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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Rail Transport

(Fifty-seventh session, 21-23 October 2003,  
agenda item 16)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2004-2008**

Note by the secretariat

The text of the programme of work reproduced below is based on the programme of work approved by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixty-fifth session (18-20 February 2003) (ECE/TRANS/152, para.69)<sup>1</sup> and the Working Party on Rail Transport at its fifty-sixth session (TRANS/SC.2/198, para.39). The changes proposed are in **bold** (text to be added) or ~~struckthrough~~ characters (text to be deleted).

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<sup>1</sup> It is recalled that the ITC at its sixty-second session agreed to consider the programme of work every second year. Such arrangement, however, would not exclude the possibility for the Committee's subsidiary bodies to modify their respective programmes of work annually if there was a need to do so (ECE/TRANS/133, para.99).

## DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2004-2008

### PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.5: RAIL TRANSPORT

02.5.1 Rail transport infrastructure Priority: 1

I. Review of the situation concerning the implementation and possible amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)

Description: Study of possibilities for the improvement of international rail transport.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

#### CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Consideration of the AGC Agreement with a view to possibly: implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters; taking into account new east-west traffic flows; raising environmental, energy and safety standards; taking into account the ECE Conventions on the Environment.

Output expected: Report on amendment of the AGC network; Report on the development of a European conventional and high-speed railway network. (~~2003~~)(**2004**)  
Priority: 1

(b) Consideration of the influence of intermodal transport techniques, especially those concerning investment, as well as the harmonization of rolling stock and speed on railways to facilitate the integration of these techniques into the railway system and to create general interoperability.

Output expected: Report on investment in rail infrastructure and railway rolling stock in member countries. (~~2003~~) (**2004**)  
Priority: 2

(c) Periodic review of the list of marshalling yards of international importance with a view to cutting down their numbers.

Output expected: Updated report on the location of important marshalling yards within the European railway network. (2005)  
Priority: 2

(d) As a follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment, development and implementation of programmes to build up an efficient European Rail Freight Network by improving and promoting the:

- modernization and extension of rail and combined transport infrastructure;
- interoperability and coordination between rail systems;
- upgrade and wider use of environment-friendly rolling stock;
- logistics and services;
- establishment of international rail freight companies.

## ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (e) Periodically survey passenger and goods traffic on the various sections of lines of the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning; the third survey is based on data for 2000.  
Output expected: Report on total train traffic on the AGC network in 2000. ~~(2003)~~**(2004)**  
Rail census in 2005. Priority: 2
- (f) Consideration of questions concerning safety in railways tunnels.  
Output expected: Report on the current situation and prospects for the development of new standards. ~~(2003)~~ **(2004)** Priority: 2
- (g) Consideration of developments regarding new railway initiatives on Euro-Asian transport links (e.g. organization of demonstration trains).  
Output expected: Report on the current and new initiatives. ~~(2003)~~ **(2004)** Priority: 2

### II. *Special project: Trans-European Railway (TER)*

Description: Within the framework of the UNECE, the TER countries have established an appropriate administrative and financial framework, with the aim of developing a rail network as part of an integrated European international rail system.

#### Work to be undertaken

- (a) Consideration of specific project developments to promote international rail traffic.  
(Continuing)  
Output expected: Annual progress report on activities carried out within the TER project. Priority: 1
- (b) Consideration of possibilities for financing of TER in order to promote the upgrading and construction of internationally important rail lines. (Continuing) Priority: 3
- (c) Consideration of possible utilization of the results achieved under the project in other UNECE activities in the field of rail infrastructure including the implementation of AGC and AGTC in order to benefit from mutual experiences. (Continuing) Priority: 2

### III. *Interregional Cooperation*

Description: Cooperation with other regional commissions and international bodies involved in the development of interregional links.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will be kept informed of exchanges of information between the secretariats of the regional commissions and other international bodies in order to benefit from experiences gained in other regions of the world. (Continuing) Priority: 3

02.5.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport including rail safety and facilitation of its operations Priority: 1

Description:

- (a) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, particularly, for documents and procedures at border-crossing.
- (b) Harmonization of and search for standardized requirements concerning the utilization of railway infrastructure including computerization aspects.
- (c) Elaboration of proposals and preparation of studies aimed at strengthening, consolidating and extending the position of rail transport on international transport markets.
- (d) Analysis of problems relating to the harmonization and improvement of rail safety.
- (e) Consideration of prospects for the adoption of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail so as to establish a standard legal system (harmonization of the SMGS/SMPS and CIM/CIV systems).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

**CONTINUING ACTIVITIES**

- (a) Consideration of specific difficulties encountered at border-crossings in the transport of passengers and goods by rail with a view to accelerating border crossing operations and establishing a programme to deal with problems common to several routes.  
Output expected: Report on bi- and multilateral contacts of Governments and railways to improve the crossing of borders in international rail traffic. ~~(2003)~~ **(2004)** Priority: 1
- (b) Consideration of follow-up of the implementation of recommendations and preparation of new texts or amendments to existing texts, if necessary, notably concerning the facilitation of border crossing with the aim to improve international rail traffic.  
Priority: 1
- (c) Review of requirements concerning railway operations and regulations, reduction of transport time and improvement in the precision of movements in the international carriage of goods, new operative developments in rail transport, the integration of services of different railways.  
Priority: 2
- (d) The study of the possibilities for harmonizing the application and periods of summer time with a view to upgrading transport quality in rail transport.  
Output expected: Report on the application of summer time. ~~(2003)~~ **(2004)**  
Priority: 3

- (e) Analysis of Government policies concerning rail safety to contribute to an improvement of safety in international transport.  
Output expected: Report on safety and implementation of risk assessment techniques in rail transport in the ECE region. (~~2003~~)(2004)

Priority: 1

#### **ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION**

- (f) Analysis of the various elements of productivity in rail transport and the possibilities to increase rail productivity in particular for international transport.  
Output expected: Bi-annual report on the development of productivity in rail transport in member countries. (2004)

Priority: 2

- (g) Consideration on the basis of reports by the international organizations concerned of the progress accomplished on the harmonization of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail to examine whether the compatibility of the regulation concerned can be ensured.

Output expected: Report by international organizations concerned on the progress made in the elimination of difficulties arising from different legal systems in international rail transport. (2004)

Priority: 3

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