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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Transport Statistics

Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 25–27 May 2016

### Report of the Working Party on Transport Statistics on its sixty-seventh session

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## **I. Attendance**

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its sixty-seventh session from 25 to 27 May 2016 in Geneva under the chairmanship of Ms. O. Kastlova (Czech Republic).
2. The session of the Working Party was attended by the following countries: Belgium; Canada; Czech Republic; Germany; Ireland; Netherlands; Poland; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Sweden and Switzerland.
3. Representatives of the European Union (EU) were also present (DG MOVE, and Eurostat). The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Eurasian Economic Commission; European Railway Agency (ERA); Danube Commission; International Transport Forum (ITF); International Road Federation (IRF) and International Union of Railway (UIC).

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/170

4. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/170).

## **III. UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies (agenda item 2)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/254 and Add.1

5. The Working Party took note of the results of the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (23–26 February 2016), in particular all activities of its subsidiary bodies and the UNECE secretariat of interest to the Working Party.
6. The Working Party was informed about the meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies during the last ITC session. Within the framework of the 70th anniversary of the ITC preparation, the Working Party decided to prepare a publication about the WP.6 activities. The delegates requested the secretariat to suggest outlines and to circulate it among the member States.
7. The Working Party was informed that the ITC approved as a whole the report and related activities of the Working Party on Transport Statistics in 2015 (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/169).

## **IV. Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics (agenda item 3)**

### **A. Glossary for Transport Statistics**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/2

8. The Working Party was informed of the process of elaboration of the fifth edition of the Glossary.
9. The Working Party encouraged all delegates to participate in the meetings to be organized for the revision of the Glossary and invited the secretariat to take into account the

existing glossaries for various modes in order to increase the harmonization (Organization for Cooperation between Railways, UIC, etc.).

10. The Working Party considered documents ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/2 related to amendments to be included in the fifth edition of the Glossary. These documents should be discussed further during the coming review of the Glossary.

11. The Working Party invited all member States to submit suggestions for improvements or/and additions to the Glossary.

## **B. Classification system for transport statistics of goods (NST 2007)**

*Documentation:* Informal document WP.6 No. 1 (2016)

12. The Working Party took note of the informal document WP.6 No. 1 (2016) on the classification NST 2007.

13. Delegates were invited to inform the Working Party of their experiences on the use of NST 2007 at the next session. They are welcome to submit to the secretariat any questions or requests, comments, concerning the classification.

## **C. Common Questionnaire**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2015/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2015/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2015/3

14. The Working Party took note of the availability of data collected through the Common Questionnaire for transport statistics.

15. The Working Party took note of draft short version prepared by the ITF and will discuss the final result of this exercise.

16. The Working Party decided to organize task forces in order to further streamline the Common Questionnaire.

17. The Working Party invited all member States to participate more actively in the data collection through the web Common Questionnaire.

## **D. Road traffic accident statistics and rail traffic accidents statistics**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/4, Informal document WP.6 No. 2 (2016)

18. The Working Party welcomed presentations from DG MOVE and ERA.

19. The Working Party decided to send a pilot questionnaire on the collection of the main indicators on rail traffic accidents (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/4) for the member States where data are not available from other sources.

20. The Working Party was informed of the results of the UNECE Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings (Informal document WP.6 No. 2 (2016)). Furthermore, the Working Party decided to send a pilot questionnaire on the indicators as requested.

21. The Working Party decided to keep this issue on its agenda.

## **E. Pilot questionnaire on road traffic performance**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/5

22. The Working Party took note of the official version of the pilot questionnaire on road traffic performance (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2016/5).

## **F. Intermodal transport statistics**

23. The Working Party was informed that the Guidelines on the compilation of intermodal statistics at national level using the “German Approach” will be used for a pilot collection of intermodal indicators.

24. The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda for its next session.

## **V. Traffic censuses in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (agenda item 4)**

### **A. 2015 E-Road traffic census**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2013/4 and Corr.1

25. The Working Party invited all member States to implement the resolution on the census adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee in 2014 (ECE/TRANS/240, annex II) and the recommendations to governments related to this census (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2013/4 and Corr.1).

26. The Working Party asked the secretariat to dedicate more resources for the dissemination of the road census results.

### **B. 2015 E-Rail traffic census**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2013/5

27. The Working Party invited all member States to implement the resolution on the census adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee in 2014 (ECE/TRANS/240, annex III) and the recommendations to governments related to this census (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/2013/5).

28. The Working Party asked the secretariat to dedicate more resources for the dissemination of the rail census results.

## **VI. Development of a global indicator framework for the SDGs (agenda item 5)**

29. The Working Party took note of the activities of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) in particular about the list of the indicators to measure SDGs.

## **VII. Dissemination of transport statistics by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (agenda item 6)**

30. The Working Party took note of the work on the UNECE transport statistics database and the status of the publications: Statistics for Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS) and the “UNECE Transport Statistics for Europe and North America” (former Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS)) and the timescales for their publication.

## **VIII. Capacity-building activities (agenda item 7)**

31. During its last session, the Inland Transport Committee asked the secretariat to explore the possibilities of organizing a regional capacity-building event in the field of transport statistics.

32. The Working Party welcomed the planned workshop on transport statistics in Turkmenistan (8–9 September 2016) on the use of the Web Common Questionnaire with the purpose of improving the response rate. The Working Party will be informed of the outcome at its next session in 2017.

## **IX. Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) (agenda item 8)**

33. The Working Party took note of the IWG activities during the past year.

## **X. Statistical activities of international organizations of interest to the Working Party (agenda item 9)**

### **A. European Commission (DG MOVE)**

34. The representative of DG MOVE informed the Working Party about the developments in the Community transport policy and their statistical implications. He presented an interactive tool to compare member States performances across a set of 29 indicators covering four different areas (internal market, investment and infrastructure, energy union and innovation, and people).

35. He informed the Group that the European Alternative Fuels Observatory will integrate relevant data, information, news items, newsletters and other publications. The priorities are electro-mobility, hydrogen and LNG/CNG.

36. For the Common Questionnaire, the representative of DG MOVE suggests to double-check the figures reported in the questionnaire with other external sources, with the purpose to identify potential inconsistencies in data. For instance:

- Rail stock: the data reported over the questionnaire should be equal or higher than the data coming from UIC as the coverage corresponds to all the undertakings and not to a part of them. However, there are some cases in which this is not always the case;
- Rail traffic: the traffic in train-km reported under the questionnaire differs (sometimes significantly) from the traffic data reported under Reg. 91/2003;
- Rail infrastructure: Germany reported in 2016 that the questionnaire data is too high (41,000 km) compared to UIC data (around 33,000 km), DESTATIS (around

37,800 km) and the Independent Regulators Group Rail (IRG-Rail) (around 38,800 km). Similarly, Norway pointed out that the questionnaire value is also too high because it includes lines which are not in use;

- Road infrastructure: not very clear whether all the data makes reference to the same period of the year (beginning, ending or somewhere in between);
- Road vehicle stock: this data tends to be subject to many revisions due to changes in national registrations;
- New registrations: many differences between this data and other sources (e.g. the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association data). Is it due to registrations of used cars?

37. For the streamlining of the Common Questionnaire, the representative of DG MOVE recommends to set an indicative target for the reduction of the number of questions in the questionnaire and evaluate the possibility to reach that target for each question, on the basis of their importance for policy making and economic analysis.

38. The representative of DG MOVE (CARE secretariat) presented the methodology of CARE Database and progress in harmonization of the definition on seriously injured people during road traffic accidents using MAIS 3+ (Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale) classification. Furthermore, she informed that about half of the EU member states has for the year 2014 reported serious injuries also according to the MAIS 3+.

## **B. European Commission (Eurostat)**

39. The representative of Eurostat informed the Working Party about the activities of his organization and the main objectives of their programme of work, in particular: two legal proposals for Rail and Inland Waterways.

40. Among the Eurostat priorities in 2016, he mentioned the continued streamlining and harmonisation of transport in particular the two voluntary data collections and the Eurostat grants in 2016 (one for passenger mobility of €600,000 and one for Intermodal of €150,000).

41. The Working Party was also informed about the Safety Project carried out by Eurostat.

## **C. International Transport Forum (ITF)**

42. The representative of ITF reported on the results of the annual Summit in Leipzig (18–20 May 2016, Germany). He also informed the Working Party about the third ITF Transport Statistics Meeting (17–18 March 2016) and the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on Big Data and Open Data (23–24 March 2016).

## **D. Danube Commission**

43. The representative of the Danube Commission informed the Working Party about recent activities carried out in her organization.

## **E. European Railways Agency (ERA)**

44. The representative of the ERA presented the safety statistics gathered by the European Railway Agency.

## **XI. Election of officers (agenda item 10)**

45. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party elected Ms. Olga Kastlova (Czech Republic) as Chair and Mr. Peter Smeets (Netherlands) as Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2017–2018.

## **XII. Other business (agenda item 11)**

### **A. Date of next session**

46. The Working Party decided to hold its next session 14–16 June 2017. The first day will be dedicated to specific items of interest to be decided based on proposals received from delegates.

### **B. Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics**

47. The Working Party took note of preliminary dates and venues of meetings in 2016–2017:

Working Group on Road Freight Statistics (Eurostat)	9–10 June 2016
Care Database (Brussels)	8 October 2016
Coordinating Group for Statistics on Transport (CGST, Eurostat)	24–25 November 2016
ITF Statistics Meeting	March 2017
UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6)	7–9 June 2017
Coordination Committee for Statistics on Transport (Eurostat)	November/ December 2017

## **XIII. Summary of decisions (agenda item 12)**

48. As agreed and in line with the decision of ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, para. 6), the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, has prepared this report.

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