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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Statistics

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS
ON ITS FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION
(Geneva, 6-8 June 2007)

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its fifty-eighth session in Geneva from 6 to 8 June 2007 under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik GRIB (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America. The European Commission DG TREN and Eurostat were also represented. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: the International Transport Forum. The following non-governmental organizations were also represented: International Union of Railways (UIC) and International Road Transport Union (IRU).

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/152).

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

A. Economic Commission for Europe

3. The sixty-second session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2007.

4. The Working Party was informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its sixty-second session, concerning the implementation of the UNECE reform and the sectoral cooperation. The Working Party noted that the Panel on secure transport development underlined the importance of the development of efficient, secure and integrated transport links in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as well as between Europe and Asia.

Review of ECE Data Work in Transport Statistics

5. The Working Party was informed that the ITC and the Conference of European Statisticians had agreed to propose a review of ECE data work in transport statistics to be carried out by three to four external experts during 2007 and 2008. The Terms of reference of this review are annexed to the present report.

6. The Working Party welcomed the proposal from the ITC for the review of ECE data work in transport statistics, however nobody volunteered to participate in this exercise.

B. Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

7. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) held its sixty-ninth session in Geneva from 6 to 8 February 2007 and approved the report of the last session of the Working Group (ECE/TRANS/192, Para 106-109).

Biennial evaluation 2008-2009

Documentation: Informal documents 2 and 3

8. The Working Party noted that the ITC, at its next session in February 2008, would have to review and endorse, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment, together with related indicators of achievement and measurement methodologies. To this end, the Working Party has to draw up a draft expected accomplishment related to its work area as well as indicators and appropriate methodologies and submit them to the ITC Bureau for consideration at its November meeting.

9. The Working Party adopted one expected accomplishment (improved availability and scope of transport statistical data), two indicators (number of reliable statistical products available on the Internet, use of data as measured by website downloads) and two methodologies (review of website records, review of website download records).

C. Transport, environment and health

10. The Working Party was informed about the Fifth Session of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee (15-17 April 2007), which was devoted to the planning of the third high level meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, with a focus on the following priorities: integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policy, urban transport, demand side management and modal shift.

IV. INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS (IWG)

A. Annual report of the activities of the IWG

11. The Working Party was informed about the IWG meeting held in Paris from 18 to 20 April 2007 and the decisions taken concerning the Common Questionnaire, the Glossary for transport statistics and the IWG work plan.

12. For 2008-2010, the IWG will carry out the following tasks:

- (a) Continue regular Common Questionnaire data collection on the web;
- (b) Integrate / modify pilot questionnaires into the Web Common Questionnaire;
- (c) Continue adapting the Web Common Questionnaire according to data supplier needs;
- (d) Continue developing work to improve the answer to user needs and match their requirements;
- (e) Slim down the Common Questionnaire; and
- (f) Finalise the 4th Edition of the Glossary.

B. Pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics

13. The Working Party was informed that for rail statistics, new entries have to be added for high speed trains and that the IWG would investigate how to integrate new entries for road data.

V. METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

A. Glossary of Transport Statistics

14. The IWG informed the Working Party on the activities on the Glossary, in particular the status of the revision of the Glossary (deadline for the English draft is end 2008), the planned modifications and the translation of the Glossary into the official EU-25/27 languages. The major changes are related to modifications for road of Chapter 1 to 5, the introduction of a new chapter on aviation and the check for consistency on intermodal transport. For rail, there will be no major changes; only new elements on rail traffic accidents.

15. The IWG would like to encourage countries which have already translated the Glossary into their own language or which plan to do so, to send their final translation to one of the three secretariats.

16. The Working Party decided on the circulation of the English version of the Glossary as soon as possible and expected to have a full day discussion on the Glossary during its next session.

B. Web version of the Common Questionnaire

17. The representative of Eurostat informed the Working Party that his organisation is working on a new version of the web development, which will take into account comments and suggestions received about the current version. The new version will be more user-friendly, improve the possibility of including comments, facilitate the update of historical series and also add the possibility for data suppliers to upload a flat file to update the questionnaire.

18. The Working Party was informed that 2005 data is currently collected and the 2006 data collection will be opened this fall.

19. The IWG recommended that countries use the web version of the Common Questionnaire as the unique means for data supply/updates for any variable requested in the Common Questionnaire.

20. Eurostat was asked -and accepted- to permit access of member States to the web version of the Common Questionnaire not only for three months, but also during all the year.

C. Web version of the Questionnaire on Road Traffic Accident Statistics

21. The Working Party was informed on the progress of preparation of the Internet version of the Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accidents.

D. Information about further adjustments of the new classification system for transport statistics (NST/2000)

Document: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2007/1

22. Eurostat proposed a limited update of the NST/2000 (see TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.2) in order to be consistent with the new versions of the CPA (Classification of Products by Activity) and the CPC.

23. It was explained that a most progressive version of NST, available at CCST^{1/} level, would better respect the spirit of CPA2008/CPC but would imply more radical changes, necessary to be discussed in detail, which would postpone its implementation again.

24. The Working Party decided that an informal group (UN secretariat, Eurostat, Chairman) would work at improving the adopted version. This new version will be called NST/2007 to emphasize its compatibility with the new CPA.

25. Eurostat informed the Working Party that conversion table NST/R-NST 2007 was available now.

26. The Working Party invited the representative of the United States to explore ways of linking the NST to the North American statistical system. This item will be on the agenda for the next session.

E. Transport of gas through pipelines

Document: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2006/2

27. The Working Party took note of a document prepared by the Government of Denmark on the harmonization of definitions related to statistics of transport through pipelines.

28. The secretariat was invited to consider the organization of an ad hoc meeting on the transport through pipelines before the next session of the working Party.

29. Norway, Russian Federation and Eurostat expressed their interest in participating in this meeting.

^{1/} CCST: Coordination Committee for Statistics on Transport. This committee gathers the national authorities of Transport Statistics in the 27 EU Member States, the current Candidate Countries (Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and the EFTA Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

F. Workshop on Statistics of Road Traffic Performance

Documents: Informal document No. 1, Handbook on Statistics on Road Traffic

30. The Working Party took note of the report of the meeting of the Task force on Road Traffic Performance (statistics of vehicle-km-year) held in Belgrade, 6-7 March 2007.

31. The Working Party considered the consolidated version of the Handbook on Statistics on Road Traffic, available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatac5handbook.html>), acknowledged the usefulness of the Handbook and thanked the Task force for the excellent work.

32. The representative of Eurostat noted that his organisation will organise a Task Force on Road Traffic in Vehicle-km on 14 June 2007 in Luxembourg. It will discuss which data on vehicles-km should be collected taking into account the users' needs, existing sources, cost efficiency and data comparability and relevancy. Eurostat will report on the result of a planned feasibility study at CCST level during the next session.

33. The Working Party decided that further consideration of the Handbook will be an agenda item for its next session and the secretariat was invited to translate the Handbook into the official languages.

G. Workshop on Statistics of Transportation by Buses and Coaches

Documents: AC.6 Informal documents 2, 4 and 6

34. The Working Party took note of the reports of the meetings of the Task force on Transportation by Buses and Coaches held in Maastricht (29 November 2006), Brussels (22-23 February 2007) and Prague (10-11 May 2007).

35. The Chairman of the Task force invited interested WP.6 Delegates to join the ongoing work. He noted that the aim is to elaborate a handbook containing the methodology on transport performance indicators, fleet statistics, safety indicators, environmental indicators, enterprise statistics, financial data and service quality indicators.

36. The Working Party decided to consider the draft of this handbook during its next session.

H. Euro-Asian transport links

37. As the secretariat received no reply for its questionnaire on transport statistics relevant for Euro-Asian transport links, the Working Party decided to delete this item from its agenda.

VI. TRANSPORT DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

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

38. The Working Party decided to delete this item from its agenda until reception of new elements.

B. Sources of transport statistics on the Internet

39. 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>

40. Member countries were invited to continue to inform the secretariat regularly about changes in the addresses of the relevant web sites in order to have the home page up to date.

VII. TRAFFIC CENSUSES IN THE UNECE 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.

41. The Working Party was informed that the secretariat received replies from 14 countries for the 2005 E-Road Census. The deadline was 1 March 2007.

42. The Working Party reminded those that have not yet sent their data to the secretariat, to do so without delay.

B. Finalisation of the E-Rail Census 2005 (AGC)

Documents: TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2; TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2/Add.1

43. The Working Party invited the delegations to respect the deadline (30 June 2007) for the transmission of their replies to the 2005 E-Rail Census.

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

44. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Working Party about a study in his Office aiming to codify data on maritime transport. The Working Party decided to keep this item

on the agenda for its next session and asked for more information on the study undertaken in the Netherlands.

IX. DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

45. The Working Party invited the secretariat to work towards the use of the PC-AXIS dissemination platform for the diffusion of transport data. In addition, the secretariat is to continue the publication of annual bulletins on the web in excel.

X. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

46. 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)

47. The Working Party was informed about the main policy priorities of DG TREN: sustainable mobility (minimizing the negative side effects), protection (protect the environment, the passenger and the citizen), innovation (increase the efficiency and use of intelligent transport systems) and international dimension (strategy for integrating the EU's neighbouring countries into the internal transport market e.g. by extending the TEN-T network).

48. The Working Party was also informed about the most important upcoming policy initiatives of DG TREN: Green Paper on Urban Transport, Freight Logistics Action Plan, Rail Market Monitoring Scoreboard and Internalisation of external costs.

(ii) Eurostat

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

B. International Transport Forum

50. The representative of the International Transport Forum informed the Working Party that the ECMT Council of Ministers has decided to transform this organization into an International Transport Forum. As of May 2008, date of the inaugural Forum, the event will be established permanently in Leipzig (Germany). The theme for this first Forum is: "Transport and energy: the challenge of climate change". The International Transport Forum will maintain and develop the current existing statistical activities, but it will have a wider scope since it will cover more countries and will deal with all modes of transport.

C. International Union of Railways (UIC)

51. The representative of the UIC informed the Working Party about the current activities of the UIC on overall sustainability measurement (UIC Sustainability Experts Network), environmental indicators, energy consumption and external effects. He also mentioned new developments on international traffic per class of distances, new indicators for infrastructure managers and detailed passenger traffic indicators (type of service, structure of sales, customer analysis).

XI. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008-2012

Documents: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2007/3

52. The Working Party discussed and accepted, with minor amendments, the Programme of Work for 2008-2012 as circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2007/3. The updated Programme of Work is annexed to this report.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics

53. The Working Party took note of preliminary dates and locations of meetings in 2007-2008 of the following bodies:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| (a) North American Transportation Statistics Interchange (Ottawa) | 11-13 June 2007 |
| (b) Eurostat - Task Force on Road Vkm | 14 June 2007 |
| (c) Eurostat - Working Group on Rail Transport Statistics | 25-26 June 2007 |
| (d) Task force on statistics on transportation by buses and coaches
(Brussels) | 27-28 September 2007 |
| (e) Eurostat - Working Group on Road freight Transport Statistics | 22-23 October 2007 |
| (f) Eurostat - Task Force on Road Vkm | 24 October 2007 |
| (g) Task force on statistics on transportation by buses and coaches | 22-23 November 2007 |
| (h) Eurostat - Coordinating Committee for Transport Statistics (CCST) | 6-7 December 2007 |
| (i) Eurostat - Working Group on Aviation Transport Statistics | February 2008 |
| (j) Eurostat - Working Group on Maritime Transport Statistics | April 2008 |
| (k) North American Transportation Statistics Interchange (Mexico) | May- June 2008 |
| (l) Eurostat - Working Group on Road Freight Transport
Statistics | June 2008 |
| (m) Eurostat - Working Group on Inland Waterways Statistics | October 2008 |
| (n) Eurostat - Coordinating Committee for Transport Statistics
(CCST) | December 2008 |

B. Date of next session

54. The Working Party decided that its fifty-ninth session would be held from 28 to 30 May 2008 in Geneva.

C. Deadlines for submission of documents

55. The deadline for submission of documents for the fifty-ninth Session of WP.6 to the secretariat is 29 February 2008.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

56. The Working Party adopted the report of its fifty-eighth session and its annexes on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex I**REVIEW OF ECE DATA WORK IN TRANSPORT STATISTICS
TERMS OF REFERENCE****I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Work Plan on ECE Reform, in paragraph 28, stipulates that Sectoral Committees will jointly prepare and submit proposals to the Executive Committee on issues and activities of common interest.
2. To this end, the Committee on Inland Transport and the Conference of European Statisticians have agreed to propose a review of ECE data work in transport statistics to be carried out by three to four external experts during 2007 and 2008.

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

3. The purpose of the review is to analyze and assess the present situation with respect to the statistical data work carried out under the Inland Transport Committee, and propose recommendations for action to the Inland Transport Committee and other competent ECE bodies in order to improve the work in the area of transport statistics.
4. An outline of the review with more details is provided below in Section V, "Outline of the Review".

III. TIME PLAN

5. The review should be carried out, and a report including the assessment of the data work and the recommendation for improvements be submitted to the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee and to the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, not later than one year after the adoption of the Terms of Reference.
6. The report and a jointly agreed plan of action to follow-up on the recommendations should subsequently be submitted to EXCOM for final endorsement.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. The review should be carried out by three to four external experts with experience and in-depth knowledge in the fields of transport statistics and in the processing and dissemination of official statistics. It would be desirable to have one member of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6), and one member of another ITC subsidiary body, plus one or two persons identified by the Conference of European Statisticians from National Statistical Offices.
8. One person from the Transport and another from the Statistical Divisions of ECE would be designated to support the review team during this process.

9. The group of experts decides how to organize the work. Among its members the group appoints a chairman. The group may find it useful to divide the work according to the subject areas covered by the review. However, the group shall provide only one joint Report. The assessment is expected to require around 3 working weeks of the involved experts. The experts may decide to visit the ECE in Geneva.

10. To initiate the work and discuss further details and organisational and practical matters it is suggested that a teleconference be held with participation of the experts and the involved staff of the Transport and the Statistical Divisions.

V. OUTLINE OF THE REVIEW

11. Within the Terms of Reference given, the experts will be free in their work, especially concerning their assessments and recommendations. They have access to all documents that are relevant in this context, including internal documents, and may require any additional information and presentation of tools.

12. The review should address the following issues:

A. What are the statistics that the Inland Transport Committee and its various subsidiary bodies as well as their respective individual members would require on a regular basis for their various tasks of regulatory development, implementation, monitoring, technical assistance, transport trends and policy analysis? What are the necessary human, technical and financial resources to respond to such demands?

B. To what extent does the present set of statistics collected and published by the ECE Transport Division under the guidance of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) meet these requirements?

C. To what extent does this set of transport statistics provide value added for external users compared to the statistics made available by other international organizations? How do they compare with respect to country coverage, timeliness, documentation, user-friendliness and access?

D. To what extent is the data work of the Transport Division in line with the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities that were recently endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission?

13. If a continuing need for regular statistical work in transport is confirmed, the expert team should assess whether the tools applied by the Statistical Division for data work (SQL database and PC-AXIS dissemination platform) should be applied for the regular data work in the Transport Division.

Annex II**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008-2012****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 (vehicle-km) (output of feasibility survey expected in 2008);
- Statistics on the transportation by buses and coaches (output expected in 2008);
- Statistics on the environmental impact of transport;
- Statistics on the transport of dangerous goods;
- Statistics on transport through pipelines.

Output expected:

A concrete decision for each problematic area, e.g., the addition of supplementary chapters to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (environment; gas transport via pipelines) (2008); an assessment of the applicability of the EU Regulations for the collection of dangerous goods data for non-EU member states (2008); and the organization of informal working groups on statistics on transport through pipelines and on transport by buses and coaches, as deemed necessary (2007), and assessment of metadata on statistics on the volume of these transports (2008).

Priority: 1

(b) Statistics related to transports and the environment.

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.

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- International Transport Forum -EC/Eurostat) (Meetings 2-3 times per year).

Output expected: Improving electronic transmission of the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (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 (2008).

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 publication in 2008).

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 the International Transport Forum and EC/Eurostat, 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 (Acces/Excel, Internet/WWW, etc.); observation of trial run at International Transport Forum and Eurostat (2007).

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, traffic accidents and 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 in electronic format. The handbook may be also published in 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:

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

Output expected: Preparation of 2005 Combined E-Road Census and Inventory and E-Rail Census (2008).

UPriority: 1

- (i) Use of PC-Axis for disseminating data collected via the regular questionnaires.

Output expected: Availability of main data online (2008)

Priority: 1

ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

- (j) 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.

Priority: 3
