



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.5/27
7 July 2000

Original: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
(18-20 September 2000)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday 18 September 2000

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|----|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/WP.5/27 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party | |
| | (a) Economic Commission for Europe | E/ECE/1381 |
| | (b) Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/133 and Add.1 |
| 3. | Follow-up to the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment | JMTE/2000/8 |

* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the eleventh session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations at Geneva (room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Therefore, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (helena.petersen.dyggve@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, phone the ECE secretariat (int. 72458).

4. Discussion on the mandate and activities of the Working Party TRANS/WP.5/2000/1
5. Developments regarding transport policies
 - (a) Implementation of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas TRANS/WP.5/2000/2
 - (b) Analysis of problems encountered during implementation of market economy principles in the transport sector TRANS/WP.5/2000/3
TRANS/WP.5/2000/4
6. Evaluation of inland transport infrastructure projects
 - (a) Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment Project TRANS/WP.5/2000/5
 - (b) Methodologies for project appraisal in the New Independent States TRANS/WP.5/2000/6
 - (c) Phased-approach to transport infrastructure developments TRANS/WP.5/2000/7
7. Euro-Asian transport links TRANS/WP.5/2000/8
TRANS/WP.5/2000/9
8. Transport in the Mediterranean region
 - (a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centres and Transport Training Center TRANS/WP.5/2000/10
 - (b) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region
9. Assistance to countries in transition TRANS/WP.5/2000/11
10. Coherent European System of International Transport Infrastructures TRANS/WP.5/2000/12
11. Development of a European Transport Database System TRANS/WP.5/2000/13
12. Draft Programme of Work for 2001-2005 TRANS/WP.5/2000/14
13. Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2001 and 2002
14. Other business
15. Adoption of the report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

The fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 3 to 5 May 2000.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, particularly on ECE's operational activities and the development of joint projects with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for the Mediterranean region.

(b) Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-second session in Geneva from 15 to 17 February 2000.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the Committee's discussion, particularly those contained in paras. 10-12 and 19-28 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/133).

3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Working Party will be informed about the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL) and the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL), and the decisions taken at the third Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Inland Transport Committee and the Environment Committee (6 June 2000) (JMTE/2000/8).

Other questions related to transport and environment are being addressed under item 6 (b) and item 10 of the provisional agenda.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE MANDATE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTY

Since the 1997 Conference of Helsinki, the Working Party has focused its activities on the progress of the Helsinki Declaration, particularly supporting the development of the Pan-European Transport Corridors.

As the process of development of the PETrCs is now to a large extent carried out through their respective Steering Committees, and the TINA project has been completed, the Working Party may wish to consider new areas of activities in the future, taking into consideration the work carried out by other international organizations and by other bodies within the ECE.

The secretariat has prepared the document TRANS/WP.5/2000/1, in which the potential and interest for developing further work in areas such as transport planning methodologies and legal frameworks, private sector involvement in transport infrastructure development, and connection of the European Transport System with the geographic areas of neighbouring regional commissions are explored. The Working Party may wish to exchange views about its future activities, and the opportunity to establish task forces to work on them, on the basis of this document.

5. DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING TRANSPORT POLICIES

(a) Implementation of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas

Following the request of the Working Party at its twelfth session (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 14), the European Commission has prepared a Status Report of the Pan-European Transport Corridors, which is circulated as TRANS/WP.5/2000/2.

The Working Party may wish to take note of this document and to examine the different possibilities of continuing this monitoring in the future.

(b) Analysis of problems encountered during implementation of market economy principles in the transport sector

The Working Party, at its twelfth session, asked the secretariat to produce a note analysing the information thus far collected on the problems encountered in the application of the principles of market economy in the inland transport sector (TRANS/WP.5/26, paras. 16 and 19). This note (TRANS/WP.5/2000/3) has been circulated among countries in transition. According to the answers received, the secretariat has identified some specific issues where further action could be appropriate, for consideration by the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/2000/4).

6. EVALUATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

(a) Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment Project

The final report of the TINA project has been issued in October 1999, and will be available in the meeting room. The Working Party may wish to be briefed about the follow-up to the project envisaged by the European Commission (TRANS/WP.5/2000/5).

(b) Methodologies for project appraisal in the New Independent States

At its twelfth session, the Working Party decided to develop a set of recommendations on transport project assessment in NIS countries, addressed primarily to the Steering Committees of the Pan-European Transport Corridors in the region (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 21).

In order to prepare these recommendations, the secretariat, at the request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 21), has circulated among the countries concerned a Russian version of the EU's handbook on Strategic Impact Assessment and the TINA methodology on socio-economic cost-benefit analysis, together with a questionnaire. The representative of the Russian Federation agreed to produce a summary note of the answers (TRANS/WP.5/2000/6). The Working Party may wish to discuss the recommendations to be adopted, on the basis of this information and other information previously gathered on Pan-European Transport Corridors 2, 3, 5 and 9-b.

(c) Phased-approach to transport infrastructure developments

The Working Party, at its twelfth session, stated that a phased approach could adequately address the difficulties faced by many countries in reaching high transport infrastructure standards. Accordingly, it requested the secretariat to complete the information provided, including an economic comparison of different strategies for the improvement of the infrastructure, based on the Hungarian experience (TRANS/WP.5/26, para.26).

The Working Party may wish to take note of the information received by the secretariat and to discuss the follow-up to be given to this document, based on the proposals included in this note (TRANS/WP.5/2000/7).

7. EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 30), an informal ad hoc meeting was held in Geneva on 16 May 2000, including delegates from the European Commission (EC), ESCAP, International Union of Railways (UIC), the Russian Federation, as well as WP.5's bureau. The meeting agreed upon a tentative Programme of Work that is presented for approval by the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/2000/8).

According to this Programme of Work, the secretariat has prepared a draft strategic paper including a list of short-term activities in progress, existing gaps and a draft questionnaire to the Governments that is submitted to the Working Party for discussion and approval (TRANS/WP.5/2000/9).

8. TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centres and Transport Training Centre

The Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean (TRANSCEM), the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) and the Transport Training Centre (TTC) have been asked to report on their activities since the twelfth session of the Working Party. Relevant information on the recent activities of CETMO is submitted in document TRANS/WP.5/2000/10 for consideration by the Working Party. Documentation from the other centres will be circulated when available.

(b) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region

The Working Party will be informed of recent initiatives undertaken in the region by the ECE secretariat, in particular those in co-operation with ESCWA and ECA, progress in the Europe/Africa permanent link project through the Strait of Gibraltar, and activities promoted by the European Commission in the context of the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area.

9. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

The Working Party will be informed about the activities of the Regional Advisers and the UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT). Information on these items is being circulated as document TRANS/WP.5/2000/11.

The Working Party may also invite Governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 33).

10. COHERENT EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

In accordance with a request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/26 para. 34), the secretariat has prepared document TRANS/WP.5/2000/12 showing modifications in the AGR, AGC and the AGTC transport networks as well as the developments in the TEM and TER projects. This note is being circulated for consideration by the Working Party.

In connection with the follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment, as agreed by the Working Party at its eleventh session (TRANS/WP.5/24, para. 80), the Working Party may wish to discuss the opportunity to establish a task force in order to undertake an intermodal analysis of the European Transport Networks.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN TRANSPORT DATABASE SYSTEM

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/26, para.36), the secretariat has prepared document TRANS/WP.5/2000/13, reporting on the progress made in the European Transport Database System and particularly on the extent to which data is actually available and can be exploited.

12. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2005

The Working Party may wish to approve its draft programme of work for 2001-2005, on the basis of document TRANS/WP.5/2000/14.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY IN 2001 AND 2002

In accordance with the decision taken at the fifty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party may wish to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for its sessions in 1999 and 2000.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party's fourteenth session is tentatively scheduled to be held from 17 to 19 September 2001.

15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report of its thirteenth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.



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