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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**  
(Sixty-sixth session, 17-19 February 2004,  
agenda item 1)

**NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND SUGGESTED TIMETABLE  
FOR THE COMMITTEE'S SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION**

**Note by the secretariat**

**Tuesday, 17 February 2004 starting at 10 a.m.**

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** [ECE/TRANS/155](#)<sup>1/, 2/</sup>
1. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN GENERAL**
2. **RESULTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S BUREAU MEETINGS** [TRANS/2004/2](#)

The Committee will have before it document TRANS/2004/2 containing the results of the Bureau meetings held in 2003 after the last session of the Committee.

In this connection, the Committee may wish to pay particular attention to item 4 of the agenda on Draft Strategic Objectives of the Committee.

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<sup>1/</sup> The documents of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies may be consulted on the following website of the UNECE Transport Division : <http://www.unece.org/trans>.

<sup>2/</sup> Subsequent to a decision by its Bureau, the Committee may wish to discuss the agenda items in accordance with the following three categories: (i) items which may be taken note of; (ii) items which may be considered; and (iii) items which may be decided upon/endorsed/approved. In line with the above categories, the Committee may focus its discussion on categories (ii) and (iii).

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND CONFERENCES**

[TRANS/2004/4](#)  
and [Add.1](#)

The Committee will have before it a note prepared by the secretariat containing information on the discussions and decisions of the Commission (fifty-eighth session, 4-6 March 2003) which have a bearing on the work of the Inland Transport Committee. The Commission's Annual Report (E/2003/37-E/ECE/1406) contains the full account of discussions.

The Committee may wish to consider, in particular, questions on sustainable development strategies; the functioning of the principal subsidiary bodies; strengthening of the organization including a review of the intergovernmental structure; and technical assistance and operational activities; as reflected in document TRANS/2004/4. The Committee should take these issues duly into account when dealing with the relevant agenda items and **indicate** appropriate follow-up.

The Committee will also have before it document TRANS/2004/4/Add.1 containing a note by the secretariat outlining a few proposals for follow-up to the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Community on Transit Transport Corridors Cooperation (Almaty, 28-29 August 2003). The Committee may wish to **consider** this document and **provide guidance** to the secretariat with regard to the follow-up.

**4. DRAFT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE**

[TRANS/2004/2,](#)  
[Annex 3, Appendix 1](#)

The Committee may wish to **consider** and **adopt** a review of the draft Strategic Objectives of the Committee as prepared by its Bureau (TRANS/2004/2, Annex 3, Appendix 1). The Committee may wish to discuss both the substantive directions and working methods contained in the document and initiate action accordingly.

**5. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee will be informed orally on the activities related to transport, which are being carried out within other international organizations.

**6. INTERSECTORAL ACTIVITIES**

**(a) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)**

[ECE/AC.21/2003/6](#)

The Committee may wish to recall that the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was established at the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 5 July 2002) to consolidate and focus the relevant UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe's activities on three key priority areas: (i) integration of

environmental and health aspects into transport policy; (ii) demand-side management and modal shift; (iii) urban transport. Special attention is paid to the needs of the newly independent States (NIS) and South-East European countries as well as to ecologically particularly sensitive areas of the region.

The Committee may wish to **take note** of the report and the decisions taken by THE PEP Steering Committee (10-11 April 2003) providing an overview of the four main activity areas implemented as part of its programme of work for 2003-2005: (i) THE PEP Clearing House on Transport, Health and Environment; (ii) sustainable and healthy urban transport and planning; (iii) transport-related health impacts, costs and benefits, focusing in particular on children; (iv) indicators to monitor the integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policies.

The second session of the Steering Committee will be held on 29 and 30 March 2004.

**(b) Blue Corridor Project** [ENERGY/2003/8](#)

The Committee will have before it the final report of the Task Force on the Blue Corridor Project (ENERGY/2003/8, available in English and Russian only).

The Committee may wish to endorse the report and recommend that member countries investigate possibilities for financing the implementation of the Project.

**(c) Transport and Trade** [TRANS/2004/7](#)

The Committee may wish to take **note** of document TRANS/2004/7, which describes the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies that also relates to areas of interest to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED). The Committee may wish to provide specific **guidance** on certain areas of work, which it deems to be of particular interest.

**7. REVIEW OF THE TRANSPORT SITUATION IN ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND OF EMERGING DEVELOPMENT TRENDS** [TRANS/2004/8](#)

The Committee may wish to **consider** the document on the transport situation and trends in member countries in 2003, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of national contributions and other sources, following the decision taken by the Committee at its sixty-third session (ECE/TRANS/139, para.17).

**8. TRANSPORT AND SECURITY** [TRANS/SC.3/2003/12](#)

Following the decision by the Committee at its sixty-fifth session to request its subsidiary bodies to identify, within their respective fields of competence, the concepts of "security" and "safety", to continue work in this field and to identify possible additional specific areas for further international action, the Committee may wish to be **informed** about the progress made in

subsidiary bodies on this issue. The Committee may also wish to be **informed** by Governments and by intergovernmental organizations of the measures taken in this field at national level and international organizations about activities in this field.

The Committee may wish **to note** that the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, at its forty-seventh session, considered a summary report prepared by the secretariat on activities undertaken within relevant international organizations on items concerning security in the transport sector circulated in TRANS/SC.3/2003/12.

**9. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

[TRANS/WP.5/2003/8](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** the activities aimed at assisting countries with economies in transition, undertaken in the period July 2002 to June 2003 as reflected in document TRANS/WP.5/2003/8, and in particular the progress on the TEM and TER Projects, the UNDA project on Capacity Building in Developing Interregional Linkages, as well as the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and other advisory services provided.

Based on the above documentation and information, the Inland Transport Committee may wish to **consider** reiterating its request that adequate resources be made available in the secretariat for the substantive backstopping and further development of these activities. It may also wish to **consider** the matter of raising funds for operational activities through the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT), encourage member countries to contribute to the TFACT and invite countries with economies in transition to submit their project proposals to the secretariat.

**10. STATUS OF APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL UNECE TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS**

[TRANS/SC.3/161](#)

The Committee will have before it a document in English and Russian prepared by the secretariat containing tables on the status as at 31 January 2004 of signatures, ratifications and accessions concerning international instruments on inland transport concluded under the auspices of the Committee. The Committee will also be informed of the accessions registered since its last session.

The Committee may wish to **take note** of this information and **invite** countries, which have not yet done so to become Contracting Parties to UNECE Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport as soon as possible.

In connection with this agenda item, the Committee may wish **to note** that, at its forty-seventh session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, keeping in mind a request by the Inland Transport Committee to carry out an analysis of the implementation of transport-related agreements and conventions (ECE/TRANS/152, para. 22), felt that such an analysis could reflect the experience of States, Contracting Parties, in implementing the UNECE instruments on inland

navigation matters as well as the problems faced and benefits derived from those instruments. Furthermore, the analysis could also outline the concerns of States who are not yet Parties to the above-mentioned Conventions. The secretariat was requested to prepare, in consultation with legal experts of member Governments, relevant questionnaires and circulate them in an appropriate time scale (TRANS/SC.3/161, paras. 52-53).

## II. QUESTIONS DEALT WITH BY THE COMMITTEE'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES

### 11. TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS

[TRANS/WP.5/34](#)

The Committee will have before it for **consideration** and **approval** the report of the fifteenth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) (TRANS/WP.5/34).

#### (a) Pan-European transport infrastructures

##### (i) Implementation of Pan-European transport corridors and areas

The Committee will be **informed** by the representative of the European Commission on recent developments concerning Pan-European transport corridors and areas.

In connection with this agenda item, the ITC may wish to have an exchange of views about the possible need to convene a Pan-European Transport Conference in the near future (TRANS/WP.5/34, para. 11).

##### (ii) Joint ECMT-EU Commission-UNECE-EIB Seminar "Transport infrastructure development for a Wider Europe" (Paris, 27-28 November 2003)

[TRANS/2004/6](#)

A note on the relevant conclusions and the outcome of the recent Seminar on "Transport Infrastructure development for a wider Europe" jointly organized by the ECMT, EC, UNECE and EIB will be circulated when available.

#### (b) Euro-Asian transport links

##### (i) Third International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport (St. Petersburg, 11-12 September 2003)

[TRANS/2004/12](#)

The representative of the Russian Federation will **inform** the Committee about the outcome of the Third International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport and its significance for future development of Euro-Asian transport links (TRANS/2004/12).

##### (ii) Development of Euro-Asian transport links

The representative of the Russian Federation and the representative of Turkey will **inform** the Committee on recent activities related to further development of Euro-Asian transport links in the territories of their respective countries. Other member Governments may wish to **inform** the

Committee on related activities. The Committee may wish to **encourage** and **support** continuation of activities of the Russian Federation and Turkey aimed at further developing the Transsiberian and Southern Euro-Asian transport corridors.

The Committee may also wish **to note** that an informal meeting of the Southern corridor countries, to analyse the infrastructure and regulatory shortcomings and determine further substantive and organizational steps regarding activities for the development of Euro-Asian links has again been cancelled and is postponed to the year 2004.

The Committee may further wish to **note** that the establishment of a UNECE-ESCAP task force, which should give an impetus to further elaboration of the elements of the Common UNECE/ESCAP Strategic Vision for Euro-Asian Transport Links and promote the development of Euro-Asian transport links, was delayed in order to avoid the overlap with the activities within the ongoing phase of the implementation of the UNDA UNECE/ESCAP Project on Capacity Building in Developing Interregional Land and Land-cum-Sea Transport Linkages. The establishment of the task force, following the outlined framework supported by the Committee at its sixty-fifth session, could be launched after the termination of the current phase of the UNDA Project.

**(c) Transport in the Mediterranean**

**Seminar on Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean**

The Committee may wish **to note** that the lack of financial resources could indefinitely postpone the organization of the Seminar on freight flows in the Mediterranean. The Committee may, therefore, wish to **support** the initiative of the CETMO and the secretariat to contact other international organizations and explore other possible sources of finance in order to ensure financial support for the organization of a Seminar in 2004.

The Committee will also have before it a document on the work of the Mediterranean Transport Study Centre. The Committee may wish to **take note** of the work carried out by the centre and **provide guidance** for the future work.

**(d) Studies on transport economics and track costs undertaken by other organizations**

**TRANS/2004/9**  
**TRANS/2004/10**  
**and Adds.1-2**

The Committee may wish to **take note** of the information received from the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) (TRANS/2004/10 and Adds.1-2), the European Commission (EC) (TRANS/2004/9) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

**Tuesday, 17 February 2004 (afternoon)**

**12. ROAD TRANSPORT**

**[TRANS/SC.1/373](#)**

The Committee will have before it the report of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), on its ninety-seventh session, for **consideration** (TRANS/SC.1/373) pending final adoption at its ninety-eighth session in October 2004.

**(a) Road transport infrastructure**

**(i) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)**

The Committee may wish to **note** that the amendments to Annex I to the AGR, adopted at the ninety-sixth session of SC.1, entered into force on 24 November 2003 (C.N.911-2003-TREATIES).

The Committee may also wish to **note** that, at its ninety-seventh session, SC.1 adopted proposals to amend Annex I to the AGR (TRANS/SC.1/373). The Working Party also agreed in principle the proposals to amend Annex II to the AGR by adding new provisions regarding the environment and safety in tunnels made by the nineteenth Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR (Geneva, 6-7 May 2003). The Working Party decided, however, to postpone the final adoption of all proposals concerning annex II until its next session in order to ensure coherence with the EU Directive on Safety in Tunnels which is in the process of adoption.

The Committee will also be **informed** about the latest developments in the drafting of a legal instrument for the Asian Highway, the network developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

**(ii) Activities of the Trans-European North-South  
Motorway (TEM) Project**

**[TRANS/SC.1/2003/4](#)**

The Committee may wish to take **note** of the progress report of the TEM Project (TRANS/SC.1/2003/4) and the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Working Party on Road Transport (TRANS/SC.1/373, paras. 23-25). In this connection, it may also pay attention to the endeavours made by the UNECE Transport Division in close collaboration with the TEM member countries and the Project Central Office during the year 2003, for the implementation of the new short-term strategy for further integration of TEM into the new European transport context, the elaboration of its Master Plan and its active participation in the monitoring of the Pan-European Corridors development process.

It may also wish to **consider** reiterating its request that adequate resources be made available in the secretariat for the substantive backstopping and further development of this Project and **support** the implementation of the ongoing Project's activities.

**(b) Facilitation of international road transport****(i) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)****TRANS/SC.1/373/Add.1**

The Committee may wish to **note** that the proposed amendments to Article 12 of the AETR on checking procedures transmitted to Contracting Parties on 27 May 2003 by depositary notification C.N.512.2003.TREATIES-1 were considered accepted on 27 November 2003 and will enter into force three months thereafter.

The Committee may wish to **note** that, following the approval of the Committee at its sixty-fifth session, an Information Day on the Digital Tachograph was held on 27 October 2003. The Committee will receive oral information on the activities carried out during the Information Day.

The Committee may also wish to **note** that, in response to the concern expressed at its sixty-fifth session, the Working Party adopted amendments aimed at clarifying the situation for non-EU vehicles equipped with a digital tachograph before the entry into force of the digital tachograph provisions in the AETR in approximately 2008 or 2009. The new provisions appear in document TRANS/SC.1/373/Add.1.

**(ii) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR)**

The Committee may wish to **note** that, at its ninety-seventh session, SC.1 had before it two alternative proposals for a new draft Protocol to the CMR aimed at introducing an electronic consignment note, presented by Unidroit and by Germany. In order to decide on one single approach to the matter, the Working Party requested the secretariat to write to Contracting Parties asking them which proposal they favoured. It also requested the Committee to **approve** the holding, if necessary, of an Ad hoc Meeting on the CMR in 2004 to finalize the text of a new Protocol on the basis of the proposal selected so that it could be finally adopted at the ninety-eighth session of SC.1.

**(iii) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)** **TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.3**

The Committee may wish to **note** that, in accordance with a decision taken at its sixty-fifth session, the SC.1, at its ninety-seventh session, adopted the final text of R.E.4 with a number of modifications. The final version is made available to the Committee in document TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.3. A list of reservations to the text will also be made available in an additional document.

The Committee may wish to **approve** the final text of R.E.4 and invite all countries to make known to the secretariat their reservations to the text, if any.



**(iv) Visas for professional drivers**

The Committee may wish to **note** that members of SC.1, after having considered the results of the inquiry launched by the secretariat on this subject, expressed divergent opinions on future work concerning the facilitation of the issuance of visas to professional drivers. The Working Party was also informed that a new draft text of Annex 8 to the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, which included a simplified text on visa issuance, would be submitted to the WP.30 Administrative Committee in February 2004 for possible adoption. In light of this development, the Working Party had decided that it was premature for SC.1 to undertake any parallel work such as the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts on visa problems.

**13. ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY**

[TRANS/WP.1/88](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/90](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/92](#)

The Committee will have before it the reports of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) on its forty-first (TRANS/WP.1/88) and forty-second (special) session (TRANS/WP.1/90) for **consideration and approval** and on its forty-third session (TRANS/WP.1/92) for **consideration** pending final adoption at the forty-fourth session of the Working Party in April 2004.

- (a) International instruments related to road safety (Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, European Agreements supplementing them, Consolidated Resolutions R.E.1 and R.E.2)**

[TRANS/WP.1/2003/1/Rev.3](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/2003/2/Rev.3](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/2003/3/Rev.3](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/2003/4/Rev.3](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/2003/5/Rev.3](#)

The Committee may wish to **approve** the final text of the draft amendments to the Vienna Conventions, the European Agreements supplementing them and the Protocol on Road Markings adopted by WP.1 over the course of its recent sessions (TRANS/WP.1/2003/1,2,3,4,5/Rev.2).

If approved by the Committee, the draft amendments will be sent to the United Nations Secretary-General by a country or countries for formal notification to all Contracting Parties. The names of the countries which have volunteered to transmit the amendment proposals to the Secretary-General will be made known at the Committee session.

With regard to the Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2), the Committee may **note** that the Working Party agreed that, since work had been finalized on the package of amendments to legal instruments, the focus of future work in the short term should be on updating and completing the Consolidated Resolutions, on improving their presentation and on ensuring their dissemination throughout the world with the assistance of the other regional commissions.

In this respect, the Working Party created nine new informal working groups to make proposals for future work by WP.1 on overtaking; roadside checks; restructuring of the Consolidated Resolutions; driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs and medicines; driving permits issued in accordance with the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic; pedestrians; variable message signs; safety of motorcyclists; and seatbelt usage. The new informal groups do not have any resource implications for the Committee.

**(b) Fourth Road Safety Week in the ECE Region (5 – 11 April 2004)**

The Committee will **be informed** about the follow-up given to its resolution on the organization of the Fourth Road Safety Week, and particularly about the holding of a seminar on aggressive driving behaviour to be held in the Palais des Nations on 5 April 2004 in cooperation with the World Health Organization. Information will also be given on the organization from 5-8 April 2004 in the Palais des Nations of an exhibition on the theme of the Fourth Road Safety Week featuring materials produced by countries and organizations.

The Committee may wish to **invite** all its members to participate actively in the Fourth Road Safety Week campaign and to inform the secretariat about the activities which they intend to carry out during the Week.

**(c) Follow-up to General Assembly Resolutions on  
the Global Road Safety Crisis**

[TRANS/2004/11](#)  
and [Add.1](#)  
[TRANS/WP.1/2004/5](#)

On 29 May 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/57/309 on the global road safety crisis. In it, the General Assembly welcomed, *inter alia*, the designation by the World Health Organization of “Safe Roads” as the theme of World Health Day 2004. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the global road safety crisis to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The report of the Secretary-General (A/58/228), with input from the Transport Division and other organizations dealing with road safety issues, was submitted to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly as requested. On 5 November 2003, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/58/9 on the global road safety crisis, calling, *inter alia*, for a special plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held on 14 April 2004 to increase awareness of the magnitude of the road traffic injury problem at a high level and inviting the Economic and Social Council, working with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and through its regional commissions, to facilitate the exchange of information on best road traffic safety practices and the development of recommendations for road traffic injury control.

One of the recommendations made in the report of the Secretary-General is that a coordinating body be designated to facilitate and coordinate these activities at the international level. Several countries and organizations in WP.1 considered that WP.1 should assume this new role and should become a Global Forum for Road Safety, in a similar way that WP.29 has become

a Global Forum. This issue is likely to be debated at the Special Session of the General Assembly on 14 April 2004 in New York.

The Committee may wish to discuss this question on the basis of the General Assembly Resolutions which appear in document TRANS/2004/11 and **consider** whether it should recommend that WP.1 assume the role of a Global Forum for Road Safety.

#### **14. SAFETY IN TUNNELS**

##### **(a) Follow-up to the Recommendations of the ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (road)**

The Committee will be **informed** about the results of the seventh meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (road) which is scheduled to be held exceptionally on 19-20 January 2004 in Barcelona. The Committee will be **informed** about the follow-up given to the recommendations on safety in road tunnels by its subsidiary bodies WP.1, WP.29, SC.1 and WP.15 and on progress made in incorporating the recommendations into legal instruments.

##### **(b) Recommendations of the ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail)** [TRANS/AC.9/9](#)

The Committee will have before it, for **consideration and approval**, the Recommendations of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail).

#### **15. HARMONIZATION OF VEHICLE REGULATIONS** [TRANS/WP.29/909](#) [TRANS/WP.29/926](#) [TRANS/WP.29/953](#)

The Committee may wish to **consider** and **approve** the work carried out by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and by its six subsidiary Working Parties (GRPE, GRSG, GRRF, GRE, GRB, GRSP) during 2003, as reflected in the reports of WP.29 on its one-hundred-and-twenty-ninth (TRANS/WP.29/909), one-hundred-and-thirtieth (TRANS/WP.29/926) and one-hundred-and-thirty-first (TRANS/WP.29/953) sessions.

##### **(a) The 1958 Agreement and annexed ECE Regulations**

The Committee may wish to **note** that, during 2003, the number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement remained the same (forty). The one-hundred-and-sixteenth Regulation was adopted and entered into force on 30 October 2003. Seventy-four amendments to forty-five existing Regulations were agreed.

**(b) The 1998 (global) Agreement**

The Committee may wish to **note** that, during 2003, the number of Parties to the Agreement reached twenty-two, with the accession of Sweden. The Executive Committee (AC.3) of the Agreement set fifteen priorities for establishing new draft global technical regulations. The six subsidiary Working Parties continued to work on the fifteen priorities set by the Executive Committee (AC.3). AC.3 received confirmation from the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) of the distribution of responsibilities under the Agreement between OLA and UNECE.

**(c) The 1997 Agreement on Periodical Technical Inspections**

The Committee may **note** that the number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement reached seven, with the accession of Bulgaria, and may again **consider** inviting the eighteen countries which signed the Agreement on 13 November 1997 to speed up their national ratification procedures. The Administrative Committee of the Agreement (AC.4) recommended the amendment of Article 12 of the Agreement, which would facilitate the accession of the European Community to the Agreement, which will be followed by the ratification of this Agreement by its Member States. A proposal for this amendment will be sent to the United Nations Secretary-General. A proposal for draft Rule No. 2 remained under consideration, concerning inspections with respect to safety of heavy commercial passenger and goods vehicles used in international transport.

**16. RAIL TRANSPORT**

[TRANS/SC.2/200](#)

The Committee will have before it the report of the fifty-seventh session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) (TRANS/SC.2/200) for **consideration and approval**.

**(a) Rail transport infrastructure**

**(i) European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)**

The Committee may wish to **take note** that in total 24 countries are at present Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement. The Committee may wish to **endorse** the invitation to those Governments that have not yet acceded to the AGC, to examine the possibility of doing so (TRANS/SC.2/200, para.27). It may also wish to **endorse** the Working Party's approval of the updated version of Annex 1 of the AGC.

**(ii) Activities of the Trans-European Railway [TRANS/SC.2/2003/14](#)  
(TER) Project**

The Committee may wish to **take note** of the progress report of the TER Project (TRANS/SC.2/2003/14) and the relevant paragraph of the report of the Working Party on Rail Transport (TRANS/SC.2/200, para. 32). In this connection, it may also pay attention to the endeavours made by the UNECE, in close collaboration with the TER member countries and the Project Central Office during the year 2003, for the implementation of the new short-term strategy

for further integration of TEM into the new European transport context, the elaboration of its Master Plan and its active participation in the monitoring of the Pan-European Corridors development process.

It may also wish to **consider** reiterating its request that adequate resources be made available in the secretariat for the substantive backstopping and further development of this Project and **support** the implementation of the ongoing Project's activities.

The Committee may wish to **take note** of the report of the TER Project (TRANS/SC.2/2003/14) and continuing efforts made by the UNECE, in close collaboration with the TER member countries and the Project Central Office, to further integrate TER into the new European transport context. It may also wish to **consider** reiterating its request that adequate resources be made available in the secretariat, and in particular for the uninterrupted services of a Regional Adviser, which has proved to be indispensable for the substantive backstopping and further development of this Project.

**(b) Cooperation with the ECMT Group on Railways**

The Committee will be **informed** about the decision of the Working Party on Rail Transport to adopt the proposal by the secretariats of ECMT and UNECE on closer collaboration of the UNECE Working Party on Railway Transport with the ECMT Group on Railways. This closer working collaboration will involve the holding of a joint meeting of the ECMT Group on Railways and the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport as a back-to-back meeting organized by the UNECE in 2004 in Geneva and by ECMT in 2005 in Paris. Such arrangement will be carried out on a trial basis for two years (2004 and 2005). The Committee is invited to **support** the two secretariats to prepare and carry out two joint meetings for the benefit of all member countries.

**(c) Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport**

[TRANS/2004/13](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** the Declaration of the sixth Interdepartmental Meeting (TRANS/2004/13) of representatives of the border, customs, railway bodies and transport Ministries of the OSZHD Member Countries (21-23 October 2003, Sochi, Russian Federation) and the request for the convening, under the auspices of the UN, of an international meeting on the facilitation of railway border crossing procedures with the participation of Governments, customs, border control, railways, OSZHD, UIC and other involved organizations and authorities. The Committee may further wish to **support** the OSZHD initiative and **invite** the OSZHD, in collaboration with interested Governments and international organizations if necessary, to prepare an initial proposal containing the border crossing issues to be discussed, involvement of various participants and other organizational issues.

The Committee may wish to **support** the Working Party's request to member countries to make efforts to comply with the Committee's resolution No. 248 of 1999 which calls for the reduction of the border stopping time of shuttle trains in international traffic and to limit their overall waiting time at borders to 60 minutes (30 minutes for each of the neighbouring countries).

The Committee may further wish to **support** the continuation of the monitoring system carried out by the Working Party based on the request to all member Governments to provide the information on the reduction of actual stopping time and compliance with the Committee's Resolution No. 248 for all border stations on the AGC lines.

**Wednesday, 18 February 2004 (morning)**

**17. INLAND WATER TRANSPORT**

**[TRANS/SC.3/161](#)**

The report of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, on its forty-seventh session, has been circulated for **consideration** and **approval** by the Committee as TRANS/SC.3/161.

- (a) **European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)** **[ECE/TRANS/120 and Corr.1](#)**

The Committee may wish to **note** that the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, at its forty-seventh session, had an exchange of views on prospects for more member States to become Contracting Parties to the AGN Agreement and agreed to consider at its next session the proposals of Governments and the secretariat aimed at the elimination of possible existing obstacles to, and facilitation of, accession to the Agreement of States who had not yet become Parties to it (TRANS/SC.3/161, paras. 23-31).

- (b) **Technical and legal questions regarding the development and facilitation of international transport by inland waterway** **[TRANS/SC.3/2003/4](#)  
**[TRANS/SC.3/2003/8](#)**  
**[TRANS/SC.3/2004/1](#)****

The Committee will be orally informed, and may wish to **take note**, of the progress made by the Working Party in implementing the Committee's resolution No. 250 on the Promotion of Inland Water Transport (ECE/TRANS/139, annex 2) as a follow-up to the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September 2001). In this connection, the Committee may wish to **take note and comment**, if deemed necessary, on the "Inventory of existing legislative obstacles that hamper the establishment of a harmonized and competitive Pan-European inland navigation market", prepared by a Group of volunteers set up by the Working Party, comprising representatives of UNECE, EC, ECMT, River Commissions and Governments (TRANS/SC.3/2003/8). The Working Party asked the Group of volunteers to complement the Inventory with recommendations as to how to overcome the obstacles identified (TRANS/SC.3/161, para. 17).

The Committee may wish to **take note of and endorse** the adoption by the Working Party of resolution No. 51 on the amendment of the Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways (SIGNI)

(TRANS/SC.3/2003/4) as well as its request to the secretariat to prepare a new publication of a revised SIGNI (TRANS/SC.3/161, para. 41).

The Committee may wish also to **take note** and **endorse** the provisional approval by the Working Party of amendments to the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (TRANS/SC.3/2004/1) aimed at their harmonization on a Pan-European level with due regard to relevant EU and CCNR provisions. The Working Party envisages to complete its work on the revision of the Recommendations in 2005 (TRANS/SC.3/161, para. 37).

## 18. COMBINED TRANSPORT

[TRANS/WP.24/101](#)  
[TRANS/WP.24/99](#) and  
[Add.1](#)

The reports of the Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24) on its thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions have been circulated **for consideration and approval**.

### (a) **European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)**

[TRANS/WP.24/2003/6](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** progress made by the two informal ad hoc expert groups on “partnership models and best practices” and on “combined transport terminal efficiency”. The two expert groups have prepared “model” action plans as well as “model” partnership agreements to promote cooperation among Governments and the private sector towards efficient international combined transport services (TRANS/WP.24/2003/6). Following a review of these best practices by Contracting Parties and combined transport operators, adequate implementation procedures, such as their inclusion into a new annex to the AGTC Agreement, would need to be devised, in close cooperation with ECMT.

The Committee may wish to **encourage** Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement to return to the secretariat the pre-filled questionnaires on the third inventory of AGC and AGTC standards and parameters covering the year 2002 (“Yellow Book”).

The Committee may also wish to **invite** all concerned Contracting Parties to accede to the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement relating to combined transport on inland waterways, particularly Contracting Parties that have signed but not ratified it, i.e. Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Portugal in order to allow the Protocol to enter into force.

### (b) **Possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport**

[TRANS/WP.24/101](#)

The Committee may wish to **provide guidance** to the Working Party and its ad hoc expert group on civil liability rules in multimodal transport as to whether substantive work, including the preparation of a regional draft convention, should be continued by the UNECE in this field. The

United Nations Commission on Intermodal Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is considering at present an international instrument on maritime law that would extend, in its latest version, to all contracts of carriage involving a sea leg, irrespective of their length or economic importance. The Committee may wish to **endorse** the decision of the Working Party to closely monitor these discussions and to prolong the mandate of its ad hoc expert group for another year.

(c) **Modifications in the scope and organization of work of the Working Party on Combined Transport** [TRANS/WP.24/2003/8](#)  
[TRANS/WP.24/2003/7](#)

The Committee may wish to **endorse** the proposed new title and scope of the Working Party as well as the proposed cooperative arrangements with ECMT that would result in the creation of a “Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics” consisting of separate ECMT and UNECE segments. The Working Party felt that these proposals would not only streamline the already existing cooperative procedures between the two organizations, but would also create synergies in intergovernmental policy, technical and legal activities in this field at the pan-European level.

**19. BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION** [TRANS/WP.30/206](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/208](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/210](#)

The Committee will have before it the reports of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), on its one-hundred-and-third, one-hundred-and-fourth and one-hundred-and-fifth sessions (TRANS/WP.30/206, 208 and 210), for **consideration** and **approval**.

(a) **Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)** [TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/71](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/2002/18](#)

The Committee will also have before it for this item the reports of the two sessions of the TIR Administrative Committee, serviced by the secretariat, which are contained in documents TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69 and TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/71.

With a view to continuing the rapid progress on Phase III of the TIR revision process, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and computerization of the TIR procedure in particular, the Committee may wish to **decide** to prolong the mandate of the group of experts on the TIR revision process for the year 2004.

The Committee will recall, that at its sixty-fifth session, it had discussed at length the difficulties encountered within the TIR procedure and that it had requested its Bureau to consider these issues as well as propose solutions for the future. The Committee may wish to be **informed** about the outcome of the considerations of the Bureau.



- (b) **International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982** [TRANS/WP.30/206](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/210](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1](#)

The Committee may wish to be informed about the outcome of the sixth session of the Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, which will be held on 5 and 6 February 2004. The Administrative Committee will consider the acceptance of a new Annex 8 to the Convention, covering all elements of efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods, including an International Vehicle Weight Certificate, acceptance of the Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections and provisions encouraging visa facilitation measures for professional drivers.

- (c) **Draft Conventions on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail** [TRANS/WP.30/210](#)  
[TRANS/2001/10](#)  
[TRANS/WP.30/2004/13](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** that, following a meeting of the Contracting States of the SMGS Agreement (TRANS/WP.30/2003/24), it was agreed that a revised text of the draft Convention contained in document TRANS/2001/10 be submitted for consideration by the Working Party at its one-hundred-and-sixth session in February 2004. The Committee may wish to be informed about the outcome of the discussions.

## 20. TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

- (a) **The Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals** [TRANS/2004/4](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** that (i) the Economic and Social Council adopted, on 25 July 2003, resolution 2003/64 on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (TRANS/2004/4); (ii) in accordance with this resolution, the Transport Division has prepared, in English and French, the thirteenth revised edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.13), the fourth revised edition of the Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4) and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (ST/SG/AC.10/30), which have been published in book form and on CD-ROM and are also available on the Transport Division web site. Translation and publication in all the other official UN languages are also under preparation; (iii) the Council invited, *inter alia*, the UNECE, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to consider taking into account

the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee may also wish to **note** that:

- (i) the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods met from 30 June to 4 July 2003 (see report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/46 and Add.1-2) and is holding its twenty-fourth session from 3 to 10 December 2003;
  - (ii) the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals met from 7 to 9 July 2003 (see report ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/10) and is holding its sixth session from 10 to 12 December 2003.
- (b) **Harmonization of the technical requirements of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) and the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID)** [TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/92](#) and [Add.1- Add.2](#) [TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/94](#) and [Add.1, Add.2, Add.3, Add.4, Add.5, Add.6, Add.7, Add.8](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** that the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting held its first session, in Bern from 24-28 March 2003. An additional meeting week has been necessary to complete the autumn session which, as a result, was held in two parts (Geneva, 1-10 September 2003 and Bonn, 13-17 October 2003). Consequently, the 2004 Spring session has been cancelled. The Joint Meeting finalized a set of draft amendments to the common requirements of RID, ADR and ADN which include, *inter alia*, adaptations of these requirements to those of the thirteenth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, and notably new provisions for dangerous goods transport security.

In this context, the Committee may also wish to **note** that a meeting of an Ad hoc Working Group on the Harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, with limited membership, was held in Geneva from 26 to 28 May 2003 to facilitate the process of harmonization.

- (c) **European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)** [TRANS/WP.15/174](#) and [Add.1](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** that there are 38 Contracting Parties to the ADR. The Protocol amending articles 1 (a), 14 (1) and 14 (3) (b) of the ADR, adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties on 28 October 1993, has not yet entered into force as not all Contracting Parties to the ADR have become Parties to the Protocol. Twenty-five Contracting Parties have done so to date, and the Committee may wish to **urge** the remaining Contracting Parties

(Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia) to take the necessary steps to allow the Protocol to come into force.

The Committee may also wish to **note** that the Working Party adopted new amendments to Annexes A and B of the ADR during its seventy-fourth session (19-23 May 2003). Other amendments should be adopted at its seventy-fifth session (19-23 January 2004). The report on this session will be circulated as TRANS/WP.15/176. A consolidated list of all draft amendments adopted by the Working Party in 2002, 2003 and January 2004 for entry into force on 1 January 2005 will be prepared by the secretariat and circulated under the symbol TRANS/WP.15/176/Add.1.

**(d) European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)** [TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/15](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** that there are now two Contracting States to ADN, the Russian Federation and the Netherlands. It is recalled that the ADN had also been signed (subject to ratification) by the following other 9 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia. It was open for signature until 31 May 2001 and is now open for accession.

The Committee may also wish to **note** that the Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the ADN held its seventh session from 21 to 23 January 2003. It adopted amendments to the Regulations annexed to the ADN. Other amendments should be adopted at the eighth session to be held from 26-30 January 2004 (report to be circulated as TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/17). A consolidated list of amendments adopted in 2003 and 2004 will be issued as TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/17/Add.1. They will be submitted to the ADN Administrative Committee as soon as the ADN enters into force. Pending this entry into force, the Committee may wish to invite UNECE member States to implement the amended Regulations through their national legislation as from 1 January 2005.

**(e) Convention on Civil Liability for Damage caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (CRTD)** [TRANS/AC.8/6](#)  
[TRANS/AC.8/8](#)  
and [-/Add.1](#)

The Committee may wish to **note** that the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on CRTD met twice (7- 9 July 2003 and 3-4 November 2003) and completed its work in accordance with the mandate given by the Committee, which was to submit a revised text of the CRTD. The Committee may wish to **consider** the revised text (TRANS/AC.8/8/Add.1), and **decide** as deemed appropriate.

In this respect, the Committee may wish to **note** that (i) the Central Commission for Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is preparing a new convention on the subject but applicable to

inland navigation only, (ii) the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts is of the view that the CRTD should continue to cover the three inland transport modes (TRANS/AC.8/2, para. 29), (iii) the Bureau, noting that, despite letters already sent by the secretariat to Member States, there was poor participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts which could be interpreted as lack of political interest from Member States, requested the secretariat to send a new letter whereby Member States would be requested to express, by the end of October 2003, their official position on the principle of adopting of a new Convention; (iv) by the end of November 2003, three answers only had been received, two of them being negative; (v) additional information on the positions of Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and comments by the Ad Hoc Meeting of experts are reflected in its last report (TRANS/AC.8/8).

The Committee is invited to **consider** all questions raised by the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts in paras. 47 to 51 of its report and to **decide** as appropriate for the follow-up action.

**Wednesday, 18 February 2004 (starting at 3.00 p.m.)**

**ROUND TABLE ON “INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS”**

**Thursday, 19 February 2004 (morning)**

**21. TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS [TRANS/WP.11/208](#)**

The Committee will have before it the report of the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (TRANS/WP.11/208) for **consideration** and **approval**.

**Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP)**

The Committee may wish to **note** that the Working Party adopted the revised Annex 1 to ATP as well as an ATP Handbook.

**22. TRANSPORT STATISTICS [TRANS/WP.6/145](#)**

The Committee will have before it the report of the Working Party on Transport Statistics on its fifty-fourth session (11-13 June 2003) (TRANS/WP.6/145) for **consideration** and **approval**.

**(a) Results of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic [TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16](#)  
Census 2005 and [-/Add.1](#)**

The Committee may wish to **consider** the activities under way regarding preparations for the E-Road Traffic Census 2005. In relation to this matter, the Committee may wish to **adopt** the Resolution proposed to it by the Ad hoc Meeting on the E-Road Traffic Census 2005 (29-30 September 2003) inviting Governments to undertake the E-Road Census 2005 on their national territories and to supply the results to the UNECE secretariat, if possible, before 1 March 2007, in conformity with the Recommendations set forth in UNECE document TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.1. Governments should inform the Executive Secretary of the

UNECE by 30 September 2004 whether they agree to implement the provisions of this resolution.

**(b) Results of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Rail Traffic Census 2005** [TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2](#)  
and [-/Add.1](#)

The Committee may wish to **consider** the activities under way regarding preparations for the E-Rail Traffic Census in Europe 2005. This census will be jointly undertaken by the secretariat and Eurostat. In relation to this matter, the Committee may wish to **adopt** the Resolution proposed to it by the Ad hoc Meeting on the E-Rail Traffic Census 2005 (2-3 October 2003) inviting Governments to undertake the E-Rail Census 2005 on their national territories and to supply the results to the UNECE secretariat, if possible, before 30 June 2007, in conformity with the Recommendations set forth in UNECE document TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2/Add.1. Governments should inform the Executive Secretary of the UNECE by 30 September 2004 whether they agree to implement the provisions of this resolution.

**(c) Methodological development and harmonization of transport and road accident statistics**

The Committee will **be informed** about the Working Party's decision to ask the Intersecretariat Working Group to prepare a common questionnaire concerning road traffic accident statistics.

The Committee may wish to **be informed** about the publication of the third edition of the Glossary of Transport Statistics jointly prepared by the UNECE, ECMT and Eurostat and **support** further work on this matter in the Working Party on Transport Statistics (TRANS/WP.6/2003/6).

### **23. TRANSPORT DIVISION WEBSITE**

The Committee may wish to **note** that two new sites concerning the Fourth Road Safety Week (<http://www.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/rs4rs.html>) and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs.html>) have been set.

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme website (<http://www.unece.org/the-pep/>) has also started and is linked to the Transport Division Home Page.

The Committee may also wish to **note** the timely updating of meetings' documentation and **provide guidance** for further improvements.

### III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### 24. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2004-2008 [TRANS/2004/3](#)

Bearing in mind the remark of the Committee's Bureau (TRANS/2004/2, Annex 3, para. 42), the Committee may wish to **adopt** its programme of work for the period 2004-2008 as contained in document TRANS/2004/3.

#### 25. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN 2004 [TRANS/2004/5](#)

A preliminary list of meetings is being circulated for **consideration and adoption** by the Committee; the list is based on proposals made by the Committee's subsidiary bodies (TRANS/2004/5).

### IV. MISCELLANEOUS

#### 26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

##### **Date of next session**

The Committee may note that its sixty-seventh session is tentatively scheduled to be held from 15 to 17 February 2005.

**Thursday, 19 February 2004 (afternoon)**

#### 27. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION

In accordance with established practice, the Committee will **adopt** the report of its sixty-sixth session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat.

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