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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

BIENNIAL EVALUATIONS AND NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK (2010-2014)*

Note by the secretariat

I. MANDATE

1. As mandated by the Commission in 2004 and strengthened by the 2005 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) reform, Sectoral Committees are requested to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1). The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) has decided to review its programme of work every two years as should be the case for its subsidiary bodies. The next review will take place in February 2010 (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 119). This document serves as a basis for discussion and for proposals to be made by the Working Party for transmission to the ITC at its sixty-second session (23-25 February 2010).

II. BIENNIAL EVALUATIONS

A. Objective

2. Evaluation is an integral part of effective results-based management, together with planning, budgeting and monitoring. It provides a source of crucial information to support the right management choices.

* The UNECE Transport Division submits the present document after the official documentation deadline.

3. UNECE member countries, being committed to the transparency and effectiveness of programme management, agreed at their annual session in 2004 to place more emphasis on evaluation as a tool in managing the Commission's work. The Sectoral Committees, such as the Committee on Inland Transport, were therefore requested by the Commission to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes and to take into account the results of these evaluations in determining their work programmes. The 2005 UNECE reform further strengthened this approach (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1).

4. The biennial evaluations by the Sectoral Committees will give the opportunity for UNECE member countries to join forces with the secretariat in reviewing and reaffirming, on a continuous basis, the 'relevance' of the activities and their clusters in view of the subprogramme objectives. The results of these evaluations should contribute to an effective programme management at all levels by showing evidence of achieving expected accomplishments, defining future priority areas for action, and providing opportunities for making incremental and timely adjustments. They are also intended to assist in measuring more precisely the 'impact' of activities.

5. Furthermore, these evaluations will bring more information on the 'effectiveness' of different activities or their clusters in obtaining results contributing to the objectives and expected accomplishments of a given subprogramme. It is expected that these evaluations may also lead to conclusions concerning the 'efficiency' of outputs, activities and their clusters and subsequently to recommendations for maximizing benefits by improving the use of existing resources.

6. Finally, the results of the evaluations are expected to constitute, in the future, the necessary arguments in the subsequent phases of programme management, such as defining subprogramme priorities and the related redistribution of resources.

B. Procedure

7. The mandated biennial evaluations have been carried out for the first time in the 2008-2009 biennium. In February 2008, the Committee on Inland Transport reviewed and endorsed so-called accomplishment accounts, i.e. for each cluster of activities, an "expected accomplishment" together with related "indicators of achievement" and "performance measures" and noted that in 2010 it would review these accounts and discuss the lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate (ECE/TRANS/200, paras. 117-119).

8. In accordance with this decision, the Working Party should review its accomplishment accounts for the biennium 2008-2009 and discuss the lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate. It should also decide whether these accounts are still appropriate for the period 2010-2011 or would need to be modified due to new priorities or modifications of its programme of work. The proposals of the Working Party would be considered by the ITC Bureau at its next session (30 November - 1 December 2009) and subsequently transmitted for approval by the ITC at its seventy-second session (23-25 February 2010).

C. Review of the 2008-2009 accomplishment account and proposals for 2010-2011

9. The expected accomplishment endorsed by the ITC for the Working Party during the period 2008-2009 (ITC Informal document No. 11 dated 14 January 2007) is given below. For

consideration by the Working Party, the secretariat has inserted therein also the actual indicators of achievement for 2008-2009 (on the basis of the 2008 outcomes) as well as newly proposed targets for 2010-2011.

Cluster of activity: Transport trends and economics (including Euro-Asian transport links)

Expected accomplishment

Better understanding by Member States of the main transport trends and developments in the ECE region and strengthened cooperation on the development of Euro-Asian transport links.

Indicators of achievement

- (a) Number of countries participating in meetings and activities

Performance measures:	Actual performance 2008-2009
Target: 2008-2009: 40	55 ¹
Proposed target: 2010-2011: 40	

- (b) Level of satisfaction of participants regarding usefulness of information, meetings and activities as reflected in surveys to be conducted

Performance measures:	Actual performance 2008-2009
Target: 2008-2009: 75 %	80 % ²
Proposed target: 2010-2011: 75 %	

- (c) Progress made in the establishment of a mechanism for cooperation for development of Euro-Asian transport links

Performance measures:	Actual performance 2008-2009
Target: 2008-2009: EATL EG to be established	EATL EG established
Proposed target: 2010-2011: EATL mechanism to be set up	

10. The first performance measure listed above includes participating governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) but excludes the UNECE, Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects, business firms and academic institutions. The breakdown by activity in 2008 is as follows: twenty-first session of WP.5 (nineteen governments, three IGOs, four NGOs); UNECE Conference on Hinterland Connections of Seaports (nineteen governments, seven IGOs, five NGOs); first two sessions of the Expert Group on Hinterland Connections of Seaports (nine

¹ This number includes the 35 countries, 10 IGOs and 10 NGOs that participated in WP.5 activities in 2008.

² Based on the results of the questionnaire distributed to participants at the twenty-first session of the Working Party (see ECE/TRANS/WP.5/44, para. 26).

governments, four IGOs, four NGOs); first session of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links (twenty-two countries, five IGOs, five NGOs). The participation data by activity were consolidated to avoid double counting. A comparable aggregate measure for 2009 will be prepared by the secretariat after the twenty-second session of WP.5 and the second session of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links.

11. Similarly, the level of satisfaction measure in 2009 will be estimated after the evaluation of the questionnaire distributed to participants during the twenty-second session of WP.5. The remaining 2008-2009 target, i.e. the establishment of the Expert Group on Hinterland Connections of Seaports, was achieved fully in September 2008 when the Group met for the first time.

12. The Working Party may wish to approve its expected accomplishment, the indicators of achievement and its performance measures for 2010-2011 or may wish to modify them, as appropriate.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK

13. The Working Party may wish to review and adopt its programme of work for the period 2010-2014. To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat prepared a draft text of the programme. The draft is based on the programme of work, approved by the Working Party at its nineteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/42, para. 24) and by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventieth session in February 2008 (ECE/TRANS/196). The changes proposed are in **bold** (text to be added) or ~~strikethrough~~ characters (text to be deleted).

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010-2014

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.1: TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS

Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy, and analysis of specific transport economic issues Priority: 1

Description: Review and exchange of information on general trends in the development of transport and of specific transport economic issues including transport development in the Mediterranean Region.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will consider and carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Study of economic aspects of transport taking into account (i) the integration process going on within the UNECE region, and (ii) the reform processes under way in member countries by monitoring current changes in transport in order to identify, promote and spread positive examples for transport development.

Output expected: Report on transport developments every 5 years (2012). Priority: 2

- (b) Periodical review of new important policy developments relating to inland transport in UNECE member countries in order to make the medium- and long-term evolution of transport more transparent. The Working Party WP.5 will examine all decisions, general and specific, recently taken in member countries likely to have implications in the organization of transport and take into account the findings arrived at during international meetings focusing on salient issues of transport development.
Output expected: Reports on developments in inland transport of member countries (every five years; next report: 2012). Priority: 1
- (c) Monitoring of the developments relevant to the Pan-European Transport Corridors in cooperation with the EC.
Output expected: Report on progress made in the implementation of the Pan-European Transport Corridors (~~2008~~**2010**). Priority: 1
- (d) Study of the interrelationship of the UNECE Agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC and its Protocol, AGN) and the UNECE projects (TEM, TER) with the Pan-European transport network planning procedure with a view to:
- indicating the major international transport routes to be considered for improvement and modernization, establishing priorities and a timetable taking into account those parts of the networks where there are bottlenecks and missing links;
 - assessing the cost of this infrastructure plan and making suggestions for financing it.
- Output expected: Biannual report on coherent European system of international transport infrastructure (~~2008~~**2010**). Priority: 1
- (e) ~~Further elaboration of the elements~~ **implementation** of the ~~joint UNESCAP/UNECE programme on the development of~~ **the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links** ~~Asia Europe land transport links as well as the analysis of results of international meetings on the problem.~~
Output expected: Report on Euro-Asian transport links (~~2008~~**2012**). Priority: 1
- (f) Financing schemes of transport infrastructure
Output expected: Report on national experiences (**2011**) Priority: 1
- (g) Development of efficient management frameworks for transport infrastructure maintenance and operation, thus optimizing the need for new investments (linked to the development of the Quality-of-Service concept). Priority: 2
Output expected: Report on the quality of transport services (~~2008~~) (**2013**).
- (h) Improving inter-modal coordination and integration with a view to establishing a ~~balanced~~ **sustainable** European transport system. This also includes activities related to seaports as important nodal points for a change of transport mode. **Report on hinterland connections of seaports (2010)**. Priority: ~~2~~ **1**

- (i) Assistance regarding institutional adaptation of government administration and of transport enterprises to market economy. This also includes support through the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).^a

Output expected: Annual ~~report~~ **informal document** for information (2008). Priority: 1

- (j) Strengthening of cooperation with the Mediterranean Study and Training Centre, to enable all UNECE countries to benefit from the activities carried out including the organization of workshops. The Working Party will also analyze evolution of transport developments in the Mediterranean basin and the Black Sea region, as well as consider information on the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar.

Output expected: Annual report on activities of the Study and Training Centre (2008).

Priority: 2

Output expected: Biennial report on progress made in the analysis of the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar (next report: 2009 2012) Priority: 3

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (a) As follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment: Development and implementation of programmes to establish attractive networks taking into account such aspects as intermodality, interoperability and environmentally sound vehicles.^b

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^a A detailed list of subjects is circulated in document TRANS/1999/11.

^b In addition to the above item, the Working Party wishes to be associated with activities on transport and environment concerning, in particular, development of methodologies for setting up databases, implementation of scientific programmes, assistance to countries in transition, development of environmental guidelines, external costs, analysis of questions related to the protection of sensitive areas (see also items I (c), (d), (g), (h); III (e); IV (c), (f) in the Programme of Joint Action).