



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/1  
11 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links

First session  
Geneva, 8 September 2008

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 8 September 2008

---

<sup>1</sup> This document was submitted late due to the late decision concerning the financing of the Project.

<sup>2</sup> For reasons of economy, 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>). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email ([robert.nowak@unece.org](mailto:robert.nowak@unece.org)) or by fax (41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

<sup>3</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 no later than one week prior to the session by email ([Bernadette.healy@unece.org](mailto:Bernadette.healy@unece.org)) or by fax (41 22 917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext.72413 or 72401). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Introduction.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Development of Euro-Asian Transport.
5. Review of initiatives by international organizations and consideration of possible synergies with the Euro-Asian Transport Links - Phase II.
6. Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Project – Phase II.
7. Programme of work.
8. Other business.
9. Date and place of next meeting.

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1. Introduction

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/42, ECE/EX/2008/L.5

1. At its twentieth session (Geneva, 13-14 September 2007), the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) decided to propose to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to assign the monitoring and co-ordinating responsibility of work related to the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) initiative to an expert group (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/42, p. 4, paragraph 10). At its seventieth session (Geneva, 19-21 February 2008), the ITC agreed to establish the proposed Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links and adopted its terms of reference (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraph 29 and annex III). Subsequently, the UNECE Executive Committee has approved the establishment of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links (ECE/EX/2008/L.5).

### Item 2. Election of 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.2/1

3. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of procedure, the Working Party is invited to adopt its agenda.

#### **Item 4. Development of Euro-Asian Transport**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/2

4. The Group will be informed by the secretariat about the main achievements of the EATL project in the period 2002-2007. The UNECE-UNESCAP in-house study ([http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/min\\_jointstatement.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/min_jointstatement.htm)) and a copy of the Joint Statement of Ministers of Transport ([http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/min\\_study.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/min_study.htm)) will be made available. Background information concerning Phase I of the UNECE-UNESCAP EATL project can be found in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/2.

#### **Item 5. Review of initiatives by international organizations and consideration of possible synergies with the EATL Phase II**

5. International organizations such as the EU TRACECA, CAREC, BSEC, OSCE, IRU and UIC will provide information concerning their own transport-related activities in the Euro-Asian region and possible synergies with the EATL Phase II.

#### **Item 6. Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project – Phase II**

6. The UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats will present a plan for continuation of the EATL project (Phase II).

#### **Item 7. Programme of work**

Documentation: ECE/EX/2008/L.5, ITC Informal document no. 1 (seventieth session), Informal document GE.2 No. 1 (2008)

7. The Expert Group may wish to discuss its programme of work, objectives, tasks and deliverables as well as funding issues and its terms of reference, which include a number of elements:

- (a) continuation of Phase II of the EATL and fulfilling the recommendations of the ECE/UNESCAP Joint Study on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages.
- (b) establishment and maintenance of an inventory of initiatives, activities and projects related to the development of Euro-Asian transport links as well as completing and updating the EATL database on priority infrastructure investments.
- (c) implementation of identified priority projects and promotion of the inclusion of all identified EATL routes in the respective international network agreements.
- (d) addressing the obstacles to smooth movement of goods across international borders.

- (e) strengthening the capacity of national officials from various agencies dealing with border-crossing formalities and procedures.
- (f) accession to and effective implementation of UNECE, UNESCAP and other international legal instruments relating to transport facilitation.

**Item 8. Other business**

9. The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other issues of interest, including the invitation by the government of China to organize and host an EATL workshop in early 2009.

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

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

---