REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS
ON ITS FIFTY-THIRD SESSION
(25-27 November 2002)

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REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its fifty-third session in Geneva from 25 to 27 November 2002 under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib, (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. The European Commission (Eurostat) was also represented. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the Danube Commission (DC). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Federation of Road Traffic Crash Victims (FEVR) and the International Union of Railways (UIC). Representatives from the UNECE Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects were also present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/142).

ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

3. The Working Party was informed about relevant activities of UNECE bodies as follows:

(a) Economic Commission for Europe


4. The Working Party was informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session (7-10 May 2001) concerning strengthening the organization, in particular avoiding duplication with other organizations and focus in the work programme (ECE/2002/37-E/ECE/1395, paras. 39-46).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies


5. The Working Party was briefed about the results of the sixty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to the extent that they were related to the area of work of interest to the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/139, paras. 114-119).
6. The Working Party was informed about the priority areas of work regarding transport, environment and health to be undertaken by the UNECE and World Health Organization (WHO) (ECE/AC.21/2002/6 - EUR/02/5040828/6).

(d) Integrated transport and environment


7. The European Environment Agency (EEA) briefed the Working Party about the forthcoming EEA Annual Report, as well as the impact of increased road transport in the EU accession countries on the environment (TRANS/WP.6/2002/1).

8. The representative of the Eurostat reminded the Working Party that the EU may have 25 member countries on 1 May 2004 and that the EU legal instruments would apply to 10 more European States.

INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS (IWG)

(a) Reports of the last three meetings of the IWG


11. The Working Party requested the IWG to submit an annual report on its activities to each annual session of the Working Group.

12. The Working Party requested the IWG to continue to be open in its work to inputs from Governments and relevant specialized institutions.

(b) Cooperation between IWG and UIC

13. In accordance with its request, the Working Party was informed that IWG had considered the question of a formal agreement for collaboration between IWG and UIC. The Working Party accepted the position of the IWG that a formal agreement on collaboration between the IWG and the UIC is not necessary.


16. The Working Party requested the IWG to consider comments received from the member Governments and introduce alterations in documents TRANS/WP.6/2002/3 and Add.1 and to publish the third edition of the Glossary of Transport Statistics including the following modifications:

   - The above-mentioned modifications to the Rail chapter
   - The definitions for the Road chapter approved in 2001
   - The Maritime chapter developed by Eurostat.

17. The Working Party requested the IWG to continue work on the revision of the Glossary and to inform the Working Party about progress. In particular, the Working Party would like to examine proposals for definitions concerning rail accidents, inland waterway transport and intermodal transport at its next session in June 2003.

(d) Common Questionnaire

18. The Working Party was informed by members of IWG on the revision of the Common Questionnaire relative to the preceding version. Changes were relatively minor: numbers of cars are collected in detailed numbers (rather than in thousands), trolley buses were taken out of normal buses and there is collection of data on high-speed trains.

19. In addition, the Eurostat member of the IWG circulated to the members of the Working Party a draft pilot questionnaire on railway transport and invited comments. Another pilot questionnaire on road transport is to be sent out soon. The Working Party accepted these two pilot questionnaires. The results should be presented to the next meeting of the Working Party in June 2003.

20. The Working Party requested the IWG to report on the developments regarding the pilot questionnaires on railway transport and on road transport.
METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(a) Harmonization of transport and environment statistics


21. The Working Party was informed by Eurostat that, due to lack of resources and different priorities, Eurostat has not yet been able to establish the pilot questionnaire for the collection of data on environment and transport, and noted that certain data that may be requested are not collected in certain member States.

22. The Working Party decided to await with this type of statistics and not to overload the Common Questionnaire with a new pilot questionnaire and new variables.

23. In the context of this agenda item, the Working Party appreciated the manual on Statistics on Environmental and Transport issues as prepared by Statistics Denmark and circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2002/4. The representative of Denmark provided the Working Party with additional information regarding this work that would be used as an input for the coming Eurostat task force to deal with Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM) indicators.

(b) Harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics

Follow-up to the Barcelona Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators


24. The Working Party recalled the offer by the Czech Republic to host an ad hoc meeting organized by the UNECE as a follow-up meeting to the Barcelona Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators (28-29 March 2000, Barcelona). The Working Party was informed by the representative of the Czech Republic about follow-up activities envisaged in connection with an ad hoc meeting to be convened in Prague in spring 2003. Details regarding pertinent items related to the ad hoc meeting were circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2002/5.

25. The Working Party accepted the proposal to have an ad hoc meeting on harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics in Prague on 15-16 May 2003 in English only. The Working Party encouraged delegates to prepare documents for this ad hoc meeting.

(c) Harmonization of statistics on the transport of dangerous goods

26. The representative of Eurostat informed the Working Party about developments under way regarding the update on the transport of dangerous goods part of the survey conducted in connection with the Council Regulation on Statistical Returns in Respect of Carriage of Goods by Road (1172/98 of 25 May 1998). Data on the transport of dangerous goods by road will be routinely available from Eurostat. The same data on rail transport would be available, but not before 2006, while Eurostat is just at the beginning of activities necessary to provide framework for the collection of these data for inland waterways.
27. The Working Party invited Eurostat to present, at the next meeting of the Working Party, the information including tables on the collection of data on the transport of dangerous goods which would serve as an incentive for discussion and future work in this area.

(d) Harmonization of road traffic accident statistics

28. Regarding the question of setting up a Common Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accidents Statistics, members of IWG informed the Working Party about the preparation of this Questionnaire on the IWG agenda.

29. The Working Party requested the IWG (ECMT and UNECE members) to prepare a draft Common Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accidents Statistics.

(e) European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) and the International Foundation of Red Cross (IFRC): proposal for the improvement of road traffic accident statistics


30. Representatives of FEVR informed the Working Party about proposals for improvements in road accident statistics which are also under discussion by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (TRANS/WP.1/2002/35/Add.1). The Working Party noted that there may be underreporting of the actual number of injured persons in road traffic accidents depending on the source of information. The usual source is the data from the police, but if one takes data on injuries (serious and/or slight) and fatalities from insurance companies and hospitals, the number of the involved persons is much larger.

31. In the discussion, the Working Party noted that the problem is in different national sources of information and that different definitions of injuries and time of death may also distort the real figure.

32. The Working Party decided to have a thorough discussion of the issue of underreporting of road traffic accidents at its June 2003 meeting. It also requested the secretariat to prepare a simple questionnaire on this issue as a basis for the discussions.

(f) Road traffic accidents caused by the use of a mobile telephone while driving: The experience of Italy

33. The Working Party was informed by the representative of the Istat that the analysis carried out in Italy regarding road traffic accidents caused by drivers using a mobile telephone while driving is still in progress. The Istat will present this issue to the Working Party following the finalization of the study.

(g) Pilot questionnaire on transport of gas through pipelines

34. In accordance with the request by the Working Party, IWG informed the Working Party on progress made regarding the setting up of a pilot questionnaire on gas pipelines. The IWG is still working on the technical problems regarding this questionnaire.
35. The Working Party discussed the problem and noted limitations and experiences regarding transport of gas through pipelines, market structure and organization, technical details and coverage of data collection.

36. The Working Party invited member countries to submit information to the secretariat on their national systems and experiences regarding transport of gas through pipelines. The secretariat is requested to pass on these information to the IWG to consider these inputs in its future work on the Pilot questionnaire on transport of gas through pipelines.

REVISION OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS USED IN TRANSPORT STATISTICS


37. The Working Party noted that the ITC, at its sixty-fourth session (ECE/TRANS/139, para. 119), and the Conference of European Statisticians, at its fiftieth session (ECE/CES/62 para. 44), adopted the new classification system for transport statistics (NST/2000) (TRANS/WP.6/141, annex 2).

38. The Working Party welcomed and considered the proposal made by the representatives of France and Poland (circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2002/6) for a future subdivision of the NST/2000 classes which might serve as a model for harmonization in the UNECE countries.

39. The Working Party decided to continue discussions about this issue and invited countries to submit their views to the secretariat in order to have them ready as background documents for the June 2003 session of the Working Party which may devote the first day of its session only to this matter.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRICE AND QUANTITY INDICES IN TRANSPORT


40. In connection with the Working Party’s discussion about the development of price and quantity indices, a note by the United Kingdom outlining the methodology for setting up price indices in transport was circulated for consideration by the Working Party in document TRANS/WP.6/2002/11 and Add.1. The French delegate informed about a similar survey in preparation in his country. The Working Party noted that there is a policy driven need for data on transport prices. Distinction needs to be made among: short, long, national and international journeys. However, there is a risk that enterprises can be overburdened with requests for too many statistical data.

41. The Working Party concluded that it might be premature to convene a meeting on the development of price and quantity indices in transport. Only two European countries have some experiences in this matter. Therefore, an ad hoc meeting for presentation of best practice and setting up of a harmonized methodology should await more countries to be involved in regular data collection in this area.
TRANSPORT DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

(a) Design and implementation of a European Transport Database System

42. The Working Party took note of the information provided by Eurostat about the development of the Internet version of the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics.

43. The Working Party was informed about the lack of responses to the questionnaire necessary for revision of the Compendium of Transport Database and Information System Capabilities in the UNECE Region. The Working Party decided to consider this matter again at its fifty-sixth session.

(b) Status report on the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project and Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project Databases


44. The Working Party was informed about the progress made in the development of the databases established by the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project and the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project on the basis of information prepared by representatives of the Project Central Offices (PCO) of both projects. Information received from the TEM PCO was circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2002/7 for consideration by the Working Party. In addition, the secretariat informed the Working Party about the project proposal for the harmonization, collection and presentation of data on Pan-European Corridors.

(c) Source of transport statistics on the Internet


45. In accordance with its request, the Working Party took note of the updated list of internet links provided by the secretariat and made available on the UNECE Transport Statistics Home Page, circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2002/8. The Working Party demanded the member countries to inform the secretariat on a continuous basis about any changes in the address of the relevant web sites in order to have the home page up to date.

TRAFFIC CENSUSES IN THE ECE REGION

(a) Status of the 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe


(b) Development of an E-Rail Census (AGC)


49. The Working Party noted that the coming EU Council Regulation on rail statistics will request similar traffic data for the TEN network and welcomed the offer by the Eurostat to be closely involved in this project and approved 2-3 October 2003 as dates for this Ad hoc meeting.

UN/EDIFACT AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)


50. The Working Party considered a report by the Chairman of the Working Party regarding the Danish experience on EDI in transport statistics (TRANS/WP.6/2002/9) and exchanged views regarding technical problems in application.

51. The Working Party agreed to have this item on the agenda for its June 2003 session and invited reports on the issue of EDI and transport.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Commission of the European Communities (CEC)

52. The Working Party was informed about its work:

- A top priority is the preparation for the enlargement. It is expected that the EU would include 25 member countries on 1 May 2004. This would introduce a huge difference in the whole range of EU activities.

- As requested by the EU Commission in the White Paper on the Common Transport Policy, modal split indicators are to be developed in the course of the next three years.

- Better use of the already collected data.

- It is expected that a legal basis would be soon in place for the agencies in the following three areas: railways, maritime and air transport.

- Putting in place in Switzerland of an observatory for alpine transport.
53. The Working Party was briefed about:

- The forthcoming legal acts on rail and air transport statistics.
- Implementation of the legal act on road statistics through Commission regulations.
- New policy for dissemination and free access to tabular data via the website.

(c) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

54. ECMT informed the Working Party of the following activities:

- The Short-Term Trends data for the second quarter 2002 are available on the ECMT Web site and data collection concerning the third quarter 2002 will be sent out next week as planned. From March 2003, this publication will include seasonally adjusted data and an analysis of general trends.

- The Road Accidents Statistics publication containing 2000 data will be available at the beginning of next year. The questionnaire to collect 2001 data will be sent out to member countries next week. Publications on road accidents statistics will, in the future, be more policy oriented (starting with the 2001 data edition).

- The Common Questionnaire was sent out to all countries except the Russian speaking ones, which will receive it shortly with a Russian translation attached, to facilitate its completion.

- Trends in the Transport Sector (Depliant), 1970-2001. This publication is now finalized and it will be available in January 2003.

- Investments in Transport Infrastructure. This data collection proved to be more difficult to carry out than expected. Nevertheless, a short analysis of general trends will be done before the end of this year, on the basis of received data.

(d) International Union of Railways (UIC)

55. UIC informed the Working Party that it is revising variables, focusing activities on the safety issues and working on forecasts regarding destinations.

(e) European Environment Agency (EEA)

56. EEA informed the Working Party that it continues to further develop indicators on pricing and accessibility which would lead to technical and focus reports in 2003/2004; the state-of-the-environment 2005 report will include projections on environmental variables including transport, hence development of transport projections will be closely followed up and linked with statistics. The annual Environmental Signal Reports will, in future, be devoted to specific
topics instead of covering all environment issues, enabling a more integrated assessment on topics like, e.g. the increased usage of diesel cars.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2003-2007**

**Documentation:** TRANS/WP.6/2002/10.

57. The Chairman of the Working Party presented the draft Programme of Work for 2003-2007 (TRANS/WP.6/2002/10) with several alterations. The Working Party **supported the** alterations as they would make the Programme more realistic and **accepted** the Programme with the changes as proposed by the Chairman (annex 1).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

(a) **Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics**

58. The decisions taken by the Working Party regarding the locations and dates of upcoming meetings on transport statistics, as well as the information communicated to the Working Party on meetings of other organizations dealing with transport statistics are reflected in annex 2 of the present report.

(b) **Date of next session**

59. Regarding the date for its next session, the Working Party **noted** that the secretariat had scheduled the fifty-fourth session to be held from 11 to 13 June 2003.

60. Regarding the deadlines for the submission of documents to the secretariat, the Working Party **agreed** on the following deadlines:

   - 14 March 2003 for
     - Fifty-fourth session of the Working Party
     - Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators (Prague);

   - 13 June 2003 for
     - Ad Hoc preparatory meeting for the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe
     - Ad hoc Meeting on the Rail Traffic Census.
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

61. In accordance with the decision taken by the Working Party at its fifty-first session (TRANS/WP.6/139, para.3), the report on its fifty-third session was established by the Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.

62. The decisions adopted by the Working Party during the session are contained in the following paragraphs: 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, 32, 36, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 57, 60 and 61.
Annex 1

MEETINGS ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS SCHEDULED FOR 2003

6-7 February 2003  IWG, Paris
11-12 March 2003  Coordinating Committee on Transport Statistics, Luxembourg
15-16 May 2003  Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators, Prague
29-30 September 2003  Ad Hoc preparatory meeting for the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe, Geneva
2-3 October 2003  Ad hoc Meeting on the Rail Traffic Census, Geneva
9-10 October 2003  Working Group: Road Transport Statistics, Luxembourg
Annex 2

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2003-2007

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.12: TRANSPORT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

02.12.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents

Priority: 2

Description: Development of appropriate methodologies and terminology for the harmonization of statistics, aiming also at the determination of indicators of sustainable transport. This includes: methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistics on road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline and combined transport as well as on road traffic accidents, in cooperation and coordination with other ECE bodies, related international organizations, in order to promote the availability of comprehensive, timely and reliable statistics for sustainable transport planning and analysis.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Target solutions to improve the collection of statistics in problematic areas, as indicators of sustainable transport, including, but not limited to the following items:

Statistics on the environmental impact of transport;
Statistics on urban and regional passenger transport;
Statistics on the transport of dangerous goods;
Price and quantity indices for transport services.

Output expected: A concrete decision for each problematic area, e.g., the addition of supplementary chapters to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (urban transport, environment) (2002) (2003); an assessment of the applicability of the EU Directive for the collection of dangerous goods data for non-EU member states (2002) (2003); a concrete decision on price and quantity indices regarding the cooperation with the Statistical Division (2002) (2003), and the organization of informal working groups on specific topics, as deemed necessary.

Priority: 1

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Text in bold characters indicates newly proposed text; struckthrough text in square brackets ([ ] ) refers to text proposed for deletion.

*/
(b) As the main ECE body concerned with indicators for sustainable transport, play an increasingly leadership role in follow-up activities to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (RCTE, November 1997, Vienna): through the implementation of chapters in the Programme of Joint Action that involve monitoring, measuring and reporting on the environmental impact of transport, including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL), reduce the negative impact of transport and traffic on the environment and human health by promoting the collection, harmonization, analysis and exchange of data on the environmental and health aspect of transport.

(ii) In accordance with the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL), at the international level, develop a common theoretical base and methodologies for collecting, analysing and reporting data on transportation activities and their environmental and health consequences; develop a proposal for a regular Pan-European exchange and publication of such data and analysis, and at the national level, collect and assess data on pollution, noise and energy consumption based on international methodologies; and develop scenarios of emission and energy consumption.

Output expected: Continued progress toward the integration of environment-related variables into the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics, as well as the two annual transport publications; To play an active role in the follow-up to the Vienna Conference (2001-2002) (2003); Convene informal working groups on Transport and Environment Statistics and Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators and Definitions. (2002) (2003) Priority: 1

(c) Coordination among member Governments, other ECE bodies, and related international organizations and non-governmental organizations to harmonize terminology used in the statistics of road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline, combined transport and road traffic accidents, including, but not exclusively, in the context of the work being undertaken by the intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (ECE-ECMT-EC/Eurostat). (Meetings 2-3 times per year).


(d) Development of common methodologies to facilitate and improve the collection of information on road and rail traffic flows and infrastructure parameters through surveys and censuses such as automatic counting procedures, including, but not exclusively, in the context of The Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory), (compiled and published by the ECE every five years) (Next published in 2002). Development of a common methodology for an E-Rail Census, to obtain data on
traffic flows and infrastructure parameters on the AGC network, beginning with the establishment of an Ad Hoc Meeting on the E-Rail Census. (2003-2005)


ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

(e) Monitoring of developments in the field of transport database and information systems, including geographic information systems (GIS) in order to facilitate the updating, analysis and geographic application of transport data, within ECE and in cooperation with ECMT and EC/Eurostat in order to harmonize transport data internationally and avoid duplication of efforts with other organizations.


(f) Development of projects to assist countries in transition in the collection, organization and automation of transport statistics, including the convening of workshops and training seminars, drawing on the expertise of member Governments and related organizations.

Output expected: Information from Member States and international organizations on relevant activities.  

(g) Development of a harmonized subdivision of the NST/2000 classes.


(h) Convene workshop in Prague in cooperation with Czech Ministry of Transport with the aim of developing indicators for sustainable urban and regional transport.


02.12.2 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport

Description: Collection and compilation of statistics on inland transport, road traffic accidents and road traffic flows published by the ECE.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:
CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Build and maintain a database for the annual collection of statistics on inland transport, including combined transport and road traffic accidents from ECE member Governments to be published in the following publications:


(ii) Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS).

Output expected: Publication of ABTS and RAS; Circulation of Questionnaires and receipt of data from member Governments for ABTS and RAS on hard-copy, diskette and/or in electronic format. Development of Pocketbook on Basic Transport Indicators for the ECE Region. (2002-2003) Priority: 2

(b) Publish, every five years, in hard-copy, electronic format and on the Internet, the results of the E-road traffic Census and Inventory carried out by member Governments in accordance with the Recommendations set forth by the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census, as:

- The Combined Census of Road Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory).

Output expected: Preparation of 2000 Combined E-Road Census and Inventory (2001-2002); Distribution of CD Rom of Census results and electronic access to Census data via the Internet. (2002-2003) Priority: 1

ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

(c) Provide methodological support for the ongoing analysis and evaluation of these three statistical publications to continue to improve the quality and presentation of the publications, and to incorporate harmonized terminology through the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics. Develop strategies for improvement of usefulness and presentation of publications.