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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on Transport Statistics**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS  
ON ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

(7-9 June 2006)

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## ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its fifty-seventh session in Geneva from 7 to 9 June 2006 under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The European Commission DG TREN and Eurostat were also represented. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Danube Commission (DC), and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). The following non-governmental organization was represented: IRU. A representative from the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project was also present.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/150) with minor modifications.

## ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

### (a) Economic Commission for Europe

3. The sixty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 20 to 24 February 2006.

4. The Working Party was informed about the decisions taken by the Commission, at its sixty-first session concerning such questions as the UNECE reform and major policy directions in UNECE's work. The Working Party noted that the interest of the UNECE is to work more on various methodologies and dissemination of results of work.

### (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

5. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) held its sixty-seventh session in Geneva from 7 to 9 February 2006.

6. The Working Party was informed about matters of interest considered by the Committee, in particular in the work area of transport statistics of the Committee's report.

### (c) Transport, environment and health

7. The Working Party was informed about the outcomes of the Fourth session of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee (10 and 11 April 2006), which have relevance to the activities of the Working Party.

(d) Transport and environment reporting mechanism (TERM)

8. The Working Party acknowledged receipt of a paper received from the European Environment Agency (EEA) describing its forthcoming activities.

INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS (IWG)

(a) Annual report of the activities of the IWG

Documentation: Informal document 1.

9. The Working Party Discussed the report of the IWG, composed of representatives of the secretariats of UNECE, ECMT and Eurostat. The meetings of the IWG took place on 14 and 15 November 2005 in Paris and on 3 March 2006 in Geneva. The report was adopted by the Working Party.

(b) Pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics

10. The representative from the Eurostat informed the Working Party about the pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics. Regarding the road pilot questionnaire, the Working Party suggested that IWG and the Task force on road traffic performance look into these matters and propose changes where necessary. Regarding the rail pilot questionnaire, the Working Party recommended that this questionnaire be sent out as soon as possible. Based on the replies and information provided by IWG, the Working Party decided to consider this issue during its fifty-eighth session.

METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(a) Glossary of Transport Statistics

11. IWG informed the Working Party on the ongoing work within IWG regarding future updates of the Glossary. The Working Party endorsed the work of the IWG on the fourth edition of the Glossary and requested information for its fifty-eighth session.

(b) Web version of the Common Questionnaire

12. The Working Party was briefed by the representative of Eurostat about the new developments regarding the Internet version of the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics. The Working Party supported this work and requested an update on the developments from IWG for the fifty-eighth session.

(c) Presentation of the Draft Common Questionnaire on Road Traffic Accident Statistics

Documents: [ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/1](#) and Informal document No.4.

13. The Working Party considered document (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/1) prepared by the Czech Republic about the availability of data in the CARE database and noted Informal document No.4 prepared by Spain.

14. The Working Party appreciated the new method of data collection on road traffic accidents on the web provided by Eurostat for the UNECE and ECMT. The Working Party decided to review the Joint (UNECE and ECMT) Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accidents Statistics at its fifty-eighth session, and especially to take into account accidents involving heavy vehicles.

(d) Information about the adoption of the final revision of the new classification system for transport statistics (NST/2000)

15. The Working Party was informed about the approval by the Conference of European Statisticians of the revised classification system NST/2000 (TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.2).

16. The Working Party welcomed the United States' (US) proposal to extend this classification to include links to the harmonized system. This will be discussed at the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party.

(e) Harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics (Follow-up to the Barcelona Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators)

Documents: [ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/2](#).

17. The Working Party noted the observation of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) about the definitions of cycle lane and cycle track (TRANS/WP.6/2006/2) and requested that IWG finds a harmonised solution. This needs to be incorporated in the fourth edition of the Glossary.

18. The Working Party invited delegations to contribute to the work of the IWG on definitions in the Glossary. This contribution may be in the form of comments and proposals for new definitions.

(f) Pilot questionnaire on transport of natural gas through pipelines

Document: [ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/3](#).

19. The Working Party considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/3 prepared by the Russian Federation on statistics of gas transmission through pipelines and expressed interest in the continuation of consideration of this subject in the future.

(g) Workshop on Statistics of Road Traffic Performance

Document: [TRANS/WP.6/AC.5/2005/16](#).

20. The secretariat informed the Working Party about the Workshop on Road Traffic Performance (statistics of vehicle-km-year) that took place in Copenhagen on 1 and 2 December

2005. The Working Party considered the results of the workshop and the subsequent Task Force, as well as approved the report and provided guidelines for further work in this area.

21. The Working Party encouraged delegations to be involved in the work of the 'Copenhagen Task Force', to consult its web page

<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5agenda.html>

and to contribute to the finalisation of the final document (possibly a handbook).

22. The Working Party invited interested parties to communicate their suggestions, observations, recommendations, national experiences and comparisons, as well as other types of input directly to the focal point of the relevant chapter of the future handbook. This type of input is expected to reach focal points no later than 4 September 2006. The relevant draft chapters may be found at this address:

[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5draft\\_chapters.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5draft_chapters.html)

23. At the same time, delegates were reminded about the provisional agenda and registration form for the Bratislava meeting (21 and 22 September 2006) of the Task Force:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5agenda.html>

(h) Euro-Asian transport links

Document: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/4.

24. The Working Party considered Euro-Asian transport links based on the document received from Azerbaijan (TRANS/WP.6/2006/4) and requested information from the secretariat about the reasons for the low response from central Asian countries. Based on this information, the Working Party will decide at its next session whether to continue this pilot project.

(i) Proposals for workshops

Documents: Informal document No. 3.

25. The Working Party considered proposals for workshops that deal with the issues of transport statistics and welcomed invitation by the Dutch Government to host an ad hoc meeting on the statistical coverage of long distance bus transportation that will take place in Maastricht on 29 November 2006.

26. The Working Party considered a preliminary offer by the Russian Federation to host a workshop on issues of statistics of transport of gas and oil through pipelines. This preliminary proposal is welcomed. Once the Russian Federation finalises its invitation, it will be sent to the Chairman of the Working Party for approval and then to the secretariat to carry it out. One of the objectives needs to be the establishment of definitions that are used in the relevant transport statistics.

27. The Working Party considered an offer by the United States to host a workshop on issues of statistics of safety and vehicle standards in spring of 2007. This preliminary proposal is welcomed. There is a possibility to link this workshop with the one on the finalisation of the

document linked with the Copenhagen Workshop on Road Traffic Performance (statistics of vehicle-km-year).

#### TRANSPORT DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Status report on the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project and Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project Databases

Documents: [ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/5](#); Informal document 2.

28. The Working Party appreciated receiving documents about the progress made in the development of the databases established by the TEM and TER Projects and requested updates to be presented at its fifty-eighth session.

- (b) Sources of transport statistics on the Internet

29. The Working Party took note of the updated list of Internet links provided by the secretariat and made available on the UNECE Transport Statistics Home Page:  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatlinks.html>

30. The Working Party requested member countries to inform the secretariat regularly about:

- changes in the addresses of their respective relevant websites and
- the availability of statistical databases on the web

in order to have the home page up to date.

#### TRAFFIC CENSUSES IN THE ECE REGION

- (a) Finalisation of the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe

Documents: TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16; [TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.1](#);  
TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.2.

31. The Working Party reminded the delegations to continue to finalise the activities related to the 2005 E-Road Census, as well as to respect the deadline for the submission of the results to the secretariat before 1 March 2007 (para. 34, [TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.1](#)).

32. The Working Party considered the issue of publication of the results of the 2005 E-Road Census and decided to have it published entirely in electronic format only. These include PDF and excel document formats. All results should be available on the web free of charge to any interested user without restrictions. However, the maps should be printed in the paper format.

(b) 2005 E-Rail Census (AGC)

Documents: [TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2](#); [TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2/Add.1](#).

33. The Working Party reminded the delegations to continue to finalise the activities related to the 2005 E-Rail Census, as well as to respect the deadline for the submission of the results to the secretariat and Eurostat before 30 June 2007 (para. 24, [TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2/Add.1](#)).

34. The Working Party considered the issue of publication of the results of the 2005 E-Rail Census which is undertaken jointly with Eurostat and which will be published entirely in electronic format only. These include PDF and excel document formats. All results should be available on the web free of charge to any interested user without restrictions. However, the maps should be printed in the paper format.

#### UN/EDIFACT AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)

35. The Working Party continued to have an exchange of views regarding UN/EDIFACT, as well as other developments in electronic data interchange related to the transport sector. The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda for its fifty-eighth session.

#### DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

36. The Working Party considered the issue of publication of the following periodicals:

- Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics,
- Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (annual),
- Handbook of Transport Indicators (annual) and
- censuses.

37. The Working Party confirmed and extended its earlier decision from the fifty-sixth session regarding the publication of its annual documents. The decision is that these documents should be published as follows:

- All three annual publications should be published on the web as PDF documents;
- Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics and Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America should be published on the web also as Excel documents. Special attention needs to be given to the inclusion of footnotes in this version of documents;
- All three annual publications should be available free of charge to any interested user;
- Handbook of Transport Indicators may be published also in the paper format. Governments have to communicate to the secretariat their updates of data before 23 June 2006; and
- The publication of the censuses was considered under heading 7 of this report.

38. The Working Party decided to review the Common Questionnaire at its fifty-eighth session based on input provided by the IWG and, according to this review, adjust the substance of annual publications if necessary.



## ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

39. The Working Party received oral reports from the representatives of the following organizations on their current and future activities in the field of transport statistics.

(a) European Union

(i) DG Energy and Transport (DG TREN)

40. The Working Party has been informed about the European Transport Information System (ETIS) handbook and about the review of the European Union's transport policy and possible implications for data needs.

(ii) Eurostat

Documents: Informal document 5

41. The representative from the Eurostat informed the Working Party about current and future work of this organisation.

(iii) European Environment Agency (EEA)

42. The Working Party took note of the room document circulated by the EEA.

(b) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

43. The representative from the ECMT informed the Working Party about current and future work of ECMT.

## DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007-2011

(a) Programme of Work

Document: Informal document 6

44. The Working Party discussed and accepted with certain amendments the Programme of Work for 2007-2011 as circulated in Informal document 6. The revised Programme of Work is presented in the annex to this report.

## OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics

45. The Working Party took note of preliminary dates and locations of meetings in 2006-2007 of the following bodies:

- Task-Task-force on Road Traffic Performance (vehicle-km) in Bratislava 21-22 September 2006
- Ad hoc workshop on Long Distance Transportation by Busses in Maastricht 29 November 2006
- Task-force on Road Traffic Performance (vehicle-km) in Maastricht 30 November 2006
- Eurostat - Coordinating Committee for Transport Statistics (CCST) 11-12 December 2006
- Eurostat - Working Group meeting on road inland waterways transport statistics February 2007
- Eurostat - Working Group meeting on road freight transport statistics April 2007
- Eurostat - Working Group meeting on rail transport statistics October 2007

Seminar organised by the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications:

‘The Statistics in the Sector of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications’, Bratislava, 18-20 September 2006

<http://www.telecom.gov.sk/index/index.php?lang=en>

<http://www.bratislava.sk/en/>

(c) Date of next session

46. The Working Party decided that its fifty-eighth session will be held from 6 to 8 June 2007 in Geneva.

(d) Deadlines for the submission of documents

47. Regarding the deadlines for the submission of documents to the secretariat, the Working Party agreed on the following deadline: 1 March 2007 for the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party.

#### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

48. In accordance with established practice, the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting for adoption by the Working Party. This list will later be incorporated into the report of the session that will be prepared by its Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.

Annex

**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007-2011<sup>1</sup>**

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.12: TRANSPORT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION**

02.12.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and ~~road~~ traffic accidents

Priority: 2

Description: Development of appropriate methodologies and terminology for the harmonization of statistics, aiming also at the determination of indicators of sustainable transport. This includes: methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistics on road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline and combined transport as well as on ~~road~~ traffic accidents, in cooperation and coordination with other UNECE bodies, related international organizations, in order to promote the availability of comprehensive, timely and reliable statistics for sustainable transport planning and analysis.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

**CONTINUING ACTIVITIES**

(a) Target solutions to improve the collection of statistics in problematic areas, as indicators of sustainable transport, including, but not limited to the following items:

- Statistics on road traffic performance (vehicle-km) (**output expected in 2008**);
- Statistics on the environmental impact of transport;
- ~~Statistics on urban and regional passenger transport;~~
- Statistics on the transport of dangerous goods.

Output expected: A concrete decision for each problematic area, e.g., the addition of supplementary chapters to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (~~urban transport, environment~~) (~~2007~~); an assessment of the applicability of the EU Regulations for the collection of dangerous goods data for non-EU member states (~~2006~~) (**2007**); and the organization of informal working groups on specific topics, as deemed necessary (2007) and assessment of **metadata** on statistics on the volume of road traffic (2006) (**and 2008**).

Priority: 1

(b) **Statistics related to transports and the environment.** ~~As the main UNECE body concerned with indicators for sustainable transport, play an increasingly leadership role in follow-up activities to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (RCTE, November 1997, Vienna): through the implementation of chapters in the Programme of Joint Action that involve monitoring, measuring and reporting on the environmental impact of transport, including, but not limited to, the following:~~

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<sup>1</sup> Text in bold characters indicates newly proposed text; struck-through text refers to text proposed for deletion.

~~(i) In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL), present statistics related to the negative impact of transport and traffic on the environment and human health by promoting the collection, harmonization, analysis and exchange of data on the environmental and health aspect of transport.~~

~~(ii) In accordance with the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL), at the international level, develop a common theoretical base and methodologies for collecting, analyzing and reporting data on transportation activities and their environmental and health consequences; develop a proposal for a regular Pan European exchange and publication of such data and analysis, and at the national level, collect and assess data on pollution, noise and energy consumption based on international methodologies; and develop scenarios of emission and energy consumption.~~

Output expected: Continued progress toward the integration of environment-related variables into the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics, as well as the two annual transport publications; ~~To play an active role in the follow-up to the Vienna Conference (2001-2006).~~

Priority: 1

(c) Coordination among member Governments, other UNECE bodies and related international organizations and non-governmental organizations to harmonize terminology used in the statistics of ~~road~~ rail, inland waterway, pipeline, combined transport and road traffic accidents, including, but not exclusively, in the context of the work being undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (UNECE-ECMT-EC/Eurostat). (Meetings 2-3 times per year).

Output expected: Improving electronic transmission of the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics ~~(2006)~~**(2007)**; development of supplementary questionnaires as decided by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) and WP.6; preparation of meetings of IWG; publication of the update of the third edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics. ~~(2006)~~**(2007)**.

Priority: 2

(d) Development of common methodologies to facilitate and improve the collection of information on road and rail traffic flows and infrastructure parameters through surveys and censuses such as automatic counting procedures, including, but not limited to, in the context of The Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory), (compiled and published by the UNECE every five years, next published in 2007).

Development of common methodologies for E-Rail Censuses to obtain data on traffic flows and infrastructure parameters on the AGC network. Results of the first E-rail census in 2005 are expected to be published in 2008.

Priority: 1

## ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

(e) Monitoring of developments in the field of transport database and information systems, including geographic information systems (GIS) in order to facilitate the updating, analysis and geographic application of transport data, within UNECE and in cooperation with ECMT and EC/Eurostat in order to harmonize transport data internationally and avoid duplication of efforts with other organizations.

Output expected: The development of a transport database system at UNECE based on the data collected through the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics. Consideration of various alternatives and progress made (Access/Excel, Internet/WWW, etc.); observation of trial run at ECMT and Eurostat. (2005)

Priority: 2

(f) Development of projects to assist countries in transition in the collection, organization and automation of transport statistics, including the convening of workshops and training seminars, drawing on the expertise of member Governments and related organizations.

Output expected: Information from Member States and international organizations on relevant activities.

Priority: 2

02.12.2 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport

Priority: 1

Description: Collection and compilation of statistics on inland transport, ~~road~~ traffic accidents and ~~road~~ traffic flows published by the UNECE.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

## CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(g) Build and maintain a database for the annual collection of statistics on inland transport, including combined transport and road traffic accidents from UNECE member Governments to be published in the following publications:

- (i) Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS).
- (ii) Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS).
- (iii) Handbook of Transport Statistics

Output expected: Publication of ABTS, RAS and Handbook of Transport Statistics; Circulation of Questionnaires and receipt of data from member Governments for ABTS and RAS ~~on hard-copy, diskette and/or~~ in electronic format. **Handbook may be also published in the booklet format.**

Priority: 1

(h) Publish, every five years, in the appropriate way, the results of the E-road traffic Census and Inventory carried out by member Governments in accordance with the Recommendations set forth by the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census and Rail Traffic Census as:

- The Combined Census of Road Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory).
- E-Rail Census

Output expected: Preparation of 2005 Combined E-Road Census and Inventory and E-Rail Census ~~(2006)~~ **(2007)**.

Priority: 1

### **ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION**

(i) Provide methodological support for the ongoing analysis and evaluation of statistical publications to continue to improve the quality and presentation of the publications, and to incorporate harmonized terminology through the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics. Develop strategies for improvement of usefulness and presentation of publications.

Output expected: Concrete feedback from Governments and other users on usefulness and presentation of publications and development of strategies for improvement of both. ~~(2005-2009)~~. ~~(2007-2011)~~.

Priority: 3

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