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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Seventy-third session

Geneva, 1–3 March 2011

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

#### Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee

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#### Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) or "the Committee" (ECE/TRANS/125, paras 14 and 15 and ECE/TRANS/208/Add.1), the Bureau of the ITC met on 25 February 2010, 7 June 2010, and from 29 to 30 November 2010.
2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) plan of action the Bureau has to fulfil the following functions related to the organization of the annual sessions of the Committee including the preparation of a well-focused agenda with the definition of objectives and the setting of time-allocation for each item; indication of principal topics where decisions are needed; delineation of themes of discussion of the session; monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session; monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication of the work of other relevant organizations; and proposing priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).
3. This document contains, in its annexes, the results of the meetings of the Bureau for consideration by the Committee in line with the mandate of its Bureau.

## Annex I

### **Results of the first meeting of the 2010–2011 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (25 February 2010)**

#### **I. Attendance**

1. The meeting was chaired by Erdem Direkler (Turkey) and was attended by the following members: Isabelle Paillet (France), Ralph Kellermann (Germany), Victor Guzun (Republic of Moldova), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), Ekaterina Slizkova (Russian Federation) and Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Fabio Croccolo (Italy) and Christian Dufour (European Commission) were unable to attend.

#### **II. Matters arising from the seventy-second session of the Inland Transport Committee**

2. When discussing the outcome of the seventy-second session of the ITC, the Bureau felt that this session had been successful, as a number of important decisions had been taken, including on the implementation of the digital tachograph, hinterland connections of seaports, global warming and transport, continuation of work on Euro-Asian transport links and computerization of the TIR, development of fuel quality standards and methodologies for emissions of vehicles, transport of dangerous goods and specialized cargoes, inland transport security and transport and competitiveness.

3. Regarding the policy segment (round table) organized in the afternoon of 23 February 2010 on “Sustainable Transport Development: The Case of Inland Water Transport”, the Bureau concluded that this event had also been successful. It noted that about 150 participants from 34 countries and more than 20 related international organizations had attended this meeting. The Bureau welcomed the high quality of the presentations and contributions by the speakers who covered a wide range of topics in a very interesting manner. Notwithstanding the high quality of the event, the Bureau felt that the lengthy presentations of some speakers had not left sufficient time for debate.

4. The Bureau reviewed the structure of the Committee’s sessions in light of the experience from the organization of its seventy-second session, as well as previous ones. It felt that the division of the session into three parts, namely policy - linked with the organization of an event - technical and reporting, should be maintained. Noting that holding the Ministerial segment on Euro-Asian transport links during the seventieth session of the Committee had increased the Committee’s visibility and raised its importance and relevance, the Bureau felt that the organization of such high level events should be considered in the future, and if possible in 2011. Moreover, the Bureau believed that the policy-linked items of the Committee’s agenda should be further strengthened and brought to the fore.

5. The Bureau noted that several subsidiary bodies to the Committee are often confronted with similar challenges and that some of them are currently discussing issues of common interest. It felt that the exchange of information or best practices amongst the Committee’s subsidiary bodies would be useful, and suggested that the seventy-third session of the Committee could include an hour’s meeting of the chairs of the Committee’s

subsidiary bodies, aimed at strengthening cooperation, sharing experiences and addressing common challenges.

6. The Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare an outline of the agenda and programme of the next ITC session for consideration at its next meeting.

7. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventy-second session of the Committee and round table, as well as the timely preparation and adoption of a streamlined and concise list of main decisions in three UNECE official languages, and thanked the secretariat for its work.

8. The Bureau considered the points to be presented by the Chair of the Committee during the meeting with the Executive Committee.

### **III. Date of next meeting**

9. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, 7 June 2010.

## **Annex II**

### **Results of the second meeting of the 2010–2011 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (7 June 2010)**

#### **I. Attendance**

1. The meeting was chaired by Erdem Direkler (Turkey) and was attended by the following members: Isabelle Paillet (France), Ralph Kellermann (Germany), Fabio Croccolo (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), Ekaterina Slizkova (Russian Federation) and Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Victor Guzun (Republic of Moldova) and Christian Dufour (European Commission) were unable to attend.

#### **II. Adoption of the agenda**

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2010/4).

#### **III. Briefing on the transport related messages of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development**

3. The Bureau was informed about the May session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development concerning transport; of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) contribution; as well as of the following sessions in 2011 where participating government delegates are expected to agree upon policy recommendations.

4. Noting that Europe's experiences in addressing transport and sustainable development could serve as examples for other regions worldwide, the Bureau felt that the Committee's subsidiary bodies could discuss this matter at their forthcoming sessions with a view to identify areas that may constitute UNECE contribution to the 2011 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

#### **IV. Briefing on the International Transport Forum**

5. The Bureau was informed about the outcome of the International Transport Forum (ITF) 2010 on "Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential", held in Leipzig (26-28 May 2010) and UNECE's contribution to this event. This included wider acceptance of the role of the transport sector to further improve its performance and through strengthening innovation policies, processes and technologies to accelerate recovery from the current economic crisis and to putting transport on a path of greater productivity and sustainability.

6. The Bureau noted that the Forum hosted more than 800 decision makers from fifty-two countries including Ministers and top business leaders, and welcomed UNECE's organization of an Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) event, which raised the visibility of the work of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

7. The Bureau considered UNECE's potential role in the International Transport Forum 2011 on "Transport and Society" in light of experience from the organization of the first

three Forums. It felt that UNECE's contribution could be on the themes "transport safety and security", as well as "transport sustainability", and requested the secretariat to follow the preparations of the 2011 Forum in cooperation with ITF.

## **V. Briefing on the eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

8. The Bureau was informed of the outcome of the eighteenth Economic and Environmental Forum of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), held in Prague (24–26 May 2010) and of UNECE's contribution in reviewing the implementation of OSCE's commitments in the economic and environmental dimensions.

9. Noting that UNECE's contribution was warmly welcomed by the participants of the Forum, and that OSCE provided an excellent opportunity for increased visibility of the work of the Committee, the Bureau encouraged the secretariat to continue such cooperation with OSCE in future.

## **VI. Meeting with the Executive Committee**

10. The Chair informed the Bureau of his participation in the Executive Committee of 26 February 2010 and his presentation of ITC report on the implementation of the UNECE reform in the field of transport.

11. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that, at its meeting on 31 March 2010, the Executive Committee had approved the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links for two more years.

## **VII. Transport infrastructure projects**

### **A. Euro-Asian transport links Phase II**

12. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the progress of Phase II of the Euro-Asian transport links (EATL) project and future plans.

13. The Bureau welcomed the progress of the EATL work and invited the secretariat in cooperation with the parties concerned with the project to consider how the continuation of the project in a new Phase III could be ensured and explore funding possibilities.

14. The Bureau also expressed its hope that the Government of the Russian Federation would positively consider continuing financial support for the development of the EATL project beyond the end of 2010.

### **B. Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway Projects' Master Plan**

15. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress of the revision of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects' Master Plan, which is expected to be finalized in the second part of 2010.

## **VIII. Inland transport security**

16. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of its future plans in further enhancing inland transport security, through the organization of events to exchange information and share best practices, and noted that next event will be organized in partnership with the Transport Asset Protection Association (TAPA) in Geneva, on 31 January 2011, under the theme “Driver and cargo security”, within the context of prevention of transport crime.

17. The Bureau felt that the selected theme of the above-mentioned event is of great importance for the transport security in the ECE region and encouraged the secretariat to pursue its plans.

## **IX. Implementation of the digital tachograph**

18. The Bureau welcomed the “tolerance package” agreement that had been formally approved by the Contracting Parties to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), thereby providing a six-month tolerance period for the implementation of the digital tachograph at the pan-European level, ending on 31 December 2010.

19. The Bureau noted that the preparation for the implementation of the digital tachograph is progressing satisfactory in a number of non-EU countries, including Albania, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and stressed that all non-EU AETR Contracting Parties to the AETR should implement the digital tachograph by the end of 2010.

## **X. Activities related to road traffic safety**

20. The Bureau was informed about General Assembly Resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010, proclaiming the period 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, as well as on the activities on road safety planned by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the secretariat.

21. The Bureau welcomed the preparation of the sixtieth anniversary of WP.1, the progress of the joint UNECE, International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and Turkish Traffic Police road safety promotional campaign during the World Basketball Championship 2010 in Turkey (August – September 2010) and of the joint UNECE and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) road safety conference in Alexandroupolis, Greece (November 2010).

22. The Bureau also noted the concerns expressed by the secretariat on insufficient human and financial resources within the secretariat on road traffic safety. This is a major obstacle to the secretariat, preventing UNECE continuing and further strengthening its efforts to address, in a sustainable way, the increasing needs and challenges in the road traffic safety.

## **XI. The TIR and the eTIR**

23. The Bureau was informed of the latest developments in TIR, the eTIR project and the work of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1), in particular the outcome of its recent session which was held in Helsinki (8 and 9 March 2010). In this context, the Bureau recalled the view expressed by the Chair of WP.30 at the seventy-second session of the

Committee, that the introduction of eTIR in the future should be done by means of drafting a new multimodal e-transit Customs convention, rather than by amending the present TIR Convention (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 52).

## **XII. Informal group of experts on unified railway law**

24. The Bureau recalled that the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) had decided to set up an informal group of experts to prepare a position paper on ways and means to achieve unified railway law in the pan-European region. (ECE/RANS/SC.2/212, para. 13). It noted that following a first session of the informal group of experts (Geneva, 26 March 2010), the European Commission, when invited to attend the second session of group of experts (St. Petersburg, 8 July 2010), informed the ECE secretariat that there was no need for developing harmonized legal regimes for pan-European rail transport within UNECE, to the extent that these regimes cover matters of the European Union (EU) competence. Such activities would create legal inconsistencies. As a consequence, the European Commission would not be in a position to follow the work of the group of experts.

25. The Bureau underlined that the mandate of the informal expert group was to prepare a position paper on these issues, with particular focus on Euro-Asian rail transport linkages, for consideration by SC.2 at its forthcoming session in November 2010. The Bureau felt that a very cautious approach should be taken whenever EU law is involved and encouraged the secretariat to further consult with the European Commission with a view to clarifying these matters.

## **XIII. Climate change and transport**

26. The Bureau was informed about the progress of the organization of a round table on “Climate Change and Transport” to be held in Geneva, in the afternoon of 24 June 2010, as part of the 151st session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), as well as on the planned joint UNECE and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) workshop on “Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks” (Geneva, 8 September 2010), as part of the twenty-third session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5).

27. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat on the progress of the new United Nations Development Account funded global project, implemented by all United Nations regional commissions, together.

28. The Bureau welcomed these activities and requested the secretariat to inform it of the progress at its next meeting.

## **XIV. Intelligent transport systems and the UNECE roadmap**

29. The Bureau was informed of the assessment of UNECEs in promoting the use of Intelligent transport systems (ITS), and asked the secretariat to keep the Bureau informed of further progress.

## **XV. Preparing for the seventy-third session of Inland Transport Committee**

30. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 1 and Add.1 containing the outline agenda and programme for the organization of seventy-third session of the Committee, including the secretariat's proposals for the policy segment and the meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies.

31. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the content of Informal document No. 1 and Add.1. It agreed that the seventy-third session of the Committee would include a half-day policy segment, in the form of a round-table, on "Transport of dangerous goods: Global and regional dimensions", to be held in the afternoon of the first day of the session. The targeted audience would include senior government officials, representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as those from the industry, notably chemical industry and logistics, supply chains managers and transport. It also agreed that the a meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies, to be held in the morning (10.00 to 11.30 a.m.) of the second day of the session, as a restricted meeting for only government delegates.

32. The Bureau requested the secretariat to communicate the preliminary agenda of the seventy-third session of the Committee to its members by 25 October 2010 for comments and proceed with the organization of the seventy-third session of the Committee and its related events accordingly.

## **XVI. Resource and staffing requirements of the Transport Division**

33. The Bureau was informed of the fulfilment of the new P3 post of fuel specialist experienced in climate change and transport, of staff mobility developments in the Transport Division and of the resource constraints and extra-budgetary needs for certain strategic areas of work.

## **XVII. Other business**

### **Date of next meeting**

34. The Bureau noted that its next meeting will be held on Monday (afternoon) and Tuesday, 29–30 November 2010.

## **Annex III**

### **Results of the third meeting of the 2010–2011 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (29–30 November 2010)**

#### **I. Attendance**

1. The meeting was chaired by Erdem Direkler (Turkey) and was attended by the following members: Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation) and Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Fabio Croccolo (Italy), Victor Guzun (Republic of Moldova), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), and Christian Dufour (European Commission) were unable to attend.

#### **II. Adoption of the agenda**

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2010/6).

#### **III. Report to the Executive Committee**

3. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 1 prepared by the secretariat presenting a draft outline of the progress on the implementation of the UNECE reform in the field of transport and on specific requests to the Committee and the proposals prepared by the secretariat for the meeting of the Executive Committee with the Chair of the Inland Transport Committee.

4. The Bureau agreed with the content of the report with some additions and requested the secretariat to submit the amended document to the seventy-third session of the Committee for consideration.

5. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should endorse the progress report and proposals contained therein and request its Chair to present them to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of UNECE at its meeting of March 2011.

#### **IV. Euro-Asian transport links Phase II**

6. The Bureau was informed about the recent activities of the Expert Group on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL), including the outcome of the fourth session held in Geneva, 6 September 2010 and its fifth session held in Tashkent on 1–3 November 2010 organized in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

7. The Bureau was also informed about the request of WP.5 to the secretariat to explore with Governments and potential donors, including the Government of the Russian Federation, the possibilities of funding the EATL project's activities, which is indispensable for the continuation of work beyond 2010. Moreover, the Bureau was informed about the request of WP.5 to the Committee to support the Working Party's work in this field.

8. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the progress of the Expert Group as well as its unique role as coordination mechanism in promoting and monitoring the development of Euro-Asian transport links and facilitating international transport. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that an EATL workshop will take place from 6 to 8 December 2010 in Turkmenbashi organized in cooperation with the Government of Turkmenistan and OSCE.

9. Noting the above-mentioned requests of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), the Bureau recommended that the Committee should continue supporting the WP.5 work on EATL and requested the secretariat to explore possibilities of ensuring funding of the EATL project's activities with Governments and potential donors, including the Government of the Russian Federation to ensure the continuation of this work beyond 2010.

## **V. Climate change and inland transport**

### **A. Climate change impacts on international transport networks and adaptation requirements**

10. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the results of the joint United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Workshop on “Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks”.

11. The Bureau noted that the joint workshop demonstrated the complexity of the substantive issues involved and the urgent need to prepare appropriate policy actions, as well as the need for exchange of information about best practices among member Governments. The Bureau also noted that since the number of WP.5 members present during the discussion of the follow-up to the workshop did not offer a good representation of the Working Party constituency, the WP.5 Chairs (in-office and successor) and the newly elected vice-chair agreed to defer the specific question of follow-up, including the set-up of an expert group with limited duration, to the seventy-third session of the Inland Transport Committee.

12. The Bureau welcomed this important initiative of WP.5 and recommended that the Committee should approve the setting up of a Group of Experts on Climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks for two years. The Group would function as an ad hoc Groups of Experts under WP.5 according to the UNECE Rules and Procedures and the terms of reference contained in the Annex of the report of the twenty-third session of WP.5 (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/48).

### **B. Climate change mitigation in inland transport**

13. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 5 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the status of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on the development and implementation of a monitoring and assessment tool for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in inland transport to facilitate climate change mitigation. The project will be implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions, whereas UNECE is the project coordinator. It will consist of the following main components: global status report on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets through inland transport; analytical review of measuring methodologies; common methodology and a transport policy converter: at least one pilot project in each regional commission.

## **VI. Inland transport security**

14. The Bureau was informed about the forthcoming Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum to be held on 31 January 2011 in Geneva and noted that the forthcoming introduction of a new road sign indicating safe parking areas for trucks is the first result of the joint Working Party of Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and Working Party of Road Transport (SC.1) session, held on 29 September 2010.

## **VII. Activities related to road transport and to the implementation of the digital tachograph**

15. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 5 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the current status of the implementation of the digital tachograph in non-EU AETR Contracting Parties. The Bureau noted an overall progress in implementing the digital tachograph in the majority of non-EU AETR Contracting Parties to meet the deadline of 31 December 2010.

16. The Bureau also noted the importance of AETR article 22bis and the challenging relationship between AETR and EU law and believed that in view of the complexity of the issues, finding a satisfactory solution would require sufficient discussion time among experts which cannot be provided during the Committee's session. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should urge the Contracting Parties of AETR to seek practical and mutually acceptable solutions through compromise that would satisfy all parties, and welcomed the organization, by the secretariat in close cooperation with AETR Contracting Parties and other interested stakeholders, of a meeting to discuss these issues, to be held in Geneva on 4 March 2011.

## **VIII. Activities related to road traffic safety**

17. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 4 and additional information provided by the secretariat about the priorities of the Working Party on Road Transport and UNECE related activities.

18. The Bureau welcomed the sixtieth anniversary of road safety activities that was celebrated at a joint meeting of WP.1 and SC.1 (29 September 2010) and stressed the importance of the General Assembly Resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, which in fact is the seventh decade of road safety work in the United Nations system, as well as of the plans for the global launch of the Decade on 11 May 2011.

19. The Bureau welcomed the results of the joint conference of UNECE and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on improving road safety in the BSEC region, held under the Greek Chairmanship in Office of BSEC and hosted by the Chamber of Ioannina and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association, in Ioannina (Greece), on 18 and 19 November 2010 and the joint "Ioannina Declaration" adopted by the conference participants. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that at its twenty-third meeting, held in Thessaloniki (Greece), 26 November 2010, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC member States commended the organizers for this initiative and recommended the relevant BSEC working groups to consider the conference conclusions.

20. The Bureau also welcomed the results of the joint UNECE, International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and Turkish Traffic Police global road safety promotional campaign "We play and drive by the rules" during the World Basketball Championship 2010 in

Turkey (August – September 2010) that contributed towards global dissemination of the road safety messages and increased the visibility of UNECE and its road safety work.

21. The Bureau noted the future plans of WP.1 and the secretariat to promote safety at level crossings through hosting a multidisciplinary group of experts from road, railway and related infrastructure organizations together with other stakeholders, as well as of a multidisciplinary crash investigation (MDCI) tool for improving road safety to be developed under a special extra budgetary project.

22. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should (a) create a joint WP.1, SC.1 and SC.2 expert group, of a limited duration, to work towards enhancing safety at level crossings and (b) support further work towards the development of MDCI mechanisms at the Road Safety Forum, subject to the availability of external funding.

## **IX. Introduction of eTIR**

23. The Bureau took note of the latest developments in the eTIR project, in particular the successful establishment of the network of eTIR focal points and the active participation of the Dutch customs in the preparation of the fourth chapter of the Reference Model.

24. The Bureau also took note that the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its latest session (28 September – 1 October 2010), held first deliberations on the preparation of legal provisions aimed at the introduction of eTIR but that, so far, it has not been in a position to decide on whether to amend the current Convention with provisions introducing the use of electronic data interchange (EDI) or to launch a completely new "eTIR" or "eTransit" Convention, since both options have their own advantages and drawbacks. The Bureau welcomed the offer of some WP.30 delegations to set up a small drafting group to assist the secretariat in preparing the legal provisions required for the introduction of eTIR.

25. The Bureau took note that the WP.30 recognized the importance of integrating existing Information Technology (IT) tools developed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU), namely TIR Electronic Pre-declaration (TIR-EPD) and SafeTIR, in the eTIR Project, but stressed that these tools can, by no means, replace the full-fledged eTIR system, whose main objective is to allow for a Customs-to-Customs data exchange.

26. Furthermore, the Bureau took note that the secretariat has started looking into the financial aspects of the introduction of the eTIR international system by studying the experiences made within other IT systems in the field of Customs, such as ASYCUDA (Automated SYstem for CUstoms Data), NCTS (New Computerized Transit System), national Customs systems and IRUs TIR-EPD and SafeTIR. It took note of the successful meeting organized by Turkish Customs, in which experts from the public and private sector provided a first assessment of the costs involved in setting up and maintaining the eTIR international system.

27. The Bureau also noted that the secretariat is seeking UNDA funds to launch a new capacity building project, closely related to eTIR, aimed at developing and promoting a Customs-to-Customs exchange platform for transit data.

28. In the light of the above, the Bureau recommended that the Committee should: (a) support the continuation of the eTIR Project in order to allow for Customs-to-Customs data exchange (as described in the so-called "eTIR Reference Model"), while, at the same time, securing an appropriate level of connectivity with existing TIR related IT systems and to this end, the Bureau recommended that the Committee should prolong the mandate of the WP.30/GE.1 to the year 2011; (b) mandate the secretariat to conduct, in the course of 2011, a cost/benefit analysis of a computerized TIR system.

29. Finally, the Bureau welcomed the signing of the UNECE-IRU agreement on 19 November 2010, ensuring the continuation of the TIR system for the years 2011 to 2013. However, it regretted the difficulties caused by IRU in the process.

## **X. Activities related to the harmonization of vehicle regulations**

30. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the most recent developments in the work carried out by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicles Regulation (WP.29) and its six subsidiary Working Parties (GRB, GRE, GRPE, GRRF, GRSG and GRSP), the Administrative Committee of the 1958 Agreement and the Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement. The Bureau noted that 30 informal groups worked during 2010 in parallel to the World Forum and to its subsidiary bodies to assist them in developing new vehicle regulations and updating the 135 existing vehicle regulations. The Bureau also noted that more than 110 amendments were adopted in 2010, updating existing vehicle regulations to the technical progress and introducing more severe limits.

31. The Bureau was also informed about the modifications of vehicle regulations covering hybrid and electric vehicles and about the work in progress regarding hydrogen and fuel cells technologies, as well as of the status of the development of recommendations on market fuel quality by the World Forum WP.29 and the difficulties encountered in reaching an agreement with the petrol industry so far.

32. Moreover, the Bureau was informed about the WP.29 Round Table on Climate Change and Transport, held on 24 June 2010 and that the conclusions of the Round Table containing short and long-term actions, would be considered by the World Forum at its session in March 2011.

## **XI. Activities related to inland water transport**

33. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 2 and additional information provided by the secretariat and noted that following the policy segment on inland water transport at the seventy-second session of the ITC, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) has finalized and adopted, subject to some editorial and statistical updates and improvements, the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe for endorsement by the ITC at its forthcoming session. The White Paper provides a pan-European vision on the future development of inland navigation in the ECE region, 15 years after issuance of the first UNECE White Paper on this subject. The policy recommendations contained in the White Paper have been prepared by SC.3 in close cooperation with the European Commission (DG Move) as well as with the Danube, Mosel, Rhine and Sava River Commissions.

34. Moreover, the Bureau noted that SC.3 has already initiated actions to implement the policy recommendations of the White Paper by streamlining, in close cooperation with the competent services of the European Union and the River Commissions, existing working mechanisms on technical and safety requirements in order to further economize resources and reap synergies without jeopardizing efficiency and safety in inland navigation at the pan-European level. Furthermore, SC.3 has been considering the possibility of operating a possible future European database for registration of inland navigation vessels (European hull database) under the auspices of UNECE to ensure that all interested UNECE member countries could participate in such a scheme as of mid-2012.

## **XII. Informal group of experts on unified railway law**

35. The Bureau was informed that, on 19 November 2010, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) had adopted a position paper towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors as prepared by an informal group of experts. The position paper described a vision and a strategy to overcome problems in international railway law using a step-by-step approach, short, medium and long-term. As requested, the European Commission has cooperated in the preparation of this paper and has endorsed this approach.

36. SC.2 agreed that short-term actions, i.e. development of a Memorandum of Understanding (or similar soft law instrument) and general terms and conditions for Euro-Asian transport contracts (private law) should be taken up in parallel by UNECE, by means of an expert group, and by the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) / the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) during the course of 2011 for possible signature by Governments and railway companies during the ITC session in early 2012. The secretariat would prepare terms of references (ToR) of such an ECE expert group for consideration by ITC at its forthcoming session.

## **XIII. Intelligent transport systems**

37. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the progress of the elaboration of a Roadmap for promoting Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and of the secretariat's plans to launch a web-based public consultation on the future deployment of ITS and the possible role UNECE in this endeavour. The Bureau noted that the secretariat intends to present a strategy package containing a background document and strategic note that were drafted in cooperation with the Italian government and a private partner.

## **XIV. Transport and competitiveness**

38. The Bureau took note of the steps undertaken by the secretariat in order to further advance the work on the project "Supply Chain Challenges for National Competitiveness through Transport" and the change in the project timeline as adopted by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its twenty-third session. The Bureau agreed with the new time-line and encouraged the secretariat to advance the work towards project completion.

## **XV. Self evaluation of some activities of the 2010–2011 programme of work**

39. The Bureau was informed about the amendments to the annex of ECE/TRANS/2010/7 regarding clusters of activities for the biennial evaluation of the programme of work 2010–2011.

40. The Bureau was also informed about two topics selected for the discretionary self-evaluation planned to be carried out in 2010–2011.

41. The Bureau noted the results of a self-evaluation exercise on collecting and disseminating transport and road traffic accident statistics by UNECE and its secretariat and that such self-evaluations are undertaken regularly by UNECE staff to assess the effectiveness of activities in achieving expected results and the efficiency with which these activities are carried out.

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## **XVI. Consideration of items of the agenda for the seventy-third session of the Inland Transport Committee**

42. The Bureau was reminded that at its June meeting it had agreed that the seventy-third session should last no more than two and half days and that the session would include a one half-day policy segment in the form of a round table, on “Transport of dangerous goods: Global and regional dimensions”.

43. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda of the seventy-third session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/209) and the annotated agenda (ECE/TRANS/209/Add.1) and the provisional agenda of the half-day round table (Informal document No. 6). The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the progress of the organization of the round table and discussed items of the agenda that needed consideration and required decisions.

44. The Bureau agreed with the agenda and the annotated agenda and asked the secretariat to proceed with their publication. The Bureau also asked that agenda item 10(b) be discussed in the morning of the last day of the Committee’s session.

## **XVII. Other business**

### **A. Date of next meeting**

45. The Bureau noted that its next meeting will be held on Monday, 28 February 2011, in the afternoon.

46. The Bureau also noted that its meeting following the seventy-third Committee’s session will be held in the afternoon of 3 March 2011.

### **B. Meeting of the Chair of the Committee with the Executive Committee**

47. The Bureau noted that the next meeting of the Chair of the Committee with the Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled to be held in the morning of 4 March 2011.

### **C. Circulation of the Bureau Documents**

48. The Bureau requested the secretariat to try in future to circulate the provisional agenda of the Bureau meetings and some key documents a month before the day of the meetings.

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