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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
(17 - 19 September 2001)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday 17 September 2001

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/WP.5/29 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party | |
| | (a) Economic Commission for Europe | |
| | (b) Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/136 |
| 3. | Follow-up to the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment | JMTE/2001/5 |

* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the fourteenth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations at Geneva (room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Therefore, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html>) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (helena.petersen.dyggve@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, phone the ECE secretariat (int. 72458).

4. Implementation of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas TRANS/WP.5/2001/1
5. Evaluation of inland transport infrastructure projects
 - (a) Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment Project (TINA) TRANS/WP.5/2001/2
 - (b) Methodologies for project appraisal in the New Independent States TRANS/WP.5/2001/3
 - (c) Phased approach to transport infrastructure developments TRANS/WP.5/2001/4
6. Euro-Asian transport links
 - (a) Common ECE/ESCAP strategic vision for Euro-Asian transport links TRANS/WP.5/2001/5
 - (b) Organization of demonstration trains TRANS/WP.5/2001/6
7. Transport in the Mediterranean region
 - (a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centres and Transport Training Centre TRANS/WP.5/2001/7 and Add.1
 - (b) Seminar on Transport Facilitation in the Mediterranean Region organized by CETMO TRANS/WP.5/2001/8
 - (c) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region
 - (d) Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar E/2001/19
8. Assistance to countries with economies in transition TRANS/WP.5/2001/9
9. Coherent European System of International Transport Infrastructures
 - (a) Development of international transport infrastructures TRANS/WP.5/2001/10
 - (b) Thresholds regarding the quality of transport services TRANS/WP.5/2001/11
10. Development of a European Transport Database System TRANS/WP.5/2001/12
11. Draft Programme of Work for 2002-2006 TRANS/WP.5/2001/13
12. Other Business
13. Adoption of the report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

The fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 8 to 11 May 2001.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, concerning such questions as intersectoral cooperation in the ECE, particularly between environment, energy and transport; ECE strategic decisions, the Millennium Declaration as well as operational activities (E/2001/37-E/ECE/1387, paras. 27-41).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-third session in Geneva from 13 to 15 February 2001.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to the work areas as contained in paras. 16 and 22-31 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/136).

3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Working Party will be informed about the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL) and the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL), and the decisions taken at the High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (4 May 2001) and the fourth Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Inland Transport Committee and the Environment Committee (6 June 2001) (JMTE/2001/5).

Other questions related to transport and environment are also being addressed under item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND AREAS

In accordance with the request of the Working Party at its thirteenth session (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras. 12-14 and 18-20), a Status Report of the Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas is under preparation by the European Commission (EC), which will be

circulated when available in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/1. A representative of the European Commission will also report on new developments in respect of Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas.

Representatives of countries concerned may inform the Working Party on recent developments in Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas and discuss the different possibilities as to how improvements in the corridors and areas could be monitored in future.

5. EVALUATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

(a) Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment Project (TINA)

In line with the request of the Working Party, a report is being prepared by the EC outlining the progress made in the coordination of activities carried out in the framework of the partnership for Pan-European transport networks (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras. 18-20). As soon as this report is submitted to the secretariat, it will be circulated as document TRANS/WP.5/2001/2 for consideration by the Working Party.

(b) Methodologies for project appraisal in the New Independent States

At the request of the Working Party, Mr. Arsenov, the representative of the Russian Federation, produced an updated version of his report on methodologies for project appraisal in the New Independent States (which was submitted to the thirteenth session of the Working Party in document TRANS/WP.5/2000/6) taking into account the additional information on strategic environmental assessment, cost-benefit analyses and traffic forecasts made available by the European Commission (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras.21-24). The updated report is being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/3.

The Working Party may wish to consider the item on project appraisal on the basis of new developments made in both, the European Union (EU) and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

(c) Phased approach to transport infrastructure developments

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras.25-26), the TEM and TER Project Central Offices prepared a note identifying acceptable intermediate infrastructure standards and those sections in their networks where such standards could be applied. Both PCOs will also consider the possibility of convening a Workshop on the subject. Relevant information of TEM and TER PCOs is submitted in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/4 for consideration by the Working Party.

The Working Party may consider the information submitted by the TEM and TER PCOs and discuss the aspects which may be taken into account in applying a phased strategy to transport infrastructure development.

6. EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

(a) Common ECE/ESCAP strategic vision for Euro-Asian transport links

As requested by the Working Party, the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have merged the contents of the UNECE strategic paper on Euro-Asian transport links (TRANS/WP.5/2000/9) and of the document containing the basis for a joint ECE/ESCAP programme on the development of Euro-Asian land transport links (submitted to the 2nd international Euro-Asian Conference on Transport held in St. Petersburg on 12-13 September 2000) with a view to having a common ECE/ESCAP strategic vision (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras.30-31).

The Working Party may wish to examine the common strategic vision, which has been developed by the two Regional Commissions and which is circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/5.

In connection with this agenda item, the Working Party may note that, following its request, the ECE and ESCAP secretariats have set up a questionnaire covering the following items:

- Identification of a senior official as national focal point.
- Major economic and regional development strategies along the corridors (including major economic nodes, environmental constraints, etc).
- National transport plans and policies focused on the reform of the regulatory policies, accession to international agreements on transport facilitation and investment projects for the corridors.
- Relevant national transport statistics.

This questionnaire has been addressed, together with the common ECE/ESCAP strategic paper, to those countries which are directly involved in Euro-Asian transport links under consideration.

The Working Party will be informed on progress made in the development of transport connections between Europe and Asia.

(b) Organization of demonstration trains

In the context of the joint ECE/ESCAP programme of work, the Working Party will be informed by a member of the secretariat of the preparations under way to organize such demonstration runs of block trains along the following two routes in order to demonstrate block trains' ability to compete with sea routes (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras.31-33):

(i) Europe (Pan-European transport corridor No.2 (PETrC No.2))-Russian Federation-Korean Peninsula/Japan, with two branches from the Russian Federation to

- Kazakhstan-China and

- Mongolia-China.

The Working Party may recall that the Russian Federation is the responsible lead country for the demonstration runs of block trains on this route. The representative of the Russian Federation will inform the Working Party on the progress made in respect of the preparation of this event.

(ii) South-eastern Europe (Pan-European transport corridor No.4 (PETrC No.4))-Turkey-Islamic Republic of Iran-South Asia - Southeast Asia / Southern China.

The Working Party may also recall that, for the second route, Turkey is the responsible lead country. The representative of Turkey will report to the Working Party on the preparatory work undertaken concerning the organization of the demonstration run of the train on this route (see also document TRANS/WP.5/2001/6).

7. TRANSPORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(a) Mediterranean Transport Study Centres and Transport Training Centre

The Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean (TRANSCEM), and the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) have been asked to report on their activities since the thirteenth session of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras.34-35). Relevant information on the recent activities of CETMO and TRANSCEM are submitted in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/7 and TRANS/WP.5/2001/7/Add.1 for consideration by the Working Party.

(b) Seminar on Transport Facilitation in the Mediterranean Region organized by CETMO

The Working Party will be informed on the findings arrived at during the Seminar on Transport Facilitation in the Mediterranean Region organized by CETMO (TRANS/WP.5/28, para.37). The report on the Seminar will be circulated when available in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/8.

(c) Transport developments in the Mediterranean Region

The Working Party will be informed of recent initiatives undertaken in the region by the ECE secretariat, in particular those in co-operation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). A member of the EC will report on developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum focusing inter alia on the Mediterranean Pan-European Transport Area.

(d) Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Working Party may wish to note that, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1999/37, the ECE and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have prepared an evaluation report on the studies related to the project for the period 1999-2000, which was presented in 2001 (ECE/TRANS/136, para. 30). The two Regional Commissions were requested to continue to follow up the project activities and prepare a report on the studies carried out in 2001-2002 for submission to ECOSOC in 2003.

The evaluation report has been circulated as document E/2001/19 for consideration by the Working Party.

8. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

The Working Party will be informed about the activities of the Regional Advisers and the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT). Information on these items is being circulated as document TRANS/WP.5/2001/9.

The Working Party may also invite Governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) as to the type of assistance which may be forthcoming (TRANS/WP.5/28, para. 38).

9. COHERENT EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

(a) Development of international transport infrastructures

In accordance with the request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/28 paras. 39-40), the secretariat has prepared document TRANS/WP.5/2001/10 showing modifications in the AGR, AGC, AGN and the AGTC transport networks as well as the developments in the TEM and TER projects. This note is being circulated for consideration by the Working Party.

In connection with this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to continue its discussion on the possibility of developing an intermodal analysis of international transport networks taking into account the quality of transport services.

(b) Thresholds regarding the quality of transport services

At its thirteenth session, the Working Party felt that coherence and complementarity among the modal AGR, AGC, AGN and AGTC networks should be improved in the future and that in doing so future work should focus on the establishment of thresholds for the quality of transport services for the different international networks (TRANS/WP.5/28, paras.39-40).

In accordance with the request of the Working Party modal international organizations and the ECE modal Working Parties were approached in order to get relevant information on thresholds for the quality of services.

Relevant information received on the subject under consideration is reproduced in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/11.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN TRANSPORT DATABASE SYSTEM

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.5/28, para.41), the secretariat has prepared document TRANS/WP.5/2001/12, reporting on the progress made in the European Transport Database System and particularly on the extent to which data is actually available and can be exploited.

11. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002-2006

The Working Party may wish to approve its draft programme of work for 2002-2006, on the basis of document TRANS/WP.5/2001/13.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party's fifteenth session is tentatively scheduled to be held from 2-4 September 2002.

13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report of its fourteenth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.



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