ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth Meeting
Geneva, 26 February 2010

EXCOM/CONCLU/34

CHAIRMAN’S CONCLUSIONS
INFORMAL SEGMENT

Item 2 – Meeting with the Chairperson of the Inland Transport Committee

The EXCOM welcomed the newly elected Chairman of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), Mr. Erdem Direkler, who reported on the work of the Committee, including major achievements in the past twelve months, new activities started or planned and the outcome of the annual session of the Committee.

The EXCOM expressed its appreciation of the wide-ranging activities implemented under the ITC and how they respond to the priorities of the member countries. It took note of the future activities planned and the request to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links.

Finally, the EXCOM thanked Mr. Direkler for his comprehensive report. It wished him success in his new role as the ITC Chairman and thanked Mr. Ralph Kellermann, the outgoing ITC Chairman, for his past valuable work.

Item 3 – Regional consultation on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The EXCOM was informed of the arrangements for the upcoming regional consultation on MDGs to be held on 17 March 2010.

The EXCOM Chairman encouraged all delegations to get in touch with their capitals to ensure that member States are effectively represented at this regional consultation on MDGs. Given that Heads of European offices of UN agencies dealing with MDGs in the region are expected to participate as keynote speakers and panelists, it would be appropriate that the meeting be attended by senior government officials, especially those dealing with the preparations for the MDGs Summit in New York in September 2010 and/or senior officials in the line Ministries concerned with MDGs.

FORMAL SEGMENT

Item 4 – Decisions on matters relating to the Conference of European Statisticians

(a) The EXCOM approved the 2010 programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians, as submitted in document ECE/EX/2010/L.2;

(b) The EXCOM approved the establishment of the following three new groups and their terms of reference, as proposed in document ECE/EX/2010/L.3:

   (i) Steering Group on National Accounts, until October 2011;
(ii) Task Force on Improving Migration and Migrant Data Using Household Surveys and Other Sources, until June 2011;

(iii) ECE/UNODC Task Force on Crime Classification, until December 2010.

Item 5 – Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

(a) The EXCOM approved the 2010–2011 programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, as submitted in document ECE/EX/2010/L.4;

(b) The EXCOM approved the extension of the following subsidiary bodies, including their terms of reference, as requested in document ECE/EX/2010/L.5:

   (i) Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Project, for a three-year period, up to December 2012;

   (ii) Expert Group on Resource Classification, for a five-year period, up to December 2014;

   (iii) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, for a one-year period, up to December 2010.

(c) The EXCOM approved the establishment of a new subsidiary body: The Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21, for an initial period of 3 years, up to December 2012.

Item 6 – Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Environmental Policy

(a) The EXCOM approved the establishment of the Steering Group on Environmental Assessments and its terms of reference, for the period 2010–2011, as proposed in document ECE/EX/2010/L.6, with the expectation that extrabudgetary resources or contributions in kind would be received by ECE. In this regard, the EXCOM was informed that the Government of Switzerland has agreed to contribute 70,000 Swiss Francs to support the work of this group;

(b) The EXCOM approved the 2010–2011 programme of work of the Committee on Environmental Policy, as submitted in document ECE/EX/2010/L.8.

Item 7 – Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Trade

(a) Recommendations on the Committee on Trade

   The EXCOM approved its recommendations on the Committee on Trade, as contained in document ECE/EX/2010/L.7. The secretariat was requested to regularly inform the EXCOM on the progress of the Committee on Trade, in particular concerning the needs assessments;
(b) Renewal of the five Permanent Groups of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

The EXCOM approved the renewal of the mandates of the following five Permanent Groups under UN/CEFACT for two years, until the end of 2011, subject to review and possible revision at the sixteenth UN/CEFACT Plenary session, as proposed in document ECE/EX/2010/L.9:

(i) Applied Technologies Group (ATG);
(ii) Information Content Management Group (ICG);
(iii) Legal Group (LG);
(iv) International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG);
(v) Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG).

Item 8 – Other business

The secretariat raised the issue of recent problems of obtaining interpretation and translation for some of the meetings of ECE subsidiary groups from UNOG Conference Services. In order to alleviate the problem, it was suggested to revise the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within UNECE and remove the clause that specified that the meetings of such groups did not require full interpretation and translation.

The EXCOM supported the secretariat’s suggestion, underlining that removing the mentioned sentence did not mean that all documents for all groups should be translated but translation should be made available where the secretariat assessed it to be necessary for the work and meetings of subsidiary groups to be effective and efficient. Such translation would ensure the full and active participation of national experts in these groups.

It was also pointed out that the website of ECE needed to be more tailored to the needs of Francophone and Russophone users.

The EXCOM concluded that the secretariat could proceed to prepare a revision to the mentioned guidelines for the approval of EXCOM at a future meeting.

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