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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Transport Statistics****Sixty-sixth session**

Geneva, 17–19 June 2015

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics****Classification system for Transport Statistics****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

This document is submitted in line with cluster 13: Transport Statistics, paragraph 13.1 of the programme of work 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 100, ECE/TRANS/2014/23) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 27 February 2014.

**II. Report of the Task Force on classification****A. Attendance**

1. The Task force on classification was held at the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic (Prague). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Eurostat, International Transport Forum (ITF) and the UNECE secretariat were also present.

**B. Election of Chairman**

2. The Task Force meeting elected Mr. Peter Smeets (Netherlands) as the Chair of the Meeting.

### **C. Adoption of agenda**

3. The Task Force meeting adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat.

### **D. Maintenance of the classification NST2007**

4. The Task Force agreed that there are no major maintenance issues of the NST2007 at this time.

The 20 divisions and the 81 groups are sufficient for publication. However some divisions are too aggregated and it is advised to collect data as much as possible on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level (81 groups). Especially division 2 (coal and lignite; crude petroleum and natural gas) needs attention. For inland waterway statistics and for maritime statistics, the groups (02.1, 02.2 and 02.3) should be used. These specific commodities need special types of vessels.

### **E. Correspondence tables**

5. The Task Force was aware of the need to maintain correspondence tables between the NST2007 and the not totally phased out NST/R. Correspondence table CN – NST/R is maintained by Eurostat (external trade) and is available until the year 2014. Also a correspondence table between CPA2008 and CN2014 exists.

6. UNECE presented the correspondence table between CPA2008 and the NST2007 and the informal document WP.6 No. 1 (2013) both the “short” and “long” version will be made available by UNECE.

7. Eurostat will contact the CPA responsible unit and inform the Task Force by e-mail about the status of the CPA2008 and about planned modifications in the future. In case of a substantial modification to the CPA, the Task Force will be informed and the correspondence table between with NST2007 will be revised and notified to the Task Force.

8. UNECE will prepare a document in which the CN8 (version 2014), CPA2008, NST2007 and NST/R are linked.

### **F. (DIS) Aggregations**

9. Currently, there is no need to define other NST2007 aggregations than the 20 divisions. However the German aggregates (NST-2007 – Einheitliches Güterverzeichnis für die Verkehrsstatistik.pdf) are a good example of NST2007 aggregates. The Task Force advised the member States to create their own, aggregates in cooperation or not with other countries. Even in per mode of transport the needs for aggregates can differ. The aggregates can be based on the 20 divisions or on the 81 groups of the NST2007.

10. Some countries need even more disaggregated information on certain commodities. Sweden for example needs to distinguish timber from other forestry products. For the time being, the international organizations (UNECE/Eurostat/ITF) are not submitting further subdivisions of NST2007 and leave it to the member States.

### **G. Specific new commodities**

11. From time to time, new commodities appear in the statistical material; for example biodiesel, RDF (refuse derived fuel), etc. The Task Force considered the procedures to deal

with the classification of new products. Eurostat will collect these new items and suggest them to the Working Party on Transport Statistics for decision. For nonspecific descriptions like “pipes”, “windows”, etc., there should be a procedure of classification. The focal point (Eurostat) has to deal with items that are of interest for more countries.

## **H. Time series**

12. The Task Force discussed how to deal with the relation between time series while converting NSTR to NST2007 (and back). It was agreed that it is up to the countries to deal with this problem.

## **I. Other matters**

13. Member States exchanged information on systems of classification they are using.

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