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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

##### Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs

###### Seventh session

Geneva, 28 June 2018

## Report of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs on its seventh session

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## **I. Attendance**

1. The Group of Experts (hereafter called the Group) on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs held its seventh session on 28 June 2018. The session was chaired by Mr. A. Maciejewski (Poland - Trans-European Motorway (TEM) Project).
2. Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States participated: Cyprus, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and Turkey.
3. Representative of the following United Nations specialized agency attended the meeting: TEM Project.

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

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/13

4. The Group adopted the agenda.

## **III. Transport Infrastructure Construction costs: Presentations of good practices at national levels for evaluating and calculating them (agenda item 2)**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 1

5. The Group of Experts recalled that based on the Terms of Reference, the Group should focus its work on identifying models, methodologies, tools and good practices for evaluating, calculating and analysing inland transport infrastructure construction costs.
6. The Group recalled that during its previous session, it had decided that chapter two of its final report should include all methodologies and good practices already presented by the experts as well as additional information that might be provided by the ECE member States. Furthermore, the Chair and the secretariat kindly requested the experts to provide a two-page summary of their presentations for incorporation into the chapter. Some countries had already responded to that request and sent to the secretariat all relevant information. The Chair and the secretariat kindly requested also the other countries to respond to this request and provide this information since such approach would bring additional value to the final report of the Group.

## **IV. Transport Infrastructure Construction costs: Presentations of terminologies used (agenda item 3)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/5, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/6.

7. The Group reviewed the formal document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/5 which includes the list of terminologies and the questionnaire on railways construction costs. It was prepared and presented by the representative of PKP Polish Railway Lines (PKP PLK), Mrs. M. Kopczyńska based on comments received at the previous session of the Group. The Group provided some minor amendments and approved the document. The Group thanked the representative of PKP PLK for the excellent work and considered the work on railways finalized meaning that both the questionnaire and the terminologies are ready to be sent to the Governments for their review and answers.

8. The Group reviewed the informal document 3 which included the list of terminologies and the questionnaire on ports construction costs and it was prepared and presented by the representative of the Port of Gdynia (Poland), Mr. J. Koczara. The Group reviewed the documents and provided amendments mainly for the questionnaire to ensure that the real construction costs are requested and not indicators of efficiency of the ports. It also requested the distribution of the documents to major ports by the experts of the Group to ensure their completeness and when finalized their submission as formal documents at the next session of the Group. The port of Klaipeda reacted to this request and provided additional comments on the questionnaire and terminology for the ports with the objective to further improve it. Document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/6 was not ready for the session however it will be submitted after the session in order to make sure that the work also for ports has been finalized and both documents will be ready to be sent to Governments for their review and replies.

9. The Group also recalled that the fifty-third session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (WP.3) was taking place in Geneva from 27 to 29 June 2018. The Chair and the secretariat attended the session of the Working Party and they presented the work of the Group and document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/3 which included the list of terminologies on inland waterways construction costs. Ukraine and Lithuania representatives to WP.3 had already provided comments to this document. A revised version will be prepared by the secretariat for the next session of the Working Party in order for the document to be further reviewed and finalized.

## **V. Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs: Overview of main concerns and considerations (agenda item 4)**

10. The Group summarized as follows the work of the Group so far since this was the last session for its current mandate:

(a) Road transport: leading country is Turkey; both draft terminology and benchmarking study questionnaire have been prepared, discussed and agreed during Group's sessions. Both the questionnaire and the list of terminologies have already been sent through diplomatic channels to all ECE member States and the first replies have already received;

(b) Rail transport: leading country is Poland (PKP PLK in close cooperation with the International Union of Railways (UIC)). Both the draft questionnaire and the list of terminologies for railways construction costs have been prepared, discussed and agreed during Group's sessions. The documents should be sent to Governments for their review and reply;

(c) Inland waterways: the leading body will be the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation. The draft list of terminologies has been prepared, reviewed by the Working Party and it will be finalized during its next session. A draft questionnaire should also be prepared and discussed during the next session of the Working Party;

(d) Intermodal terminals / freight villages: leading organization is Europlatforms; both the draft list of terminologies and the questionnaire have been prepared and discussed during the sessions of the Group. The documents should be sent to Governments for their review and reply;

(e) Ports: the port of Gdynia is the leading port authority. The draft list of terminologies and the questionnaire have been prepared and discussed. The formal

documents should be prepared and further discussed before sending them to Governments for their review and replies.

## **VI. Discussions on the structure of the final report of the Group of Experts (agenda item 5)**

11. The Group recalled that its mandate finished this year (June 2018) and its final report should be submitted for approval at the session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) in September 2018. The Group noted that its final report will not be delivered this year since the data collection and analysis process just started or have not started yet for some modes. Therefore, an extension of the mandate of the Group should be requested during the WP.5 session in September. However, it was agreed that a draft report should be prepared for the session of WP.5 in September which should include as much information as possible. The Group requested the secretariat to ask for an extension of the mandate of the Group for one more year starting after approval by the ExCom in order to be able to finalize its work.

12. The Group also requested the following actions to be taken in order to ensure as much and qualitative collection of data as possible:

(a) A meeting of the Management Committee of the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR) is taking place in Slovenia, 20–21 August, where the questionnaire and the terminology on roads should be somehow brought in the agenda for discussion. A letter should be prepared from the secretariat to CEDR kindly encouraging such an inclusion in the agenda of the meeting;

(b) Similar practice should be followed with railways terminology and questionnaire. Both documents should be disseminated to relevant railways organizations such as UIC, Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), Association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM), Trans-European Railway (TER) and Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) in order to be discussed and reviewed;

(c) The finalized documents for all transport modes should be sent to the Governments through diplomatic channels to the Ministers of Transport and in parallel to all experts. Such approach would create greater dissemination and possibilities of the countries to provide input especially to the questionnaire;

(d) The questionnaire on road transport should be fine-tuned where appropriate by the Turkish delegates the leading country of this Group in order to have an optimised version of the questionnaire and disseminate it accordingly.

## **VII. Other business (agenda item 6)**

13. There were no other items.

## **VIII. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 7)**

14. No more sessions are foreseen for this mandate of the Group.

## **IX. Adoption of main decisions (agenda item 8)**

15. The Group adopted the list of main decisions of its seventh session and requested the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report to be circulated to the members of the Group for comments on items other than those contained in the list of main decisions.

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