

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON HINTERLAND CONNECTIONS OF SEAPORTS**

1. The Group Experts will define the scope of activities of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and its involvement in this area.
2. The Group Experts will take stock of the situation in major UNECE ports regarding problematic areas in their connectivity with inland transport modes, dealing with capacity issues.
3. The Group Experts will collect information on all relevant planning, management, organizational and other issues at national and international level important for hinterland connections of seaports with a view to sharing and drawing on best practices.
4. The Group Experts will prepare in a coordinated manner recommendations and/or proposals to UNECE Governments for consideration by the Inland Transport Committee for improving hinterland connections of seaports in, inter alia, following areas: infrastructure (networks, terminals etc.); personnel, and information exchange.
5. The above recommendations and/or amendments to existing legal instruments should be aimed at improving the efficiency in seaports operations and their connectivity with inland transport modes by taking into account the need for maintaining fluidity and facilitation of international transport at an economically adequate level for transport users.
6. It is proposed that the Group of Experts should be composed of experts having knowledge, in particular, about hinterland connections of seaports and their connections with maritime transport, appointed by UNECE member States as well as representatives of relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
7. The Group of Experts is expected to start its work in February 2008, pending the approval by the Executive Committee, and terminate before January 2009 with the submission of a full report of its accomplishments, including the above recommendations. The recommendations will first be considered by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee, then by the Committee for subsequent consideration, where relevant, by its relevant subsidiary bodies.
8. If Governments decide to hold the International Conference agreed by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its twentieth session, the Group will also act as a steering committee for its preparation.
9. The Group of Experts will be assisted in its work by the UNECE secretariat and will report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics.

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