ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Statistics

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS
ON ITS FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION
(9-11 June 2004)

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ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its fifty-fifth session in Geneva from 9 to 11 June 2004 under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. The European Commission (Eurostat) was also represented. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Danube Commission (DC) and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: the Association Européenne des Cheminots (AEC), Eurogas and the International Union of Railways (UIC). Representatives from the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project and the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project were also present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/146).

ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

3. The fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 24 to 26 February 2004.

4. The Working Party was informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session which was held in Geneva from 24 to 26 February 2004, concerning such questions as the UNECE reform, major policy directions in UNECE’s work, and UNECE technical assistance.

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

5. The Working Party was informed about matters of interest considered by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixty-sixth session in Geneva from 17 to 19 February 2004, in particular about the decisions to undertake E-Road and E-Rail traffic censuses 2005.

(c) Transport, environment and health

6. The Working Party was informed about the outcome of the second session of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee (29-30 March 2004), which may have relevance for the activities of the Working Party.
(a) Annual report of the activities of the IWG


7. The Working Party was informed about the annual activities of IWG and accepted the Annual Report as presented in Informal document 1.

(b) Glossary of Transport Statistics

(i) Third edition of the Glossary


(ii) Continuation of work on the revision of the Glossary

9. IWG informed the Working Party on the ongoing work within IWG regarding future updates of the Glossary. The Working Party endorsed the proposed IWG strategy regarding the future work on the Glossary:

- to expand the scope and coverage,
- to publish major changes in the Glossary as a new edition,
- to publish minor changes in the Glossary with the same edition number to which a subnumber will be added.

10. The Working Party was informed about the plans to extend the Glossary with chapters on air transport (a domain not covered by the work of the Working Party) and on rail traffic accidents. The Working Party decided to discuss the draft chapter about rail traffic accidents at the fifty-sixth session.

(c) Web version of the Common Questionnaire

11. The Working Party was briefed by the representative of Eurostat about the new developments regarding the Internet version of the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics that might be ready for the collection of 2003 data in September 2004. If not, the existing method will be used also for 2003 data collection.
12. The Working Party considered both the draft Common Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accidents Statistics prepared by IWG (Informal document 7) as requested during the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party and the proposal by the Director of the UNECE Transport Division circulated during the session.

13. The Working Party decided to accept the proposal by the IWG for a Common Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accident Statistics (CQRTAS) as follows:

- The CQRTAS will have two panels.
- Panel A (short part of the CQRTAS with basic statistics that can be filled out with little delay), as modified by the Working Party will read as follows:

  Panel A

  ITEMS

  1- Number of injury accidents (Total)
     Broken down by type of road
     1.1 - Motorways
     1.2 - In built-up areas
     1.3 - Outside built-up areas
     1.4 - Unknown

  2- Number of casualties (killed plus injured) (Total)
     Broken down by road user
     2.1 - Pedestrians
     2.2 - Cycles
     2.3 - Mopeds and motorcycles
     2.4 - Passenger cars
     2.5 - Others

     Broken down by type of road
     2.6 - Motorways
     2.7 - In built-up areas
     2.8 - Outside built-up areas
     2.9 - Unknown

  3- Number of killed (Total)
     Broken down by road user
     3.1 - Pedestrians
     3.2 - Cycles
     3.3 - Mopeds and motorcycles
     3.4 - Passenger cars
3.5 - Others

Broken down by type of road
3.6 - Motorways
3.7 - In built-up areas
3.8 - Outside built-up areas
3.9 - Unknown

- Panel B of the CQRTAS will remain identical to the usual annual (long) questionnaire sent out by the UNECE.

14. The Working Party also decided to ask the secretariat to investigate with the member Governments the availability of data on the involvement of heavy commercial vehicles in road traffic accidents and variables concerning speed of vehicles, safety distance (rear-end collision), not wearing helmet (cyclists, motorcyclists) and not using seatbelts. The secretariat was requested to report to the Working Party, at its fifty-sixth session, the results of this investigation.

15. The Working Party considered data available in the transport statistics database and concluded that methodological difficulties and an insufficient availability of data do not yet permit the linking of the number of road traffic accidents to the amount of vehicle kilometres.

16. The representative of the Eurostat informed the Working Party about the possibility to have the Internet version of the CQRTAS. If the necessary arrangements will have been made by Eurostat, then this version may be available and operational in the spring 2005.

(e) Pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics

17. The representative from the Eurostat informed the Working Party about the activities related to the pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics.

METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(a) Presentation of the final revision of the new classification system for transport statistics (NST/2000)


18. The Working Party considered and adopted the final version (TRANS/WP.6/2004/1) of the proposal for a future subdivision of the NST/2000 with the following minor modification: In the English text, in item 04.8 the words “in bulk” should be deleted.
19. The Working Party requested the secretariat to send the modified version of document TRANS/WP.6/2004/1 both to the ITC and to the Conference of European Statisticians for adoption.

(b) Harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics (Follow-up to the Barcelona Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators)


20. The Working Party discussed the results achieved by the UNECE Ad hoc Meeting on the Harmonization of Urban and Regional Transport Statistics that was hosted by the Czech Republic in Prague (15 and 16 May 2003) as a follow-up meeting to the Barcelona Task Force on Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators (28 and 29 March 2000, Barcelona). The Working Party adopted the report of this Ad hoc meeting (TRANS/WP.6/AC.3/2003/5). The Working Party decided (i) to request IWG to explore the ways on how to include these results into the Glossary and (ii) asked the UNECE in the meantime to publish those results on the web with a link from the Glossary page.

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

21. The representative from the Eurostat provided information about new developments regarding the update of 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). These data will be freely available on the Eurostat’s web page to everyone interested in them.

22. The Working Party asked the secretariat to prepare a document with an extract from Eurostat’s documents on the transport of dangerous goods and to add, if possible, similar statistics from other European countries and to present it to the fifty-seventh session (2006).

(d) Pilot questionnaire on transport of gas through pipelines


24. The Working Party was informed by the representative of the Eurogas about their experiences, achievements and problems regarding statistical coverage of gas transmission through pipelines. In this connection, the Working Party decided to invite Eurogas to present a working document on definitions used in Eurogas at the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party.
(e) Correlation of statistical systems used in the UNECE


25. The secretariat presented for information a note about the correlation of various classification systems in use in the UNECE. The Working Party took note of this document.

TRANSPORT DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

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


26. The Working Party was informed by the TEM Project Central Office about the progress made in the development of the databases established by the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project (TRANS/WP.6/2004/4) and took note of the written communication from TER (Informal document 2).

(b) Sources of transport statistics on the Internet

27. 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:


28. The Working Party requested member countries to inform the secretariat regularly about changes in the addresses of their relevant web sites in order to have the home page up-to-date.

TRAFFIC CENSUSES IN THE ECE REGION

(a) Preparations for the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16, TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.1, TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.2.

29. The Working Party noted that the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-sixth session adopted resolution No. 254 on the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (ECE/TRANS/156). This Resolution is based on the outcome of the Ad hoc preparatory meeting for the 2005 Combined Census of Motor Traffic Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe which took place on 29 and 30 September 2003 in Geneva.
30. The Working Party *reminded* Governments to send their letter of acceptance of the willingness to undertake this Census on their national territories to the Executive Secretary of the UNECE on or before 30 September 2004.

31. The Working Party *considered* the possibility to undertake the E-Road Census more frequently than has been the case so far (every five years). The Working Party *took note* of possible costs to the countries and to the secretariat of more frequent censuses. In connection with this issue, the Working Party *decided* to request the secretariat to prepare for the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party a document with arguments in favour and against more frequent undertaking of the E-Road Motor Traffic Census. This document should be partly based on a questionnaire sent to the Member Governments including separate questions about the coverage of both E-roads and total roads.

(b) Preparations for an E-Rail Census (AGC)

**Documentation:** TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2, TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2/Add.1

32. The Working Party *noted* that the Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-sixth session, adopted resolution No. 255 on the E-Rail Traffic Census 2005. This resolution was based on the results of the Ad hoc Meeting on the E-Rail Census that took place on 2 and 3 October 2003 in Geneva and was briefed by the delegation of Eurostat about the developments in EU concerning a similar obligatory census.

33. The Working Party *reminded* Governments to send their letter of acceptance of the willingness to undertake this Census on their national territories to the Executive Secretary of the UNECE on or before 30 September 2004.

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

34. The Working Party *continued* to exchange views regarding UN/EDIFACT, as well as other developments in electronic data interchange related to the transport sector. The representatives of the Eurostat and Denmark informed the Working Party about new developments. The Working Party *decided* to keep this item on the agenda for its next session.

**ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY**

35. The Working Party *received oral reports* from the representatives of the following organizations on their current and future activities in the field of transport statistics.
(a) European Commission (EC)


36. The representative from NEA informed the Working Party about the activities within the European Transport policy Information System (ETIS) done under the DG TREN. The Working Party appreciated the presentation of Informal documents 5 and 6.

(b) Eurostat

37. The representative from Eurostat informed the Working Party that priorities in transport statistics would continue to stem from the need to monitor the liberalization and rationalization of European transport, as well as its impact on regional development, environment and safety. The main effort will continue to be devoted to improving the total quality (coverage, timeliness and statistical quality) of transport statistics. Statistics on each mode of transport, based on legal acts and voluntary agreements, will continue to be the core of the European Union’s system of transport statistics. In 2005, the implementation of maritime, air, road and rail transport statistics will continue, based on recent legal acts. Work on the simplification of the existing legal base for inland waterway statistics will continue in 2004. Following the European Commission’s European Road Safety Action Programme, several DG TREN initiatives have been launched. Reliable indicators of modal split will be produced and published regularly. However, the overriding priority in the period 2004-2005 will be to extend the collection of the full range of transport data to the new member States.

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

38. The representative of the ECMT informed the Working Party about the following activities in his organization:

- Trends in the transport sector (Dépliant): the questionnaire collects some key indicators to analyse first trends in the transport sector. Data for 2002 are currently available and the 2003 data collection will be launched in July 2004. Therefore, all tables contained in the publication for the period 1970-2003 should be available electronically at the end of 2004. The paper publication will be published during the first quarter 2005.

- Short-term trends in the transport sector: data for the first quarter 2004 are currently being collected and should be available on the ECMT Internet site by the end of June 2004. The next data collection will be done on 1 September 2004 and will concern data for the second quarter 2004. ECMT endeavours to put in place a seasonally adjusted database in the course of 2004.

- Investments in transport infrastructure: A first survey concerning 2000 data has already been carried out. The collected information proved to be of poor quality and this did not allow
ECMT to produce a publication as planned. Nevertheless, at the latest ECMT Ministerial meeting, a non-public report has been presented, underlying the difficulty to put in place a good and efficient data collecting system for this type of information. However, further to the strong demand for data on investments in transport infrastructure, it was decided to maintain annual collecting exercises. To release the burden of this questionnaire on member States, all variables that cannot or can hardly be completed will not be kept in future exercises, so the next questionnaire will only include two tables (gross investments and maintenance expenditures). In the course of summer 2004, a new collection exercise, including data up to 2003, will be carried out in the new questionnaire format.

- Road accidents: ECMT announced in 2003 that its publication on road traffic accidents would be improved with the addition of the ECMT Road Safety Group reports, and that it will no longer be bilingual, but in two volumes, one in French and one in English. Unfortunately, this new project is being delayed due to technical problems, so ECMT has decided to disseminate 2001 data electronically only, to collect 2002 data and to disseminate them electronically in the summer 2004. In this way, in September 2004, the 2003 data collection will be carried out normally and in due course. All statistical tables for 2003 will then be available electronically at the end of 2004.

- The Common Questionnaire: the status of this questionnaire has already been discussed and presented under point 3 of the agenda.

(d) International Union of Railways (UIC)

39. The representative of the UIC informed the Working Party about the availability of the UIC’s statistical data on the web for free to all interested parties. UIC’s database covers 90 per cent of the rail traffic in Europe. The Working Party was informed about and guided through the UIC web page. The Working Party appreciated the offer from UIC to supply a password to members of the Working Party upon a written request.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2008


40. The Working Party discussed and adopted with minor amendments the Programme of Work for 2004-2008, which was circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2004/5 and is presented in the annex to this report.
OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Publication of periodicals done under the auspices of the Working Party


- to make available its annual publications on the web as pdf documents free of charge,
- to have the Glossary of Transport Statistics available both in the format of a book printed on paper (major updates and addenda) and as a pdf document on the web and
- to consider the issue of publication of documents at its next session.

(b) Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics

42. The Working Party may wish to consider dates and locations of meetings in 2004-2005 of the following bodies:

- Interssecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics, autumn 2004
- Eurostat:
  1. Coordinating Committee for Transport Statistics (CCST), 18-19 October 2004
  3. Inland Waterways Statistics, 3-4 March 2005
  4. Road Transport Statistics, 2-3 May 2005

(c) Date of next session

43. The Working Party decided that its fifty-sixth session would be held from 8 to 10 June 2005.

(d) Deadlines for the submission of documents

44. Regarding the deadlines for the submission of documents to the secretariat, the Working Party agreed on the following deadline: 1 March 2005 for the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

45. 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-fifth session was established by the Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.
46. The decisions adopted by the Working Party during the session are contained in the following paragraphs: 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 45.
Annex

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2008

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 UNECE 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.


Priority: 1

(b) As the main UNECE 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.

Text in bold characters indicates newly proposed text; struckthrough text refers to text proposed for deletion.
(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, analyzing 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 (2001-2004) 2005). ; Convene informal working groups on Transport and Environment Statistics and Sustainable Urban Transport Indicators and Definitions. (2004) (2005)—— Priority: 1

(c) Coordination among member Governments, other UNECE 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 (UNECE-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 2003 2006). 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). Results are expected to be published in 2008. Priority: 1


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 UNECE 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 the 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 UNECE.

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 UNECE member Governments to be published in the following publications:


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

(iii) Main Transport Indicators

Output expected: Publication of ABTS, and RAS and Main Transport Indicators; 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. (2004) (2005)

Priority: 1
(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 and Rail 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).
- E-Rail Census


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.


Priority: 3