motorways network
11. Simplification, facilitation and acceleration of road/motorway border crossing procedures and increase of capacities of related infrastructure in order to shorten or avoid border waiting times;
12. Supporting efforts and activities aimed at uniform or harmonized legal, administrative and management procedures in the road sector with special respect to standardization and improved road/motorway signing;
13. Introduction of uniform road user information systems and implementation of harmonized intelligent transport systems, especially on motorways, AGR international roads, sections with high traffic volumes and in big cities and agglomerations;
14. Promotion of modern harmonized and integrated methods and technologies of road data collection, processing, exchange and related reference systems on Trans-European networks (TERN, AGR and TEM);
15. Providing information and supporting actions and measures regarding road transport operations and aiming at achieving the sustainable development policies, taking into account the IRU Charter, Guide and Best Industry Practices Report for Sustainable Development;
16. Protection of environment in the whole road transport sector, including road/motorway construction and maintenance by the introduction of environment controlling,

implementation of the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and strategic environmental impact assessment.

III. WAYS OF CO-OPERATION

- Mutual attendance, if possible, at TEM and IRU Conferences, workshops, seminars and training courses for transfer of know-how and technologies;
- Co-operation with other international organizations, institutions and bodies active in the fields of co-operation listed above;
- Exchange of views and consultation on the annual and long-term plans and programmes of work of the IRU and TEM;
- Annual mutual exchange of calendars of important meetings and activities of both sides related to the above fields of co-operation with a view of mutual participation in these meetings whenever possible;
- The TEM and IRU will inform each other about the studies and/or activities they would be undertaking or they would commission on subjects related to the above fields of co-operation;
- Exchange of data of mutual interest related to the road transport and infrastructure in order to enhance their uniformity and compatibility;
- The IRU will invite TEM to demonstrate its database and TEMSTAT mapping system in operation and on this basis formulate its operational requirements regarding the format and content of TEMSTAT maps;
- The TEM will make its annually updated regional and country TEMSTAT maps available to IRU and will do its best to adjust them to the IRU requirements;
- The IRU will contribute with its network, experience and resources, alongside with other partners, to the elaboration of the TEM Master Plan on the basis of the terms of reference prepared by the UNECE Transport Division in October 2001 for both the TEM and TER Projects. Annex 1 to this Memorandum (TRANS/2003/7/Add.1 - 9 Dec. 2002) contains these terms of reference, which may be amended by UNECE as the need arises;
- The IRU intends to participate in the co-funding of the budget permitting the elaboration of the TEM Master Plan. Any financial support to be provided by the IRU to cover the yearly expenses of the specific budgets, directly and exclusively linked to facilitating coach and truck traffic on the TEM network, should first be approved by the competent IRU bodies. In accordance with the IRU Rules, they should, as first step, be agreed jointly by the UNECE and IRU Secretariat before the August of each year for the subsequent year. In addition, any detailed project(s) covered by IRU funds, following approval by competent IRU bodies, will be subject – in conformity with the decision taken by the IRU – to separate agreement(s) between the UNECE and the IRU which will

determine, among other things, the purpose, the amount agreed and the payment schedules:

- Annually, if possible before the end of August, one meeting will be organised between the UNECE and the IRU to examine and evaluate the evolution and results of action undertaken under this Memorandum and to approve jointly, as mentioned above, the annual budget and its future development.

IV. CLOSING CLAUSES

The co-operation in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding reflects the desire of both parties to undertake joint actions in the fields described, but at the same time does not contain or imply any legal or financial obligations or responsibilities outside the decision taken by competent IRU bodies, or deriving from the execution or absence of execution of all or part of the actions foreseen by the present Memorandum for whatever reason.

The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the statutory or contractual relationships that the IRU may have or may enter into during the duration of this Memorandum of Understanding with its Member Associations or with any other party, nor shall these relationships affect in any manner the relationship between the IRU and UNECE or TEM as stipulated in this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum is concluded without a time limit. The financial support, on the one side, and this Memorandum, on the other side, may be terminated without any financial penalties from either party on 60 days' written notice to the other party.

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present

Memorandum in the English language in two copies at _____ this

_____ day of _____, 2003.

Martin Marmy
Secretary General

For the International Road
Transport Union

Brigita Schmögnerová
Executive Secretary

For the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

Annexes: