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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

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

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2013

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains the results of the meetings held by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2013.

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/2014/21. The Committee may wish to refer to the decisions of the Bureau under the relevant items of its agenda.

Introduction

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/236, para. 74), the Bureau of the ITC met on 28 February, 21 June and from 28 to 29 November 2013.
2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) plan of action, the Bureau fulfils 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 with the work of other relevant organizations; and proposing of 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 fifth meeting of the 2012–2013 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (28 February 2013)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Jean-Paul Gailly (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Björn Stafbom (Sweden), Rolf Zimmermann¹ (Switzerland), Çisel Aslan (Turkey) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Zdenko Antešić (Croatia), Gogita Gvenetadze (Georgia), Antonio Erario (Italy), Claudio Dumitrescu (Romania) and Abdusamat Muminov (Uzbekistan) were unable to attend.

II. Matters arising from the seventy-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee

3. The Bureau discussed the outcome of the seventy-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). In general, the Bureau was of the opinion that the event had been very successful. This was particularly true for (a) the Ministerial Meeting, which was attended by high ranking delegations from forty-three countries (including Ministers of Transport or Foreign Affairs and ambassadors) and which had led to the signature of the Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) by thirty-two and of the Joint Declaration on the promotion of Euro-Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law by thirty-seven countries as well as (b) the exhibition “Transport in Motion” in which twenty-two countries participated with a grand total of more than two hundred entries. At the same time, the Bureau considered that some aspects of the meeting could benefit from further improvement.

4. Issues and potential suggestions for improvement, specifically mentioned by Bureau members as requiring attention in the future, included (in random order and without being exhaustive):

(a) The adoption of the list of main decisions (in the three languages) is too cumbersome and lengthy. Suggestions for improvement included the preparation of a short list of decisions per meeting day, rather than at the end of the session or an oral conclusion by the Chair at the end of each agenda item as final (subject only to linguistic comments for the final text);

(b) The Chairs of subsidiary bodies should be more involved in the proceedings of ITC. In addition to the meeting dedicated of the Chairs of ITC subsidiary bodies or when introducing the achievements of their respective body, Chairs should also be involved in the regular sessions of ITC. The Chairs should have a more dominant role in raising issues of interest to the Committee, in particular, issues with a cross-sectoral dimension. To facilitate this process, Chairs could also participate in meetings of other subsidiary bodies on issues of common interest. It was also suggested that, in the future, Bureau members could be

¹ For Jean-Claude Schneuwly

more actively involved in the promotion of certain topics, both within their own administration as well as internationally;

(c) Even though the new organization of the agenda (policy, technical, reporting) works well, more efforts could be undertaken to avoid duplication or overlap of issues;

(d) Given the considerable interest in the various events organized in conjunction with the session of ITC (pre-ITC Conference with break-out sessions on road and rail financing, AETR Group of Experts meeting, meeting on bilateral road transport agreements), parallel sessions should be avoided in the future or, at least, limited, unless countries participate in ITC with larger delegations of different experts from various areas of work;

(e) The diminishing level of participation towards the end of ITC sessions remains a concern;

(f) The main purpose of the “meeting of the Chairs” (restricted to government delegates only) is to provide government participants with a platform for open discussions, strategic consultations and the exchange of experiences, in particular with regard to sensitive issues, rather than a forum for reporting on activities of their respective bodies which takes place during the regular session of ITC. The preparation for the meetings of the Chairs should be tailored accordingly.

5. To address these issues, the Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a document elaborating issues of concern and providing preliminary recommendations for improvement, for discussion by the Bureau at its June 2013 session.

6. The Bureau also requested the secretariat to draft a list of possible themes for the policy segment of future sessions of ITC.

III. Date of next meeting

7. The Bureau decided to hold its next session on Friday, 21 June 2013 starting at 9.30 a.m. in Room VIII of the Palais des Nations.

Annex II

Results of the sixth meeting of the 2012–2013 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (21 June 2013)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Jean-Paul Gailly (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Rolf Zimmermann¹ (Switzerland), Çisel Aslan (Turkey) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Zdenko Antešić (Croatia), Gogita Gvenetadze (Georgia), Claudio Dumitrescu (Romania), Björn Stafbom (Sweden) and Abdusamat Muminov (Uzbekistan) were unable to attend.

2. The Bureau expressed concerns over the repeated absence certain members, including those who had, since their election as Bureau members, not attended any meeting. Members were reminded that, in accordance with the Bureau's Rules of Procedure, they should appoint a replacement if unavailable to attend a meeting of the Bureau.

II. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: Informal document TRANS/BUR.2013/4/Rev.1

3. The Bureau adopted the agenda of its sixth session, as prepared by the secretariat.

III. Matters arising from the seventy-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee

Documentation: Informal document No. 1 (2013), Informal document No. 2 (2013), Informal document No. 6 (2013)

A. Follow-up activities

4. The Bureau extensively discussed Informal document No. 1 (2013) on aspects of the Committee's sessions. The Bureau adopted the document in general with specific comments on the following:

1. Adoption of the list of main decisions

5. The Bureau decided that future Committee documents should begin with a short executive summary, including a highlight of the issues for decision by the Committee. These issues for decision could be distributed by the secretariat to all Committee participants and Permanent Representatives at Geneva, at least ten days before the meeting, in conformity with the new EXCOM guidelines, para. 15 (E/ECE/1468, Appendix III). At the session, the Chair should formulate, after each agenda item, the proposed decision. In

¹ For Jean-Claude Schneuwly

the morning of the second and third day of the Committee's session, the secretariat should distribute the draft decisions of the previous day for review by delegations. Finally, the last half-day segment of the meeting should be used to finalize and formally adopt the list of main decisions, in the three languages.

2. Involvement of the Chairs of subsidiary bodies and the Meeting of the Chairs of subsidiary bodies

6. The Bureau was of the opinion that the involvement of Chairs of subsidiary bodies should be increased and a more prominent role should be given to the Chairs during the entire session of the Committee.

7. The Bureau was convinced that the session restricted to government participation only, called the "Chairs' meeting" was valuable in inter-governmental coordination and that it should be continued. However, topics for discussion should be of a horizontal nature and 'sensitive' (such as strategic or procedural matters, budgetary issues, etc.). The closed session requires careful preparation and greater clarity for all participants. A paper introducing the question for discussion would be necessary. To avoid any confusion on the 'for government delegates only' aspect of the closed segment, the Chairs' meeting should be scheduled as a penultimate agenda item, preceding the adoption of the list of main decisions.

3. 2013 Revision of the agenda of the Committee

8. The Bureau decided to leave the agenda unchanged, but stressed that its focus should continue on issues requiring the Committee's decision.

4. Organization of various events in conjunction with the session of the Committee

9. The Bureau was of the opinion that the organization of major events directly preceding the Committee's session could divert attention. The year 2013 was special, due to the completion of the EATL project (Phase II) and its second Ministerial Meeting. However, in the future the Committee should start with its policy segment as was the case in the previous years. At the same time, the Bureau encouraged back-to-back meetings organized in conjunction with the session of the Committee, thus allowing participants to make the maximum use of their stay in Geneva.

5. Attendance of the session: number of participants and their interactions

10. The Bureau was of the opinion that a more cross-sectoral approach would attract a more stable and larger audience throughout the sessions.

11. This could, for instance, be achieved by introducing a general discussion or a topic-related peer-review to lead the substantive discussions following the delivery of reports by the Chairs of subsidiary bodies. The Bureau decided that both concepts should be tested at the forthcoming session of the Committee.

B. Meeting of the Chairs of subsidiary bodies

Documentation: Informal document No. 2 (2013)

12. The Bureau adopted Informal document No. 2 (2013) on the conclusions of the Chairs' meeting and requested that it be circulated among the Chairs of subsidiary bodies.

C. TEM and TER Project

13. The Bureau took note of Informal document No. 6, prepared by the secretariat and, in particular: that Mr. Helmut Meelich, the current TEM and TER Project manager would retire from his post at the end of 2013; that a candidate for the TER Project had been proposed by the Russian Railways (with the support of the Russian government) and that, as yet, there is no solution for the management of the TEM Project.

14. Mr. R. Pascual Bremon (European Commission) informed the Bureau that, within the framework of the European Union's (EU) neighbourhood policy and the Eastern Partnership, the Ministers of Transport, at a meeting on 9 October 2013, should approve a map of priority connections for road and rail.

IV. Preparation of the seventy-sixth session of the Committee

Documentation: Informal document No. 3 (2013)

15. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 3 on four possible themes for future sessions of the Committee. Bearing in mind criteria such as timeliness, potential results and visibility, the Bureau agreed that the 2014 policy segment of the Committee should be organized on the theme of sustainable transport. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a concept note to that end, for its November 2013 session based on the progress of preparations that should be launched as soon as possible. The secretariat called upon Bureau members to assist in identifying and contacting (including, where required, funding) potential speakers for each of the pillars of sustainable transport (viz: accessibility, affordability, safety, security and environmental sustainability) of the policy segment.

16. The Bureau agreed that 'future passenger (and freight) rail transport' and then 'autonomous driving in inland transport' merited further assessment as potential themes for 2015 or beyond.

V. The second United Nations Global Road Safety Week

17. The Board took note of information on the organization of the second United Nations Global Road Safety week (6–12 May 2013) and, in particular, of the events organized by the UNECE Transport Division: a symposium on drinking and driving, an interactive youth and young leaders session (with, for the second time, the participation of scouts from Greece and Ireland), a round table discussion on insurance and road safety and the organization of an international Level Crossing Awareness Day, including a poster signing ceremony and exhibition. The Board also took note of the fact that, despite the frequency of General Assembly resolutions on road safety, only limited resources were made available to finance the anticipated activities. The Board expressed its appreciation for the collaboration between the secretariat and a major Italian road toll company, which had distributed 230,000 specially commissioned bookmarks at local schools and motorway toll booths along approximately 1,300 kilometres of its toll roads in northern Italy.

18. The secretariat reminded the Bureau that any contribution to assist in implementing the United Nations Decade of Road Safety was much appreciated, including contributions in kind. Finally, the secretariat encouraged Bureau members to enquire if their government would consider contributions in the form of secondment of temporary staff.

VI. Meeting of the ITC Chair with the Executive Committee

19. The secretariat informed the Bureau that with the completion of the review process, EXCOM would return to its practice of meeting with the Chairs of Sectoral Committees after their annual sessions.

VII. Facilitation of synergies between WP.1 and WP.29

Documentation: Informal document No. 5 (2013)

20. The Board took note of Informal document No. 5 (2013), submitted by Mr. J-P. Gailly (Belgium), Vice-Chair of ITC on:

(a) Synergy between the activities of WP.1 and WP.29 to develop a consistent transversal approach on ITS;

(b) Preparation by the secretariat of a monitoring report on the implementation of the 20 Actions of the Road Map for promoting ITS (For details, see Part 3 of the UNECE publication “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility”²);

(c) Establishment of an informal working group on ITS.

21. The Bureau was of the opinion that, despite ongoing efforts to improve synergy in the field of ITS, not only at the level of the two Working Parties, but also by other subsidiary bodies of the Committee, substantial progress would first have to be made before any monitoring would be required. In addition, the Bureau agreed that such monitoring should be performed by the Committee and the Bureau rather than by a newly to be established informal group. However, given the horizontal nature of ITS, the Bureau was of the opinion that this initiative merited rediscussion at its November 2013 session. At the same time, countries were encouraged to convene informal groups at any time, on the understanding that such groups would not be administered by UNECE or other Secretariats of the United Nations.

22. In conclusion, before taking any decision on future steps, the Bureau decided to first await the outcome of the Joint ITU/UNECE Inland Transport Committee workshop on ITS in emerging markets (27 June 2013, Geneva) and requested the secretariat to put ITS on the agenda of its next session, together with information about the implementation of the Road Map.

23. As the organization of a round table on ITS is one of the twenty actions from the Road Map to promote ITS, Mr. J-P. Gailly (Belgium) informed the Bureau that the Belgian government was ready to host the 2014 UNECE Round Table on ITS. The Bureau thanked Belgium for its kind offer and asked the secretariat to follow-up on this matter.

24. The Bureau also welcomed information on requests from various governments (including the United States of America) to the secretariat on facilitating the understanding

² www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/publications/Intelligent_Transport_Systems_for_Sustainable_Mobility.PDF

of the policy and regulatory implications of autonomous driving. The secretariat was requested to include this in the ITS status report for its November 2013 session.

VIII. Transport and the post-2015 agenda

Documentation: Informal document No. 4 (2013)

25. The Bureau adopted informal document No. 4 (2013) and welcomed an additional presentation. It thanked the secretariat for the clear presentation, in particular, of the intricate decision-making process towards formulating the post-2015 Agenda of the United Nations Secretary-General. As a first reaction, Bureau members differed on whether or not there is need to establish a separate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for transport or whether it would be sufficient for it to be embedded in other SDGs. Some members were of the opinion that the topic was beyond their responsibility and the scope of the Transport Ministries, considering that most discussions took place in New York and were led by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Development. The secretariat clarified that:

- given the unique nature of the Committee, it is expected to raise its voice on matters relevant to inland transport;
- the secretariat is required to report on these matters to headquarters;
- the current discussions already take a sectoral approach towards SDGs, like energy, water, health and trade. Thus, it would be a lost opportunity for the transport sector not to be recognized for its own values, but through other sectors only;
- lack of recognition of transport as future SDG could, in its view, likely lead to increased difficulties in getting funds for the sector, since then this sector globally would not be considered essential for sustainable development (as was the case when the MDGs were adopted).

26. In conclusion, the Bureau agreed on the relevance of sustainable transport, and thus, on the contribution to the post-2015 consultation process. The Bureau agreed that the selection of sustainable transport as next year's policy segment demonstrates the crucial significance of transport for sustainable development and its inclusion in the SDG discussions.

27. In order to streamline the flow of information on this issue, Bureau members were requested to communicate the name and address details of their main national negotiator in the post-2015 process to the secretariat.

IX. Presentation of United Nations Development Account related activities

A. ForFITS Project

28. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the latest developments in the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) Project. In particular, the Bureau took note that the ForFITS tool had been released in May 2013 and that the user manual, methodological notes and training material would be available in the coming months. Capacity-building and training workshops would start in the third quarter of 2013. The Bureau encouraged stakeholders interested in piloting the tool or in expanding the modelling work for new applications to contact the secretariat.

B. Project on customs-to-customs (C2C) electronic information exchange for transit

29. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the latest developments in the C2C transit information exchange project. In particular, the Bureau took note of the close collaboration at between the UNECE Transport and Trade Divisions, and with focal points in other United Nations regional commissions. The Bureau welcomed the information that Georgia had offered to become a pilot country for the ECE region and had already appointed a national focal point. In conclusion, the Bureau considered this project as an important step towards standardization and electronic exchange of data. It also encouraged the secretariat to work closely together (within as well as outside this particular project) with other ongoing efforts to improve data flows in transport between users and authorities.

X. Follow-up activities to the Joint Statement on Euro-Asian Transport Links and the Joint Declaration on unified railway law

30. The Bureau was informed about recent activities in the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Project and, in particular, the interregional preparatory meeting for the 10-year comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA)(5–6 March 2013, Vientiane) which was jointly organized by UNESCAP and UNECE. The Bureau took note that UNECE would organize a workshop on infrastructure financing on 10 September 2013 in Geneva. EATL member countries should submit their infrastructure development plans, feasibility studies, etc. to the secretariat. These would be circulated before the workshop among the International Financial Institutions (IFI) to trigger effective and conducive discussions and actions during the Workshop.

31. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the next meeting of the Group of Experts towards unified railway law would be held in Geneva on 4–5 July 2013 and that the texts of the relevant legal regimes (Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and the Agreement on International Goods Transport by Rail (SMGS)) would be posted at the UNECE website shortly in all available languages.

XI. Climate change impacts and adaptation

Documentation: Informal document No. 8 (2013)

32. The Bureau took note of Informal document No. 8 (2013), containing the structure of the shortly to be finalized study, being one of the main results of the Group of Experts on climate change impacts and adaptation to international transport networks. The Bureau took note of a request from the secretariat to obtain topic-related photos for inclusion in the final report.

XII. Briefing on cooperation with other organizations and partnerships

33. The Director briefed the Bureau about recent secretariat activities in cooperation with other organizations. In particular, the Bureau took note that, on 26 June 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between UNECE and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), aimed at strengthening cooperation in areas such as customs administration, technical regulations, trade, macroeconomic policy, transport and logistics.

Furthermore, the Bureau was informed about ongoing cooperation between UNECE, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and UNESCAP to identify financing options for joint projects in the EATL Project.

XIII. Resource and staffing requirements of the Transport Division

34. The Director informed the Bureau about the progress in selecting candidates for two vacant posts (P4 and G5) in the Division. In addition, she pointed out two P5 posts which would become available in 2014 following the retirement of the current incumbents, as well as to the P5 post of regional advisor, which would have to be renewed before 2014. She offered to send links to Bureau members once the vacancies were published. She also confirmed that, further to the outcome of the review process of the UNECE 2005 Reform, one P4 and one P2 post would be transferred by 1 January 2014 from the Trade Division to the Transport Division, primarily to service WP.29.

35. While recognizing the appreciation for the support of the governments and the two additional posts, the director pointed out that, in the 2014 budget cut, the Division had lost a G5 post and that, overall, the Division remains extended.

XIV. Funding of UNECE activities

36. With reference to document ECE/TRANS/2013/12, Annex 1, discussed at the Committee's seventy-fifth session, the secretariat renewed its call for extra-budgetary funding for technical cooperation activities in the field of transport. The Bureau was of the opinion that this issue deserved in-depth discussion and requested the secretariat to prepare a document for discussion at the Bureau's November 2013 session.

XV. Other business

A. Access to documents

Documentation: Informal document No. 7 (2013)

37. The Bureau took note of the presentation by the secretariat, highlighting the use and benefits of a dedicated ITC Bureau webpage with restricted access. The Bureau adopted Informal document No. 7 (2013) on an overview of the possibilities of the new webpage. The Bureau requested the secretariat to launch the webpage. Bureau members were provided with a user name and password to access the restricted webpage. A letter containing the same information has been sent to absent Bureau members.

B. Non-ECE member States and United Nations legal instruments administered by the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

38. The secretariat informed the Bureau about recent requests from non-ECE-member States, but Contracting Parties to United Nations legal instruments in the field of transport, to participate in the ITC and its subsidiary bodies as full members. Currently, some ITC subsidiary bodies already accept full engage from countries outside the ECE region in their activities. The Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare a detailed document for its November session on how the different ITC subsidiary bodies have handled such requests.

C. Date of next meeting

39. The Bureau decided to hold its seventh meeting on Thursday and Friday, 28–29 November 2013, in Geneva.

Annex III

Results of the seventh meeting of the 2012–2013 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (Geneva, 28–29 November 2013)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Maria Gelin (Sweden), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Zdenko Antešić (Croatia), Gogita Gvenetadze (Georgia), Claudio Dumitrescu (Romania) and Abdusamat Muminov (Uzbekistan) were unable to attend. Björn Stafbom (Sweden) had left the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications and Sweden ensured his replacement by Maria Gelin, Head of Unit of the Transport Division of the Ministry, Jean-Paul Gailly (Belgium) also moved to a new position and his replacement was ensured with the participation of Kristof Schockaert (Belgium). Finally, Philippe Ramet (France) exceptionally joined the Bureau.

2. The Bureau stressed its concern over the repeated absence of some of its members, including those who had, since their election as Bureau member, never attended any meeting. Members were reminded that, in accordance with the Bureau's Rules of Procedure, they should appoint a replacement if unavailable to attend a meeting of the Bureau.

3. The Bureau asked the secretariat to review the justification for the current number of Bureau members and, in preparation for the ITC elections, to make recommendations for its reduction to the level that was in place before 2012.

II. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Bureau adopted the agenda of its seventh session, as prepared by the secretariat.

Documentation

TRANS/BUR.2013/6

III. Annual report of the Inland Transport Committee

5. The Bureau reviewed the draft annual report of activities undertaken by the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies during 2013 (Informal document No. 1) and requested the secretariat to ensure its annual submission as one of the official documents of Committee sessions, starting from the seventy-sixth session.

6. The Bureau indicated that the initiative for a Convention to facilitate the crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail, made by the Russian Federation and several other governments must be mentioned as a new task in the report.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

IV. Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and the Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments

7. The Bureau reviewed the proposed programme (Informal document No. 2) of the meeting of the Chairs, i.e. the session restricted to government participants only, and welcomed the fact that, reflecting its recommendation, focus is on cross-sectoral issues of a sensitive nature or requiring a distinctive decision by governments. In particular, the Bureau decided that the discussion at the closed session will be centred on one topic, namely the participation of non-ECE member states in the work of the Committee, its Working Parties and the Administrative Committees of the legal instruments. The Bureau decided that the governments-only segment would be open to governments and to relevant regional organizations of economic integration, such as the EU and the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

V. Climate change and transport**A. Mitigation of environmentally harmful effects of inland transport**

8. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the UNECE study on air pollutant emissions – particulate matters from diesel engines and measures that could contribute to their reduction (Informal document No. 3). It requested the secretariat to develop the paper with recommendations and strengthen its multi-modal nature.

9. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat about the progress of the ForFITS global project funded by the United Nations Development Account that is implemented together with the other United Nations regional commissions (Informal document No. 4). The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the progress thus far and expressed its wish to see the continuation of or follow-up to the project, for example by arranging one country review per year.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3, Informal document No. 4

10. The Bureau was informed by the Chair about his efforts to present the Committee's work and the ForFITS project during the nineteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes (UN FCCC) that took place in Warsaw. The Bureau thanked the Chair for his commitment to the work of the Committee and his efforts to promote it.

B. Impacts of climate change on international transport networks and adaptation requirements

11. The Bureau was reminded that the seventy-fifth Committee had noted the results of the three meetings of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations for International Transport Networks and of the conclusions and recommendations of the awareness-raising and capacity-building Conference on Adaptation of International Networks to Climate Change (Greece, 25–26 June 2012). The Bureau reiterated its interest in the subject and thanked the secretariat for preparing a comprehensive and analytical report/publication. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress of the finalization of the study and presented the draft Executive Summary (Informal document No. 5). The Bureau noted with satisfaction the comprehensive and unique nature of the work of the Group of Experts and thanked both the Group of Experts and especially the secretariat for preparing the publication which brings together existing good practices on adaptation of national transport systems and international networks. To maximize its potential impact, the Bureau requested the secretariat to proceed with its publication expeditiously.

Documentation

Informal document No. 5

VI. Activities related to road transport and to the implementation of the digital tachograph

A. TIR

12. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the current situation and ongoing developments following the decision by the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation of 5 July 2013 to introduce an additional customs guarantee obligation for TIR operations (Informal documents No. 15). The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the comprehensive analysis, reviewed the actual situation and expressed the hope and expectation that the crisis will soon be resolved, and the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation will be officially communicated to the secretariat as custodian of the TIR Convention. It also appreciated that the secretariat had been keeping close contact with all stakeholders, which had been a drain on the resources and warranted some reorganization of work at the cost of delaying other, less acute tasks. It underlined that IRU in its capacity of authorized international organization managing the international guarantee chain and issuing TIR Carnets, must exercise full flexibility to meet the concerns of the Russian government in order to maintain this important transit facilitation scheme. The Bureau thanked its Chair for having participated in the October session of WP.30 and for his continuous involvement. Finally the Bureau expressed its concerns that, despite the ongoing diplomatic efforts by various stakeholders, the crisis continues and even seems to have deteriorated. The Bureau expected intensive discussions to take place at the Committee session and expressed the hope that, by then, attention could be given to strategic issues based on the lessons learnt from the crisis.

B. AETR/Digital tachograph

13. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress in amending the AETR. The next AETR Group of Experts meeting is scheduled for 28 February 2014, immediately after the Committee's annual session. The Bureau member from the Russian Federation

indicated that a high-level consultation during the Committee's session among the key stakeholders might facilitate a common understanding towards the solution of main concerns in the pending AETR modification. The Bureau noted with great interest the potential contribution and timing of such a high-level meeting. The secretariat was asked to consult with key stakeholders and to coordinate a meeting, if warranted by the interest of the key players.

Documentation

Informal document No. 15

VII. Activities related to road traffic safety

14. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the latest developments in the follow-up to the General Assembly resolution A/66/260 and about the Report by the United Nations Secretary-General to the sixty eighth session of the General Assembly on "Improving global road safety" (Informal document No. 6). The Bureau noted that a new General Assembly Resolution on road traffic safety was in the process of preparation.

Documentation

Informal document No. 6

VIII. Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL), Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects

15. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about progress in the future management of the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project, in particular on identifying a successor to Mr. Helmut Meelich, the current TEM and TER Project manager, due to his retirement at the end of 2013. Specifically, the Bureau was informed that thanks to the in-kind contribution of the government of the Russian Federation and the Russian Railways in particular, the new TER Project Manager will be Mr. Bessonov. A Deputy Project Manager for TER has likely been secured, thanks to the in-kind support by the government of Austria. Discussions on the future Trans-European Motorway (TEM) project manager were ongoing at the time of the Bureau meeting.

16. The Bureau was also informed about recent activities in the field of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Project, including the workshop organized by UNECE on Infrastructure Financing (Geneva, 10 September 2013), as a follow-up to the pre-ITC conference and the ITC policy segment. Information was also given about the ongoing discussions with regard to the funding of the project activities.

IX. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

17. The Bureau was informed about UNECE activities in ITS deployment (Informal document No. 7) and on the planned annual flagship workshop on ITS in 2014, which Belgium kindly offered to host and co-organize. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a more detailed report for the seventy-sixth session of the Committee, showing which goals of the ITS road map have been achieved.

Documentation

Informal document No. 7

X. Funding of technical cooperation activities

18. The Bureau was informed about the funding needs of the secretariat in order to meet demand for technical cooperation activities (Informal document No. 8). The Bureau exchanged views on the potential options for improving the fund-raising capacity of the secretariat for these types of activities. Among the ideas that were discussed was a proposal by the EU to explore possibilities for funding of the secretariat's activities in this area by cooperation with relevant EU Eastern Partnership ongoing activities.

19. The Bureau was informed about the progress implementing the UNDA funded project on customs-to-customs electronic document exchange (Informal document No. 9).

Documentation

Informal document No. 8, Informal document No. 9

XI. High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment

20. The Bureau was informed about progress by the THE PEP Steering Committee in preparing the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment that will be hosted by France (Paris, 14-16 April 2014) (Informal document No. 10).

Documentation

Informal document No. 10

XII. Participation by non-ECE contracting parties in the work of the Committee

21. The Bureau was informed about the current rules and regulations covering the involvement of non-ECE States that are Contracting Parties to United Nations legal instruments in the field of transport and the actual numbers of Contracting Parties and legal instruments that are concerned (Informal document No. 11). The Bureau requested the secretariat to expand the relevant informal document in order to cover two additional dimensions, to the extent possible: current practices of all concerned Working Parties of the transport subprogramme and current practices by other UNECE subprogrammes. This paper will be the background document for the discussion in the "Governments only" session.

Documentation

Informal document No. 11

XIII. Evaluation of the activities of the UNECE Transport Division and of ITC and its subsidiary bodies

22. The Bureau was informed about the growing requirement to carry out independent evaluations of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, their relevance, cost-effectiveness and how much value they add. The evaluation methods and processes used by UNECE have been reviewed by an external consultant. The Bureau was informed about the consultant's recommendations and the UNECE management response. Based on these, the UNECE evaluation guidelines will be prepared. Once approved, the subprogrammes and, in this sense, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, will have to implement them (Informal document No. 12).

Documentation

Informal document No. 12

XIV. Approval of the biennial evaluation of the Committee's work 2012–2013

23. The Bureau considered the draft biennial evaluation (programme performance assessment) of its work for 2012–2013 (draft ECE/TRANS/2014/20). This document provides an overview of the performance assessments of the transport subprogramme in line with what the Inland Transport Committee adopted at its seventy-fourth session in 2012.

24. The Bureau recommended the Committee to approve the 2012–2013 programme performance assessment at its seventy-sixth session in 2014.

Documentation

Draft ECE/TRANS/2014/20

XV. Programme of work and biennial evaluation 2014–2015 and Strategic framework for 2016–2017

25. The Bureau considered the programme of work, expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement proposed for each cluster of activities of the Transport programme of work for the period 2014–2015 in draft ECE/TRANS/2014/21.

26. The Bureau recommended the Committee to approve the draft programme of work and plan for biennial performance evaluation for 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/2014/22).

27. The Bureau also considered and adopted the UNECE Transport Subprogramme Draft Strategic Framework (biennial programme plan) for the period 2016–2017 (ECE/TRANS/2014/23). The Draft Strategic Framework including expected accomplishments and the strategy had been prepared on the basis of the mandate of the Transport Subprogramme, the accomplishments expected to be achieved in the previous biennium, and the United Nations guidelines for the preparation of the strategic biennial plans.

28. In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the Strategic Framework must be reviewed by the Sectoral Committees, (or their Bureaux – in case of Committees not having met during the last four months of 2013) before its submission to the Executive Committee of the ECE in December 2013 and to the United Nations Headquarters (Programme Planning and Budget Division) in early 2014.

Documentation

Draft ECE/TRANS/2014/21, draft ECE/TRANS/2014/22, and draft ECE/TRANS/2014/23

XVI. Consideration of items of the agenda for the seventy-sixth session of the Inland Transport Committee

29. The Bureau considered and approved the provisional agenda of the seventy-sixth session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/239) and reviewed the draft annotated Agenda (ECE/TRANS/239/Add.1). The Bureau requested the secretariat to proceed with the

organization of the seventy-sixth session of the Committee and its related events accordingly.

30. In accordance with the decision of the Bureau at its June meeting, the seventy-sixth session should begin with a half-day policy segment organized around the theme of sustainable transport. A concept note on the policy segment was prepared by the secretariat. The Bureau considered and approved the proposed theme of the concept note “Innovations for sustainable transport and mobility” (Informal document No. 13) and requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of adding a fourth segment dealing with institutional innovations.

31. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress in organizing the half-day policy segment (morning of 25 February 2014), including the identification of high-level speakers for the policy segment. The Bureau requested the secretariat to strengthen the interactive features of the event, by, for example panel discussions, instead of invited speakers. The Bureau also requested the secretariat to promote the policy segment, inter alia, by sending invitations to Ministries of Transport to that effect.

32. The Bureau reviewed and approved the planned documents for the seventy-sixth session of the Committee, as presented in the draft annotated agenda. Additionally, the Chair of the Bureau requested the secretariat for more information on the activities in the field of vehicle regulations and an official document for the upcoming Committee session on the pending modification of the 1958 Agreement.

Documentation

Draft ECE/TRANS/239, draft ECE/TRANS/239/Add.1, Informal document No. 13

XVII. Other business

A. Election of officers for the Committee’s sessions and members of the Bureau for the years 2014 and 2015

33. The Bureau exchanged views on the forthcoming election of officers for the Committee’s sessions and the Bureau for 2014 and 2015. Among other things, it expressed its concern over the repeated absence of some of its members. With the purpose of attracting committed candidates, it requested the secretariat to send letters to Ministers of Transport reminding them that elections are forthcoming and encouraging them to put forth high-calibre candidates. The Bureau decided to re-consider the issue of the number of members of the Bureau at the seventy-sixth session of the Committee.

B. Schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings 2015–2016

34. The Bureau considered and approved Informal document No. 14 prepared by the secretariat containing the proposed schedule of the Committee and its Bureau meetings in 2015 and 2016.

Documentation

Informal document No. 14

C. Date of next meeting

35. The Bureau confirmed that its next meeting will be convened on Monday, 24 February 2014, in the afternoon.

36. The Bureau also confirmed that its meeting following the seventy-sixth Committee's session will be convened on 27 February 2014, in the afternoon.

D. Staffing situation

37. The secretariat informed the Bureau on staffing issues, notably in relation to new staff added to the subprogramme, pending retirement of senior staff and other related issues.
