



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Seventy-ninth session

Geneva, 21-24 February 2017

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the ITC

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2016

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains the results of the meetings held by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2016.

The Committee is invited to **consider** document ECE/TRANS/2017/25 and 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/254, para. 163), the Bureau of the ITC met on 26 February, 7 June, 28 September and from 29 to 30 November 2016.
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:
 - (a) the preparation of a well-focused agenda with defined objectives and allocated times for the items;
 - (b) the indication of main topics where decisions are needed;
 - (c) the selection of themes of discussion for the session;
 - (d) the monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session;
 - (e) the monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication with the work of other relevant organizations;
 - (f) and the proposal of priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).
3. The annexes present 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 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (26 February 2016)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain), Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Bob Oudshoorn (the Netherlands), Mr. Rolf Zimmermann (Switzerland)¹, Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), and Mr. Roman Symonenko (Ukraine) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Sergei Dubina (Belarus), Isabelle Paillet (France) and Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), were unable to attend.

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

2. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee and its policy segment, which were well-attended and led to the adoption of several important decisions. More than 200 participants from 51 countries, including 23 outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region had attended the annual session, alongside the European Commission and thirty-six international and non-governmental organizations. The Bureau welcomed the timely preparation and dissemination before the annual session of the official documents and their translation, as well as of a streamlined draft list of main decisions in all three ECE official languages and thanked the secretariat for its work.

3. The Bureau concluded that the policy segment organized in the morning of 23 February 2016 on ‘Innovations for Sustainable Inland Transport with Special Attention to Information and Communication Technologies’ focused on a topical issue with high-calibre speakers. The challenge of the transition to sustainable mobility and transport is at the heart of the work of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), and the policy segment was opened with the launch of the global study “Transport for Sustainable Development - The case of Inland Transport”, which is the result of cooperation among the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations and key global stakeholders, particularly the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the International Union of Railways (UIC), and lead by UNECE. The Committee’s work received valuable support from governments and stakeholders in its efforts to provide an international platform bringing together policymakers, disseminating best practices, providing capacity-building and carrying out analytical activities. As the global community moves in the direction of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee proved again its role as (a) a centre of international agreements and conventions accelerating the introduction of common standards and internationally agreed regulations for sustainable transport and mobility, including in urban environments, (b) a forum that collects and disseminates best practices from around the world, (c) a platform for policy and institutional analysis and (d) a

¹ Replacing Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly who could not attend.

coordinator for enhanced capacity-building and technical assistance to relevant member States.

4. The Bureau welcomed the results of the sixth meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's subsidiary bodies that was held as a restricted meeting for Government delegates only. In total 70 representatives from 35 countries, including 11 non-UNECE member States and 12 Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees participated. The debate that ensued stirred insightful and productive exchanges on how to strengthen the participation of non-ECE Contracting Parties in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and is contained in Annex II of ECE/TRANS/254/Add.1.

5. The Bureau was of the view that the draft list of decisions should continue to be circulated in a timely way to ITC member States, following the good practice established. If possible, it would be helpful for all Government delegates to receive a note by the secretariat linking decisions with the agenda items to which they correspond. To increase efficiency for the seventy-ninth session of the ITC the list of draft decisions would benefit by being more streamlined and focused on decisions for the Committee's adoption. Additionally, some Bureau members felt that draft decisions should be addressed during the normal agenda item that they corresponded to, thus avoiding to the extent possible opening at the final segment of the meeting decisions that were otherwise not discussed during their respective agenda items.

6. The Bureau welcomed the active participation of non-UNECE member States at the various agenda items and supported the continuation of this trend in the future but with the expectation that the focus will be on interventions by Governments.

7. The June meeting of the Bureau should consider the topic for next year's meeting. Potential themes were not discussed during the Bureau meeting.

8. Given the decision at the restricted session that was adopted by ITC to undertake a strategic review of the Committee at its seventy-ninth annual session, the topic for next year's restricted session would focus on this strategic matter.

9. Although the annual session finished on time, the complexity of the agenda and the innovative combination of the thematic and Working Party issues created time constraints. There were comments that certain parts of the agenda would have benefited from some extra time, especially when Chairs of Working Parties were present. Also some themes, such as financial issues were discussed under multiple agenda items; perhaps one dedicated agenda item would provide a more effective way of tackling this issue.

10. There was general agreement that a one-day policy segment, together with the ITC itself, the exhibition and the side events was a winning formula and that was demonstrated by the higher than usual levels of attendance that could be repeated in the future.

III. Date of next meeting

11. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, 7 June 2016 starting at 10 a.m. in Room VIII.

Annex II

Results of the second meeting of the 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (7 June 2016)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Sergei Dubina (Belarus), Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain), Mr. Bob Oudshoorn (the Netherlands), Ms Isabelle Paillet (France), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), and Mr. Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission). Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan) and Mr. Roman Symonenko (Ukraine) were unable to attend.

II. Taking stock of the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee

2. The Bureau took note of Informal document No. 1 on the seventy-eighth session of the Committee and reaffirmed the opinion that the event had been well organized and very successful, in terms of the level and duration of attendance and the decisions taken. At the same time, the Bureau was of the opinion that certain aspects of the meeting remained to be improved, such as further streamlining decisions and creating more time for discussions during the various agenda items.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

III. Meeting of the ITC Chair with the Executive Committee

3. The Chair informed the Bureau about his participation in the eighty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 10 May 2016, including the adoption of all ITC-relevant draft decisions. The work of the ITC was presented at the same session as those of the Working Group on Ageing and the Committee on Environmental Policy. The presentation gave the opportunity to show the global significance of the scope and achievements of the ITC work, also from the point of view of EXCOM.

Documentation

ITC Chair report to EXCOM and PowerPoint presentation

IV. Follow-up to the Governments-only restricted session

4. The Bureau recalled that, in recognition of the need for the Committee to adapt to a fast-changing global environment, the latter had decided that the secretariat should draft a strategy paper with priorities and main directions, in consultation with the Bureau, the Chairs of ITC subsidiary bodies and the Administrative Committees of United Nations transport conventions under the purview of the Committee. This draft strategy paper would then be submitted to the Committee at its seventy-ninth session in 2017. If adopted, it could

take the form of an ITC resolution that could then be submitted for endorsement to the Commission at its jubilee anniversary in 2017.

5. The secretariat provided information on the progress of the strategy paper and the timeline for preparing the strategy and its accompanying draft resolution on the future of ITC. The Bureau noted that the transport subprogramme had undergone two extensive external reviews by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), i.e. an audit and an evaluation, the results of which should be taken on board in the preparation of the strategy paper, when relevant. In addition, a major evaluation activity was underway with regard to the transport of dangerous goods. Those results will also have to be taken into account in the ITC strategy.

6. In this context, the secretariat also informed the Bureau about global processes of direct interest to ITC, in particular those that might provide inputs in the ongoing discussions about the perceived need for institutional rearrangements in inland transport. The Bureau noted with interest these developments and requested the secretariat to provide its views on the key drivers of such types of initiatives and their implications (which has been followed up with an e-mail from the Director).

7. In light of these developments, the Bureau unanimously acknowledged the importance of ensuring that the global role of the Committee is adequately recognized and promoted. Potential ways for achieving this were discussed more extensively by Bureau members, including: the seventieth anniversary publication which will further highlight the role of the Committee over the last 70 years, the reporting functions of the Committee, its potential renaming, as well as its global outreach, showing transport achievements from the starting point in 1947 up to 2016. The Bureau also stressed the importance of the timely preparation and sharing of the strategy paper for consultations and negotiations with Governments in the run-up to the seventy-ninth annual session of the Committee. In this regard, the Bureau requested the secretariat to organize an extraordinary meeting of the Bureau in the second half of September 2016, where the draft strategy and resolution would be discussed. It further requested the secretariat to discuss progress with, collect inputs from and, if ready, circulate the above outputs to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) at its fall session (Geneva, 5-7 September 2016) and other Working Parties sessions in the run-up to the anniversary annual session of ITC.

V. Preparing for the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee

8. The Committee was founded in 1947 and the 2017 annual session of ITC will mark its seventieth anniversary. Document ECE/TRANS/2016/25 had outlined the plans for the celebration of the work and accomplishments of ITC over the past seven decades. The Bureau had the possibility to brainstorm about and discuss the themes and activities at the anniversary session.

9. The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its last session, had invited its Working Parties to consider preparing resolutions for adoption on topics that are important for their work and expressed the wish that these ITC resolutions would then be presented at the sixty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2017. The members of the Bureau had the opportunity to exchange ideas on how to better implement this request, for example in the case of ongoing important projects such as Unified Railway Law and Euro-Asian Transport Links.

10. The Bureau discussed the preparation of the seventy-ninth session of the Committee. It agreed on the structure of the draft provisional agenda, as contained in Informal document No. 2. The Bureau emphasized the need to keep the Committee's session in a

proper order and being responsible for the most important event, and as a consequence the representatives of the Bureau will lead all official events during upcoming ITC sessions - as a rule.

11. The Bureau considered possible themes for the ministerial segment (policy segment) of the annual session, while taking into account Informal document No. 3. There was agreement on the theme of the Ministerial, 'Past and Future of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee', as it was felt that this theme would create space for reflection of the Committee's past achievements, current performance and future trajectory, highlighting its evolution and underlining its future potential. The Bureau was of the opinion that adequate time needs to be allocated for Government interventions and that the number of panels is too high and that panels with six or more speakers must be avoided. Assuming that there will be thematic panels and, in particular, if there is a panel on 'Intelligent Transport Systems and Automated Driving' a slot was asked for a brief report on the Dutch EU Presidency conclusions in this area. A similar request concerned Spain's potential participation in panels 1 and 2.

12. On the scheduled high-level side events proposed for the morning of Wednesday 22 February, the Bureau noted that they were intended for high-level ITC participants who were not eligible to attend the Governments-only restricted session. Their primary target would be to offer policy dialogue at CEO level, but involving representatives of the academia and civil society. The Bureau requested a more developed draft programme and also information if the side events were part of the Committee session and, if so, if their results should be reflected in the report of the Committee session.

13. In terms of the timing of the event, it was proposed that it might be advantageous to move the signing of the Resolution to before the lunch break, rather than the end of the day, in order to maximize the number of ministers who would attend.

14. The Bureau welcomed detailed information on the organization of the Global Road Safety Film Festival by LASER International and ITC and under the aegis of the Special Envoy for Road Safety.

15. The Bureau welcomed information about the plans for the exhibition themes that will take place concurrently with the ITC annual session. Namely, the ITC exhibition will be based on the history line, while other exhibition themes will be considered subject to exhibitors' interest.

16. The Bureau took note of the secretariat's efforts to secure extrabudgetary resources, in order to support the organization of hospitality and, if possible, finance the participation of high-level Government officials from countries that would otherwise not have the ability to attend.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2, Informal document No. 3

VI. 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

17. The Bureau recalled that the Committee had welcomed, at its previous annual session, the mapping of the Sustainable Development Goals and the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Bureau welcomed information about ongoing work linking the Sustainable Development Goals with United Nations transport conventions under the purview of the Committee. The Bureau also took note of an update on ongoing discussions for the formulation of a regional review mechanism.

18. The Bureau took note with interest of the plans of the United Nations Secretary-General to convene a global conference on sustainable transport in Turkmenistan and requested the secretariat to (a) inform the Bureau about potential outputs, such as draft Declarations, etc., and (b) check whether the dates for the scheduled November 2016 Bureau meeting would have to be changed, in case of scheduling conflict with the global conference.

VII. Other business

A. Date of next meeting

19. The Bureau agreed that it would hold an extraordinary meeting in September 2016 and requested the secretariat to identify potential dates for the meeting.¹ The Bureau noted that its November 2016 meeting would be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, 29-30 November 2016, unless external factors (Global Conference) would necessitate a rescheduling.

B. Inland Water Transport

20. At the request of the Netherlands, the following agenda items were added to the agenda of the Bureau meeting: (a) information about the updating of the Terms of Reference and strategy for the Working Party on Inland Transport (SC.3), (b) updating of products such as AGTC, its protocol and the Blue Book in ways that improve the image of the Division and the work of member States, and (c) resource demands to provide the necessary information for the previous items. The Netherlands informed the Bureau that resource constraints necessitate that there is no overlap and duplication between the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3), the ITC subsidiary body responsible for inland water navigation, and other relevant bodies. To address this question, the secretariat provided detailed information on the ongoing strategy discussion by member States in the appropriate forum (SC.3/WP.3), the outcomes of which are expected in 2016.

C. ITC representation by its elected officials in fora outside UNECE

21. At the request of Belgium, the ITC Chair informed the Bureau and the secretariat about his participation at the Transport Research Arena 2016 Conference (Warsaw, 18-21 April 2016) as a speaker in Plenary Session 2 on 'Automation in Transport'.

¹ 28 September 2016 for the extraordinary meeting.

Annex III

Results of the third (extraordinary) meeting of the 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (28 September 2016)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain), Ms. Daria Kudelevich (Belarus)¹, Ms Isabelle Paillet (France), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Mr. Roman Symonenko (Ukraine). Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Bob Oudshoorn (the Netherlands), Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium) and Mr. Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission) were unable to attend.

II. History of the Inland Transport Committee

2. The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its seventy-eighth session, had unanimously supported the secretariat for an anniversary publication about the history of the Inland Transport Committee. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the preparation of this publication.

3. The Bureau agreed to change the title of the fourth module of the History Publication from 'World Transport and Communication News' to 'World Transport and Communication Innovations and Events'.

4. The Bureau agreed to forward to the secretariat inputs and comments on the History Publication until 5 October 2016. The revised version would be uploaded online and be available for final comments until 31 October 2016. Afterwards it would be closed, in order to be finalized for publication and distribution to all ITC delegates at the ITC anniversary session. Enough copies of the printed publication should be made so that they could also be distributed at the Commission anniversary session in April.

5. The publication will be the basis for the ITC exhibition. The exhibition materials could be used at other appropriate occasions, for example at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

6. Subject to availability of funding, the printed publication and with a ribbon will be offered to all ITC delegates, and, if sufficient copies are available, to disseminate it also during the Commission anniversary session in April. The publication will also be developed into an electronic format for the website. For some parts of the publication for which additional content is available, 'augmented reality' applications or similar formats could be used to offer a more complete package that includes existing content that cannot be available in the confined space of the printed version or the exhibition panels. Bureau members were requested, when they feel that there is a website where a connection would be important, to share it with the secretariat so that it can be included in this application.

¹ Replacing Mr. Sergei Dubina who could not attend.

7. The availability of the publication in languages other than English was also discussed, noting that costs will have to be considered.

8. Parallel with the main publication, Bureau members were informed that the aim is to also have narrower thematic presentations. Secretaries of most relevant Working Parties are responsible for those. Some will be ready by the dates of the ITC meeting, others might need more time. Those that are ready, would be included in the package that will be distributed to delegates.

III. Seventieth Anniversary – Ministerial Resolution

9. The Bureau took note of Informal document No. 1 and was informed about the status of the draft Resolution and of the negotiations process.

10. Bureau members stressed the importance of having the draft Resolution finalized on time for signature at the anniversary session of the ITC by Ministers and therefore the importance of its distribution to capitals as soon as possible.

11. Bureau members agreed to forward their comments on the text of the draft resolution until Tuesday, 4 October 2016 cob. Version 3 before the ‘Zero draft’ of the resolution would then be finalized by the secretariat by Friday, 7 October 2016, reflecting also the recommendation for more structured/thematic presentation (as it was in the first draft) and as it was recommended by Bureau members. This draft will then be forwarded to EXCOM for the proposed informal consultations.

12. The Bureau expressed its concern about the limited time for internal consultations in countries and asked for an acceleration of the consultation process, in the hope of circulating the draft resolution in October. To that effect the Bureau expressed the wish that informal consultations with EXCOM would help accelerate the distribution of the draft resolution to ECE Transport Ministers by all means before the next formal EXCOM meeting in November. If EXCOM agrees, the decision could be formalized at the EXCOM meeting in November.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

IV. Strategy of the Inland Transport Committee

13. The strategy paper reviews the achievements of the Committee and looks into the future. The Bureau took note that the formation of the strategy is based on thorough analytical work and can thus take its time. The Bureau also took note that the strategy paper, prepared by the secretariat in close consultation with the Bureau members and Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees, is expected to be a background document for the discussions and negotiations by Governments.

14. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the development of the survey that was launched in support of the Strategy, noting that the questions have been developed in consultation with the Bureau members and the Chairs of the Working Parties and the Administrative Committees (Informal document No. 3).

15. The Bureau took note of the progress with the ongoing survey and the evidence-based results on the performance assessment of the transport subprogramme, which are expected to contribute to the elaboration of the strategy paper and, eventually, the strategy. The Bureau requested the secretariat to further improve the legends on the presentation ‘Contribution to ITC Strategy paper - Performance Assessment’. The Bureau took note that

there will be a short, concise strategy paper that is going to be supported by a longer and more detailed strategic assessment.

16. The Bureau underlined their expectation to review the full strategy paper at the November meeting of the Bureau.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2, Informal document No. 3

V. Programme for the Ministerial Meeting

17. The Bureau discussed the preparations for the Ministerial of 21 February 2017 (Informal document No. 4).

18. The Bureau discussed the draft programme and welcomed the changes since the Bureau meeting of 7 June 2016. A more detailed programme together with panel concepts will be prepared by the secretariat in due time before the next, November Bureau meeting. Two Bureau members requested to reserve places for their ministers in panel 1. The secretariat will regularly inform the Bureau about progress with organizational details, the choice of a potential moderator and keynote speaker, as well as the development of the panels.

Documentation

Informal document No. 4

VI. The Global Road Safety Film Festival

19. The Bureau, at its June meeting, had welcomed information about the organization of the Global Road Safety Film Festival by LASER International and ITC under the aegis of the Special Envoy for Road Safety. The Bureau was informed about the preparation of the event (Informal document No. 5) and discussed its various aspects, including the award ceremony on 21 February 2017.

20. The Bureau supported that special prizes would be developed, e.g. for languages, i.e. best Russian-speaking film, best French-speaking film, best Spanish film and so on.

Documentation

Informal document No. 5

VII. Media strategy for the Seventieth Anniversary

21. The Bureau took note of Informal document No. 6 that outlined the media strategy for the anniversary and was informed by the secretariat about ongoing plans to raise awareness on the work of the Committee, its past accomplishments and their impact.

Documentation

Informal document No. 6

VIII. High level conference on Sustainable Development, Turkmenistan

22. The Bureau was informed about the planned participation of UNECE at the High Level Conference on Sustainable Transport (Ashgabat, 26-27 November 2016).

23. The Bureau requested the secretariat to circulate relevant web-links and materials and agreed to share information vis-à-vis this important event.

IX. Other business

A. Procedural matter

24. The Bureau decided to agree on the wording of decisions taken during the meeting, at the end of the meeting, in order to facilitate reporting. The Bureau also decided to start following this practice at its next session in November 2016. For the meeting of 28 September 2016 the bureau (a) requested the secretariat to forward the draft decisions by the end of the same day, and (b) invited those delegates that participated at the meeting to send their comments by Monday, 3 October cob.

B. Date of next meeting

25. The Bureau confirmed that its next meeting will take place on 29-30 November 2016, as scheduled. Informal consultations in December may follow the November Bureau meeting, if warranted by important developments.

Annex IV

Results of the fourth meeting of the 2016-2017 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (29-30 November 2016)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Ms. Ingeborg Annette Dettbarn (Germany), Mr. Sergei Dubina (Belarus), Mr. Antonio Erario (Italy), Ms. Carmen Giron (Spain), Mr. Mykhaylo Harmash (Ukraine)¹, Mr. Ravil Isgandarov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Bob Oudshoorn (the Netherlands), Ms. Isabelle Paillet (France) and Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland). Mr. Kristof Schockaert (Belgium) and Mr. Ricardo Pascual Bregon (European Commission) were unable to attend.

II. Ministerial meeting: Draft programme and draft resolution

2. The Bureau discussed the concept note for the Ministerial meeting, the guidelines for the panel discussions and the updated, draft programme, i.e. the policy debate agenda and the planned accompanying activities. The discussion was a continuation of the Bureau meetings in June and September and decisions of the earlier meetings are not repeated here.

3. The Bureau:

- **Welcomed** the draft programme and tentative list of speakers that integrated feedback from June and September Bureau meetings
- **Noted** that in the Ministerial panels, only Ministers are expected to be included and **took note** that there will be possibilities to speak from the floor,
- **Took note with regret** that H.E. Ms. Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and President of the Swiss Confederation in 2017 will not be able to deliver the keynote speech.
- **Unanimously welcomed** the possibility of inviting another Minister from the host country as keynote speaker and requested the secretariat to forward a corresponding request to the Swiss Permanent mission in order to invite, in particular, the Federal Councillor for the Economy or the Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs.

4. The Bureau **noted** that the zero draft of the Ministerial resolution that was developed based on comments from Bureau members, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees, had been shared with UNECE member States and non-UNECE Contracting Parties. An informal consultation had also been organized with EXCOM on 20 October at which 28 missions and two ITC Bureau members participated. Governments had been invited to communicate their comments and recommendations by 15 November 2016. The Bureau **noted with appreciation** that comments had been received to the draft resolution from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and Sweden. The Bureau was also **informed** that the secretariat had

¹ Replacing Mr. Roman Symonenko who could not attend.

produced a draft 1 with the all comments received and had sent it back to the Governments on 21 November 2016 for further comments.

5. From draft 1 and substantive discussions, the Bureau drew up a common position to the draft resolution. The Bureau reached consensus on all but one of the paras. of the draft resolution, and recommended a consolidated draft incorporating the comments received. Among other considerations, the Bureau **recommended** that the Annex and references be moved from the draft Resolution **and added to the full list of legal instruments under the purview of the Committee that will be annexed to the strategy paper**. This would avoid a selective presentation of legal instruments in the resolution. The Bureau also agreed on the title, which would serve as a motto to facilitate an understanding of the content, 'Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility' (draft Resolution attached).

6. The Bureau also was of the view that, as a number of delegations had indicated that more time was needed for internal consultations on draft decision 1 of the Resolution, substantive discussions on this decision could be postponed and, further requested, in the meantime, that EXCOM provide its views on the two proposed paragraphs of decision 1 on parallel reporting to ECOSOC. Thus, the Bureau **requested** the secretariat to forward the agreed upon version of the Resolution to the EXCOM Bureau for its session on 1 December and to the next EXCOM meeting on 16 December 2016. The Bureau was also **informed** that in order to have an official translation of the draft Resolution, the final draft of the Resolution will have to be submitted for translation at latest by 17 January 2017.

7. Finally, the Bureau **recognized** that the consultation process on the draft resolution is still ongoing, and further comments and amendments may be submitted by member States and Contracting Parties to the United Nations Conventions administered by ITC up to 10 December 2016. New comments would be incorporated and a new draft circulated. However, the Bureau also was of the view that it would not be necessary to call for a negotiation meeting at this stage, as it is likely that there will be a consensus outcome for the final text.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1, Informal document No. 2

III. ITC Exhibition and the History line

8. The Bureau recalled that the Committee, at its seventy-eighth session, had unanimously supported the secretariat on an anniversary publication about the history of the ITC and that it had had the opportunity to review progress of the publications at its meetings in June and September 2016. The secretariat expressed its thanks for all who actively gave their support, comments, advice and contributions.

9. The Bureau took note that this publication (electronic and possibly also in hard copy) will be the basis of the ITC exhibition and the secretariat presented the design and shared information about the organization. It is a rather ambitious plan and its execution will depend on the financial needs and capacities. So far, the Cultural Committee of the United Nations Office at Geneva was considering to include it in their official programme.

10. The Bureau:

- **Welcomed** the preparation of the History-line and the Exhibition
- **Took note** that final comments should be sent to the secretariat at latest by Friday, 2 December 2016. The publication would then, go to layout and no further changes would be possible.

- **Invited support** to ensure the publication in hard copy.
- **Invited support** to raise funds to support the preparation of the event.

IV. The Global Road Safety Film Festival and other events at the Ministerial meeting

11. The Bureau, at its June and September 2016 meetings, had welcomed information about the organization of the Global Road Safety Film Festival by LASER International in conjunction with the ITC anniversary session. The Bureau was informed about preparations and exchanged views, specifically on special prizes and the award ceremony planned for the ITC lunch/cocktail on 21 February 2017.

12. The Bureau:

- **Expressed its appreciation** for the well-designed structure of the event, the good cooperation with Laser International Foundation Europe (LIFE), and the high-level of the Jury, presided by UN SG's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt;
- **Welcomed** the opportunity to promote the work of ITC with special prizes; **thanked** Spain for its support for a special prize on best Spanish language film and **encouraged** other countries to consider sponsoring awards in their national languages;
- **Expressed its satisfaction** for the visibility of the Committee on the website of the Festival and **requested** the secretariat to explore possibilities of branding ITC with best films awards.

13. The Bureau was also informed about a number of parallel, high-profile events planned for 20 and 22 February 2017, including a high level meeting on inland water transport (22 February 2017), a workshop on vehicle regulations and climate change mitigation (20 February 2017 with the United Nations Environment Programme), and a workshop on United Nations inland transport conventions (22 February 2017 with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)).

14. The Bureau:

- **Welcomed** information about the organization of the other high-profile events which promote the core work of the Committee: (a) the High-level meeting 'Global Consultation on Inland Water Transport' (22 February 2017), (b) a joint ITC - IsDB capacity-building workshop for the eleven common EATL project - IsDB member States on Conventions under the purview of the Committee, and (c) a joint UNEP-ITC conference on climate change and vehicle emissions (20 February 2017).
- **Also welcomed** information about sponsor packages and secretariat efforts to secure financing of various activities, such as a courtesy lunch for the Ministers and the participants.
- Given that multiple events will be organized, bigger national delegations may attend the annual session. Information on the various events should reach the capitals early so as to facilitate planning, and the secretariat was **requested** to publish a comprehensive time table.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3, Informal document No. 4

V. The Annotated Agenda for the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee

15. The Bureau **considered and approved** the provisional agenda of the seventy-ninth session of the Committee and reviewed the draft annotated agenda. A modification of the annotations on the seventh meeting of the Chairs was requested.² The Bureau **requested** the secretariat to proceed with the organization of the seventy-ninth session of the Committee and its related events accordingly, with the following comments:

(a) **Agreed to** a provisional extension of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals until the formal decision of ITC.

(b) **Decided** that all Groups of Experts should be invited to complete their work within the mandated period; if that is not possible and an extension is necessary, a note should be submitted to the ITC explaining the reasons that necessitated the extension, together with the request for an extension of the mandate.

(c) **Requested** the secretariat to submit to the ITC in 2017, a list of all active Groups of Experts under its responsibility together with information on mandates and durations for every Group.

(d) **Took note** of the request by WP.1 to the Committee for a change of its name from 'Working Party on Road Traffic Safety' to 'Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety'.

(e) **Took note** of information about DETA and the proposal for securing additional funds from ACABQ, and **requested** written information on the costs of this activity and more detailed information on the process and procedure that needs to be followed.

(f) Given that many important developments are planned, **requested that** the draft list of decisions should be comprehensive and **rational**, thus, only incorporating main decisions (such as 'agree', 'request', 'endorse', 'decide', 'approve' and 'adopt'), and reach the capitals at least a week before the annual session.

(g) **Decided** that during the annual session, the Chair should make efforts to reach final agreement on decisions under each agenda item. If that is not possible or takes too long, these decisions should be deferred as pending to the final session on Friday, 24 February 2017. Decisions closed under an agenda item, should not be reopened during the final day. The Chair should make this rule clear to all delegates at the beginning of the meeting.

16. The Bureau **took note** of the request to ITC for an extension of the mandate of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) to the year 2017. Furthermore, the Bureau **agreed** that the Committee consider the relevance of the computerization of the TIR procedure, urging Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders to ensure that the required financing to operationalize the eTIR project be made available.

17. The Bureau **took note** of the activities presented by the secretariat on the important work of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean

² Which now reads: "The Committee will have the opportunity to **review** the strategy paper (Informal Document No. 1) and its concise version (ECE/TRANS/2017/R.1) including main findings and recommendations, in order to **consider** ways to enhance the role and impact of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies vis-à-vis emerging challenges and opportunities globally."

Todt, in advocating for improved road safety and increased accession to the United Nations road safety legal instruments.

18. The Bureau **took note** of the successful finalization of the UNDA-funded project 1213AA on customs-to-customs electronic data exchange.

Documentation

Draft ECE/TRANS/269 and Add.1, Informal document No. 5, Informal document No. 6, Informal document No. 7, Informal document No. 8, Informal document No. 9

VI. Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's Subsidiary Bodies and the Administrative Committees of UN legal instruments under the purview of the UNECE ITC - "Governments only" session

19. The Bureau recalled that, in recognition of the need for the Committee to adapt to a fast-changing global environment, the Committee had decided that the secretariat should draft a strategy paper with priorities and main directions, in consultation with the Bureau, the Chairs of ITC subsidiary bodies and Administrative Committees of the United Nations transport conventions under the purview of the Committee. The outline of the strategy paper had been the subject of consultations with the Bureau members and Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees and was revised following progress in research and drafting.

20. In support of the strategy, a survey had been launched (Informal document No. 11). The questions had been developed in consultation with the Bureau members and Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees. The Bureau was informed about the final outcomes of the survey.

21. The Bureau

- **Took note** of information provided by the secretariat on some of the key drivers for the need to have a strategic review of the ITC. Bureau members participating in the meeting received available drafts of chapters. Since these are work in progress, Bureau members **agreed** that they are not for public use,
- **Stressed** the importance of allowing adequate time for deliberations of capitals.
- **Considered** the possibility of arranging a preparatory meeting before the ITC with the participation of key stakeholders, including transport policy and strategy experts of the ministries, and Chairs and Vice-chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees but, also due to time constraints, **decided** this would not be necessary.
- **Decided** that the importance of the restricted session warranted an extended full-morning session and **requested** the secretariat to adapt the annotated agenda accordingly.

Documentation

Informal document No. 10, Informal document No. 11

VII. High level conference on Sustainable Transport in Turkmenistan

22. The Bureau was informed about the High Level Conference on Sustainable Transport (Ashgabat, 26-27 November 2016), in particular, UNECE participation and side events, the main outcomes of the meeting and their possible relevance for the work of the Committee. The Bureau was informed about a consultation that was launched by ESCAP in Ashgabat on the creation of an International Road Organization (IRO) and exchanged views about the need to assess possible duplication between the activities of IRO and those of the Committee and also the need to provide comments by the secretariat to this initiative.

23. The Bureau:

- **Took note** of the importance of the meeting and **requested** the secretariat to prepare and circulate an informal report on the main highlights.
- **Took note** of UNECE participation and main outcomes of the meeting.
- **Stressed** the importance of ensuring the success of the anniversary session for the Committee, including the Ministerial meeting and the resolution.
- **Took note** of the ongoing efforts by ESCAP to establish an International Road Organization and expressed its concern about the potential duplication of the activities and experience of such an organization with those of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
- **Requested** the secretariat to provide links to the study on IRO that was presented at the Conference and provide comments to the ESCAP initiative, on a need basis.

24. The study is available at:

www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Study%20report%20on%20making%20the%20road%20sector%20a%20key%20vehicle%20for%20sustainable%20development.pdf

VIII. Other business - Date of next meeting

25. The Bureau:

- **Agreed to adopt** the decisions of the Bureau meeting and also **agreed** that the report of the meeting will have to be adopted in a very short span, to give adequate time for editing and submission as an official document to the ITC.
 - **Agreed** on the following dates for its next meetings: on 20 February 2017 at 3 p.m. and on 24 February in the afternoon, or earlier if the Committee's work allows it.
-