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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics  
Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports

First session  
Geneva, 18 April 2008

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION<sup>1, 2</sup>**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Friday 18 April 2008

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Introduction  

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/42  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-42e.pdf>  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-42f.pdf>  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-42r.pdf>
2. Election of the officers

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html>).

<sup>2</sup> Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat 2 weeks prior to the session by email ([bernadette.healy@unece.org](mailto:bernadette.healy@unece.org)) or by fax (41 22 917 0039). Delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on our website <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>).

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 3. Adoption of the Agenda         | ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/1  |
| 4. Overview of issues             | ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6<br><a href="http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-2007-06e.pdf">http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-2007-06e.pdf</a><br><a href="http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-2007-06f.pdf">http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-2007-06f.pdf</a><br><a href="http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-2007-06r.pdf">http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/wp5/ECE-TRANS-WP5-2007-06r.pdf</a><br>ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/GE.1/1 |
| 5. Programme of work              | ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/2  |
| 6. Conference in Piraeus          | ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6, Annex II  |
| 7. Final report                   |  |
| 8. Other business                 |  |
| 9. Date and place of next meeting |  |

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## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1 Introduction

1. At its twentieth session (Geneva, 13-14 September 2007), the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics decided to support the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts on hinterland connections of seaports (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/42, p. 7, paragraph 20). Subsequently, at its seventieth session (Geneva, 19-21 February 2008) the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) agreed to establish the proposed group of experts on hinterland connections of seaports and to adopt its terms of reference as specified in the Bureau Informal Document No. 12 <http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2008/itc/BITC-70-inf12e.doc>. The ITC also requested endorsement by the UNECE Executive Committee. The Group of Experts is expected to complete its work and submit a final report by the end of January 2009.

### Item 2 Election of the officers

2. The Group of Experts will appoint its officers: a Chairperson, and if deemed necessary, one or two Vice-Chairpersons.

### Item 3 Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/1.

### Item 4 Overview of issues

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2008/GE.1/1.

4. An overview of specific issues pertaining to the infrastructure and hinterland connections of seaports and proposals for pertinent activities of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics can be found in the document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6.

#### **Item 5 Programme of work**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/2.

5. The Expert Group may wish to discuss what areas of inland transport it should focus as well as how to proceed. The Group's terms of reference indicate four major areas of emphasis:

(a) Determination of the scope of activities of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics in the area of hinterland connections of seaports;

(b) Identification of problems in connectivity of seaports with inland transport modes, incl. capacity issues;

(c) Collection of relevant information on hinterland connections with a view to share best practices;

(d) Recommendations and/or proposals to UNECE governments for improving hinterland connections, incl. infrastructure (networks, terminals), personnel and information exchange.

6. The Expert Group may also wish to discuss the scope of its inquiry. The terms of reference state that the Group should submit a full report of its accomplishments by January 2009. The draft Work Plan is outlined in the document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/2.

#### **Item 6 Conference in Piraeus**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6, Annex II

7. The Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine has informed the secretariat that it would be prepared to host an international conference on hinterland connections of seaport in Piraeus on 18-19 September 2008. The Group of Experts is expected to act as a steering committee for the preparation of the conference. The provisional programme is provided in Annex II of ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6. The group is expected to discuss all related organizational issues, including possible key note speakers, a more elaborated agenda and programme, a list of invitees, expected results, an action plan and a timetable.

8. The Group of Experts may wish to consider the outcome of the Roundtable on Port Competition and Hinterland Connections hosted by the ITF-OECD Joint Transport Research Centre in Paris on 10-11 April 2008.

#### **Item 7 Final report**

9. The Expert Group may wish to discuss how to prepare recommendations and/or proposals to the UNECE members to improve the infrastructure and functioning of hinterland connections of seaports. The Group's terms of reference stipulate the submission of a report that contains recommendations and/or amendments to existing legal instruments.

**Item 8 Other business**

10. The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other issues of interest.

**Item 9 Date and place of next meeting**

11. The Expert Group will decide on the date and venue for its next meeting.

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