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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics****Group of Experts on Euro Asian Transport Links****Eighth session**

Geneva, 9 September 2013

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

UNECE Group of Experts on EATL:**Administrative arrangements (Work plan)****Work Plan and Terms of Reference of the UNECE Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL)****Note by the secretariat****I. Work Plan****A. Work Objectives**

1. In accordance with the Joint Declaration on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links signed at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ministerial Meeting “Making the Euro-Asian Transport Network Operational” on 26 February 2013, the Group of Experts should accomplish the following tasks:

(a) analyse, promote and present to international financial institutions and other donors high priority EATL projects, feasibility or other relevant studies with the objective to facilitate sustainable and long-term financing of these projects;

(b) Identification of cargo flows (quantities and types) that could be transported along the nine Euro-Asian rail and road transport links;

(c) Facilitation of coordination of integrated time schedules and tariffs for the nine rail and road transport links;

(d) Promotion of Euro-Asian inland transport routes and development of an integrated marketing strategy;

(e) Update and upgrade of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) application.

2. Detailed plan of the activities for of the five tasks in the EATL Project Phase III is presented in the Annex.
3. The Group of Experts should work closely with international financial institutions and other donors, railways authorities, road transport associations, shippers and trading companies and other relevant stakeholders as well as with the other concerned regional commissions of the United Nations, particularly with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on making Euro-Asian Transport Linkages operational.

II. Terms of Reference¹

A. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. In line with the Joint Declaration on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links signed at the UNECE Ministerial Meeting “Making the Euro-Asian Transport Network Operational” on 26 February 2012, the Group of Experts in the framework of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will focus its work:

(a) Based on existing resources of the secretariat, as well as on, potentially, additional financial and in kind support provided by the participating countries and other international organizations, bodies and stakeholders, the Group of Experts would ensure the continuation of efforts and promotion of cooperation along the EATL routes and the implementation of the recommendations and tasks reflected in the Group of Experts Report on Phase II;

(b) The Group of Experts will work closely with the international financial institutions and EATL project member States as to develop and enhance favorable financial conditions that ensure sustainable and long-term financing of priority transport infrastructure projects in order to integrate them into medium and long-term investment programmes adopted at the national level;

(c) The Group of Experts will work closely with EATL project member States, railways authorities, road transport associations, shippers and trading companies and other relevant stakeholders on making Euro-Asian Transport Linkages operational by supporting:

- (i) The development of new rail and road transport services along selected Euro-Asian rail and road transport routes;
- (ii) The systematic removal of the remaining non-physical barriers along the Euro-Asian transport routes crossing EATL countries through capacity-building and implementation of United Nations conventions and agreements;
- (iii) The identification of transport needs of shippers through the cooperation and involvement to the Group of Experts’ work of important shippers and traders that are currently using maritime transport for their transport needs from Asia to Europe and vice versa;

¹ The terms of reference of the Group of Experts were adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee on 26–28 February 2013 (see ECE/TRANS/2013/5).

- (iv) The preparation of a detailed analysis of the Euro-Asian trade flows with the objective to identify possible alternative cargo flows from sea freight to inland transport (road and rail);
 - (v) The development of marketing tools for further promoting the results of the EATL project work including, among others, a dedicated web site with web tools where users could perform comparison analysis between transport modes, find information on tariffs and time schedules of the new rail or road services, the organization of an international conference and others.
2. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on preceding results, in particular phases I and II of the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages Project and the provisions of the Joint Declaration.
 3. The Group of Experts on EATL will work closely together with the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and the Trans-European Railways (TER) projects.

B. Methods of work

4. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of UNECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.
5. The Group of Experts is expected to meet once in 2013 and at least twice in 2014 and at least twice in 2015 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva or elsewhere depending on the financial and in kind support provided by the participating countries and other international organizations, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) at its twenty-eighth session (Geneva, September 2015). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.
6. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian and, where appropriate and available, Chinese shall be provided by UNECE for the sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
7. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to member States of the project but also to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. Concerned international financial institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as concerned railway companies, freight and forwarding industries, shippers and traders are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

C. Secretariat

8. UNECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the concerned regional commissions of the United Nations, particularly the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Annex

I. Draft rolling detailed plan of activities

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
(a) To analyse, promote and present to International Financial Institutions (IFI) and other donors high priority EATL projects, feasibility or other relevant studies with the objective to facilitate sustainable and long-term financing of these projects	(i) to collect information, organize meetings, interviews and workshops with EATL countries and IFIs	<p>Coorganize with Working Party Transport Trends and Economics a Workshop on financing transport infrastructure;</p> <p>Collect feasibility and relevant studies of countries' priority transport infrastructure projects; analyse these studies and present them to International Financial Institutions and other donors; ask them to provide detailed feedback and seek guidance how to improve conditions for transport infrastructure financing;</p> <p>Discuss and finalize the report on financing of priority projects of EATL member States;</p>	
(b) To identify cargo flows (quantities and types) that could be transported along the nine Euro-Asian rail and road transport links	(i) to identify cargo flows (quantities and types) from and to main Asian ports; organize meetings, interviews and workshops with representatives of main Asian ports, producers and/or traders with the European markets (e.g. Vostochny Port, Qingdao Port, Shanghai Port, Shenzhen Port, Karachi port etc).	<p>Invite representatives from main Asian ports, producers or traders with the European markets to provide statistical data regarding cargo flows; collect, analyse and disseminate collected data to all experts;</p> <p>Invite representatives from European ports, main import/export gateways of European countries to provide statistical data regarding cargo flows; collect, analyse and disseminate data to all experts;</p>	
	(ii) to identify cargo flows (quantities and types) from and to European ports and from these ports through hinterland connections (rail and inland waterways) to other European countries; organize meetings, interviews and workshops with representatives of these ports (e.g. Hamburg, Rotterdam, Port of Marseille and Barcelona etc).	<p>Invite representatives of producers, shippers and traders – including freight forwarders – established in Asia to identify their cargo transportation needs; collect, analyse and disseminate to all experts data collected by the private sector;</p>	
	(iii) to identify of cargo transportation needs and requirements (including obstacles faced) of producers, shippers, traders and freight forwarders - established in Asian continent; organize meetings, interviews and workshops with them regarding inland transport options along nine rail and road EATL corridors;	<p>Discus and finalize the report on cargo flows (quantities and types) along the nine Euro-Asian rail and road transport routes prepared by the secretariat – and by the International consultant subject to available funding –based on inputs from the private sector;</p>	
	(iv) subject to available funding, hire a consultant-expert on international		

Objectives	Goals	Activities	Timeline
(c) Facilitation of coordination of integrated time schedules and tariffs for the nine rail and road transport links	trade and conduct on-site research by visiting and interviewing key trade. The forecasted budget for such a survey is USD 80,000 .	<p>Secretariat to prepare the questionnaire for collecting data needed to update the information provided by the comparison study;</p> <p>Secretariat to prepare common templates for information collection on integrated time schedules and tariffs; review and discuss data collected by experts, and present preliminary analysis; designate experts from rail organizations and road transport associations to contribute to the development of integrated time schedules and tariffs along the euro-Asian links;</p> <p>Prepare, discuss and organize collection of information on the implementation of Annex 9 of the Harmonization convention, common CIM/SMGS consignment note, and of the e-CMR Protocol;</p> <p>Review and discuss replies to the questionnaire on the implementation of Annex 9 of the Harmonization convention, common CIM/SMGS consignment note, and the e-CMR protocol;</p> <p>Secretariat, based on information provided by the experts, to update the comparison study between maritime transport and inland transport options and prepare draft report; review, discuss and adopt draft report;</p> <p>Secretariat, based on information provided by experts, to prepare draft report on the integrated time schedules and tariffs; review, discuss and adopt draft report;</p> <p>Secretariat to prepare draft report on the implementation of Annex 9 of the Harmonization convention; review, discuss and adopt draft report;</p> <p>Secretariat to prepare draft report on the implementation of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note; review, discuss and adopt draft report;</p> <p>Secretariat to prepare the report on</p>	

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
		implementation of the e-CMR protocol; review, discuss and adopt draft report;	
(d) Promotion of Euro-Asian inland transport routes and development of an integrated Marketing strategy	<p>(i) to facilitate administrative processes for the organization of two demonstration runs of container block trains and of one truck caravan as result of the above mention activities along the nine rail and road transport links;</p> <p>(ii) to organize an international conference launching the “operationalization of Euro-Asian transport linkages”;</p> <p>(iii) to prepare a web site dedicated to the EATL cooperation that will include web applications (GIS application, comparison study application etc), list of companies involved or participated, time schedules and tariffs, contact details etc.</p> <p>(iv) to organize marketing technical workshops with the participation of Marketing Managers of interested railway organizations and road transport authorities;</p> <p>(v) Subject to available funding, to hire a consultant-expert on international marketing to facilitate discussions during these marketing technical workshops. The forecasted budget for such a project is USD 40,000;</p> <p>(vi) Subject to available funding prepare an electronic and hardcopy brochure that will illustrate the inland transport services, different rail and road routes as well as time schedules agreed. The forecasted budget for such a project is USD 15,000;</p>	<p>Discuss key updated information provided in the comparison study and how to convert this study into a web application tool;</p> <p>Invite marketing managers of rail organizations and road transport associations to discuss ways to promote rail and road transport services along the Euro-Asian transport links;</p> <p>Secretariat to prepare draft action plan regarding the marketing strategy; discuss the draft action plan and its implementation by the Railway Organizations and the Road Associations; finalize the action plan and agree on activities towards its implementation by the Railway Organizations and the Road Associations;</p> <p>Draft new EATL web site dedicated to the promotion of Euro-Asian transport linkages; present its structure before launching;</p> <p>Discuss organization of an international conference to launch the operationalization of Euro-Asian transport linkages;</p> <p>Discuss draft report prepared by the secretariat, experts, consultant and marketing experts, on the Marketing Strategy action plan and activities towards its implementation;</p> <p>Prepare administrative processes needed to organize two demonstration runs of block container trains and of one truck caravan;</p>	
(e) Update and upgrade of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) application	<p>(i) Update of information for existing lines when needed;</p> <p>(ii) Update of information by adding logistics centers or freight villages, intermodal services provided, interoperability issues etc;</p> <p>(iii) Upgrade of the GIS software to a more sophisticated web application that provides more possibilities for illustrating and analysing infrastructure</p>	<p>Exchange views and discuss how to update application on the Geographical Information Systems (GIS); discuss the questionnaire for collecting of the data and updating the information provided by countries for the GIS application;</p> <p>Review replies to the questionnaire for collecting data and updating the information provided by countries for the GIS application; present</p>	

Objectives	Goals	Activities	Timeline
	<p>projects and supports the development of technological add-ons such as the comparison tool between maritime transport and inland transport options etc;</p> <p>(iv) Most of the above mentioned activities such as the update of information and the upgrade of the software to a more sophisticated web application are subject to available funding. The forecasted budget for such a project is approximately USD 50,000 plus some additional yearly costs for maintenance (i.e. server costs etc.).</p>	<p>preliminary analysis, and updated GIS application;</p> <p>Discuss possible upgrade of the GIS application to a more sophisticated web application; decide on GIS software upgrade; upgrade the GIS application to a more sophisticated web application; present new GIS sophisticated web application;</p>	

II. Time schedule

11. In accordance with the Joint Declaration on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links, work on preparing and completing the above mentioned tasks is scheduled as follows:

- (a) UNECE Group of Experts, eighth session, 9–10 September 2013, Geneva;
- (b) UNECE Group of Experts, ninth session, 4–5 February 2014, Geneva;
- (c) UNECE Group of Experts, tenth session, 27–28 May 2014, Geneva;
- (d) UNECE Group of Experts, eleventh session, 30–31 October 2014, Geneva;
- (e) UNECE Group of Experts, twelfth session, February 2015, Geneva;
- (f) UNECE Group of Experts, thirteenth session, June 2015, Geneva;
- (g) UNECE Group of Experts, fourteenth session, September 2015, Geneva;

Activities/Deliverables	Planned Sessions													
	September 2013		February 2014		May 2014		October 2014		February 2015		June 2015		September 2015	
	a*	b**	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
	25/06	01/07	20/11	26/11	13/03	18/03	16/08	21/08	00/00	00/12	00/00	00/04	00/00	00/07

Activities/Deliverables	Planned Sessions													
	September 2013		February 2014		May 2014		October 2014		February 2015		June 2015		September 2015	
	a*	b**	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
	25/06	01/07	20/11	26/11	13/03	18/03	16/08	21/08	00/00	00/12	00/00	00/04	00/00	00/07

- a* Secretariat's deadline for accepting documents or comments to working documents.
- b** United Nations deadline for submitting working documents for official translation.
