REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS
ON ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION
(8-10 June 2005)

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ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its fifty-sixth session in Geneva from 8 to 10 June 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America and Uzbekistan. The European Commission DG TREN and Eurostat were also represented. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Danube Commission (DC), and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). The following non-governmental organization was represented: Eurogas. A representative from the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project was also present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/8) with minor modifications.

ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

3. The sixtieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 22 to 25 February 2005.

4. The Working Party was informed about the decisions taken by the Commission, at its sixtieth session 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 Inland Transport Committee (ITC) held its sixty-seventh session in Geneva from 15 to 17 February 2005.

6. The Working Party was informed about matters of interest considered by the Committee, in particular in the work area of transport statistics of the Committee’s report.

(c) Transport, environment and health

7. The Working Party was informed about the outcome of the Third session of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee (11 and 12 April 2005), which may have relevance for the activities of the Working Party.
8. The Working Party was informed by the TERM representative about the new developments within the European Environment Agency (EEA) regarding the TERM which involves 31 countries.


INTERSECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS (IWG)

(a) Annual report of the activities of the IWG


10. The Working Party was informed about and discussed the report of the IWG, composed of representatives of the secretariats of UNECE, ECMT and Eurostat. The meeting of the IWG took place on 25 and 26 November 2004 in Paris and 7 and 8 April 2005 in Luxembourg. The report was adopted by the Working Party.

(b) Pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics

11. The representative from the Eurostat informed the Working Party about the priority activity: the web version of the common questionnaire. The pilot questionnaires for road and rail statistics will be prepared at some later date.

METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(a) Glossary of Transport Statistics


(i) IWG informed the Working Party on the ongoing work within IWG regarding future updates of the Glossary. The Working Party endorsed the work of the IWG and decided to consider the chapter on rail traffic accidents and possibly other chapters at its fifty-seventh session.

(ii) A new classification of navigable inland waterways was adopted in 1992 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (resolution No.30) and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) (CEMT/CM(92)6 Final).
The IWG, during its meeting on 25 and 26 November 2004 in Paris, suggested to introduce this new classification of navigable inland waterways as an update of the Glossary for Transport Statistics. The Working Party considered and adopted the proposal as contained in document TRANS/WP.6/2005/1 without alterations. It also decided to include these new parameters in the common questionnaire when technically and organizationally feasible.

(b) Web version of the Common Questionnaire

12. 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. The Working Party supported this work and requested an update on the developments from IWG for the fifty-seventh session.

(c) Presentation of the Draft Common Questionnaire on Road Traffic Accident Statistics


13. The Working Party took note of the document (TRANS/WP.6/2005/3) prepared by the secretariat about the availability of data on (i) the involvement of heavy commercial vehicles in road traffic accidents and (ii) variables concerning speed of vehicles, safety distance (rear-end collision), not wearing helmet (cyclists, motorcyclists) and not using seatbelts.

14. The Working Party decided to request (i) a report from IWG for the fifty-seventh session about the availability of data from the CARE Programme of the European Commission and (ii) the phrasing of questions for the questionnaire. Governments of the Czech Republic, Denmark and Spain expressed their interest in being involved in the preparation of this report.

15. The Working Party supported the developments regarding the Internet version of the Common Questionnaire for Road Traffic Accidents Statistics prepared by IWG and requested an update about the developments from IWG for its fifty-seventh session.

(d) Information about the adoption of the final revision of the new classification system for transport statistics (NST/2000)


16. The Working Party was informed about the adoption by the ITC of the final version of document TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.1. It also took note of the forthcoming session of the Conference of European Statisticians that would consider the same document for adoption.

17. The Working Party discussed comments on the document TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.1 transmitted by the secretariat of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). As most of these comments deal with minor technical errors that do not alter the substance of the document, the Working Party requested the Chairman and the secretariat to introduce those minor alterations (that do not alter the substance) into document TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.1 and to publish it under the symbol TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.2. Furthermore, the Working Party urged the secretariat to suggest to the CES that the WP.6, as specialists in transport statistics, should
continue to be responsible to keep the classification up to date as needs and the environment may change in the future.

18. The Working Party requested the secretariat to explore the ways, with the Governments of Canada and the United States, of including a column in the document that would link it to the North American statistical system and to publish it as document TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.3.

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


19. The Working Party took note that, in accordance with its request at the fifty-fifth session, the results achieved by the UNECE ad hoc meeting on the harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics, which was hosted by the Czech Republic in Prague (15 and 16 May 2003), were translated into the French and Russian languages and put on the web next to the Glossary for further reference.

20. The Working Party on Transport Statistics will ask the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) to provide comments on document TRANS/WP.6/2005/2 which will be considered at its fifty-seventh session.


(f) Pilot questionnaire on transport of natural gas through pipelines

22. The representative of Eurogas informed the Working Party about the definitions used in Eurogas regarding statistics of natural gas transmission through pipelines.

23. The Working Party invited Eurogas to participate in the next session of the Working Party in order to present additional information on the transport of natural gas through pipelines.

(g) Compendium and data collection

24. The Working Party discussed the issue of data collection and the compendium of transport statistics and accepted the fact that all national statistical offices use or can use, without problems, the standard software for statistical work.

(h) Workshop on Statistics on Road Traffic Performance

Documentation: Informal document No. 2.

25. The Working Party discussed the proposal by the Danish delegation to host an ad hoc workshop on statistics on road traffic performance on 1 and 2 December 2005 in Copenhagen. The Working Party accepted the proposal and urged delegations to submit their contributions in
English to the secretariat before 24 October 2005. A formal invitation letter will be sent to the member States within a short period of time.

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 appreciated the presentation about the progress made in the development of the databases established by the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project and statistical information about TEM and TER Master Plans (TRANS/WP.6/2005/5).


(b) Sources of transport statistics on the Internet


29. The Working Party requested member countries to inform the secretariat regularly about:

- changes in the addresses of their respective relevant web sites and
- the availability of statistical databases on the web

in order to have the home page up to date.

TRAFFIC CENSUSES IN THE ECE REGION

(a) 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; TRANS/WP.6/2005/6.

(i) The Working Party decided to remind the delegations to continue to implement the activities related to the 2005 E-Road Census, as well as to respect the deadline for the submission of the results to the secretariat before 1 March 2007 (TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/16/Add.1, para. 34).

(ii) In accordance with the request by the Working Party, the secretariat prepared a document regarding costs and benefits of undertaking more frequent E-Road Censuses. The Working Party discussed the issue and decided that the usual
quinquennial frequency of E-Road Censuses should remain intact. It also decided to request the secretariat to speed up the publication process to the extent possible.

(b) 2005 E-Rail Census (AGC)


30. The Working Party reminded the delegations to continue to implement the activities related to the 2005 E-Rail Census, as well as to respect the deadline for the submission of the results to the secretariat and Eurostat before 30 June 2007 (TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2/Add.1, para. 24).

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

31. The Working Party continued an exchange of views regarding UN/EDIFACT, as well as other developments in electronic data interchange related to the transport sector. The Danish delegation informed the Working Party about a new Danish project with the aim to develop electronic transport messages in XML format that may be used for exchange of information about transport documents related to transport operations, status and statistics. The standards should comply with UBL and UN/CEFACT standards.

The Working Party decided to keep this item on the agenda for its fifty-seventh session.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

32. 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)

(i) DG Energy and Transport (DG TREN)

33. The representative from DG TREN informed the Working party about the European Commission’s SafetyNet project which aims to provide a publicly available database with road accidents and risk exposure data.

(ii) Eurostat

34. Eurostat’s clients are all users of Community transport statistics, but its work programme and priorities aim at supporting the Commission’s transport policies. DG TREN is therefore its most important client, but DG REGIO and DG ENV also influence some of its activities.

35. In order to play the role of coordinator, Eurostat is at the centre of a cooperation network in which the partner nodes are the Member States, the candidate countries and other associated
countries. Eurostat also cooperates with international institutions, especially in matters of harmonization.

36. Eurostat’s cooperation processes with data suppliers are based on voluntary contributions (common questionnaire with ECMT and UNECE, questionnaire on regional statistics) and/or legal acts (data collection on road freight, rail, maritime, aviation and inland waterways).

37. The core business focuses on the cooperation processes mentioned above. Some of the legal acts need modernization: new Council Regulations are foreseen in 2007 for IWW, in 2008 for maritime statistics. Methodological adaptations, which can be implemented through Commission Regulations (easier legal procedure), are made where necessary. This should be the case for the transition from NST/R to NST/2000 in most transport modes.

38. Concerning the common questionnaire, modernization will be technology oriented: the first pilot project for the Web-based CQ will be launched in the second half of 2005. From 2006 on, the set of regional transport indicators will be based both on the results of the annual voluntary questionnaire and on the legal data collections by mode.

39. Apart from these recurrent processes, Eurostat is also working on projects which essentially reflect the Commission’s current political priorities. This is the case for the production of indicators such as:

- Modal split indicators (tonnes*km, passengers*km, vehicle*km by mode of transport)
- Four structural indicators for transport
- TERM indicators, recently transferred to the transport section of Eurostat.

40. This is also the case for car passengers’ mobility, a very important mode of transport for which the statistical production at Community level is not supported by a legal act, for transport by buses and coaches, and also for intermodality, for which Eurostat is trying to exploit relevant fields of the legal data collections and to collaborate with the industrial operators and federations concerned.

41. Finally, as a horizontal priority covering all modes of transport, Eurostat is trying to improve the availability, timeliness and quality of data disseminated. It is worth noting that the access to Eurostat’s electronic dissemination site has been free of charge since October 2004.

(iii) European Environment Agency (EEA)

The representative of the EEA referred to the presentation done under agenda item 2 (a).

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

42. Trends in the Transport Sector (Depliant): 2003 data are currently available and the 2004 data collection will be launched in June 2005. These data will then be available electronically towards the end of this year.

43. Short-term Trends: The survey related to data for the first quarter 2005 has been launched and results should be available on the ECMT web site at the end of this month.
44. **Investments in Transport Infrastructure**: In June, an analysis based on the last data collection will be put onto a CD-rom and distributed to ECMT data suppliers, along with a letter explaining specific problems encountered during the 2000 data collection. At the end of June, a new data collection to gather 2004 information will be launched. However, tables which have not been completed last time, have been removed from the new questionnaire, which will then only include two tables (Gross investments and maintenance expenses).

45. **Injury Road Accidents**: 2002 data have already been distributed on CD-rom. 2003 data should be available during this summer. For the 2004 data collection, the WEB version of the Common Questionnaire will be used. In parallel to this, an Internet tool has also been developed to allow users to access and download these data. This tool should be available this summer.

**Common Questionnaire**: This was already discussed at point 4 of the agenda.

46. **The ECMT Group of Statisticians**: This Working Group was very often dealing with topics already discussed in other forums such as the WP6 in Geneva and the CCST in Luxembourg. For this reason, the ECMT did not estimate it necessary to call for that Group on a regular basis and is currently studying how to give to this Group a new orientation which would be more profitable for Member States. Since 1 January 2005 that Group has no Chairperson, so as soon as the new chair is appointed, the Group will resume its activities and one of its first tasks will be to develop the ECMT study on investments in transport infrastructure.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2009**

(a) **Election of the Chairperson**

47. The Working Party elected Erik Grib (Denmark) to be its Chairman for the period of three years (until the end of its fifty-ninth session in 2008).

(b) **Programme of Work**

**Documentation**: TRANS/WP.6/2005/7.

48. The Working Party discussed and accepted, with minor amendments, the Programme of Work for 2006-2009 as circulated in document TRANS/WP.6/2005/7 and is presented in the annex to this report.

49. Regarding future agendas, the Working Party proposed to insert references or annexes to the Work Programme. The secretariat and the Chairman will look into the feasibility of accommodating this request.
OTHER BUSINESS

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

50. The Working Party considered the issue of publication of the following periodicals:

- Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics,
- Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America,
- Handbook of Transport Indicators and
censuses.

51. The Working Party decided that the current way of publication of documents should remain without alterations.

52. The Working Party noted that the presentation of road traffic statistics in the Handbook of Transport Indicators should be reworded in the next printing. The Working Party noted that for statistical purposes the term “accidents” should be used in a manner that assures comparability within and between transportation modes.

53. The Working Party noted that certain data were missing for some countries in the publications. For future editions of the publications, the secretariat will, as far as possible, ensure better updates without delaying the publication process.

54. The Working Party requested the secretariat to explore the ways of presenting data from the Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics and Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America in Excel and to put that also on the web.

(b) Information on upcoming meetings on transport statistics

55. The Working Party took note of preliminary dates and locations of meetings in 2005-2006 of the following bodies:

- Ad hoc workshop on Road Traffic Performance (vehicle-km) 1-2 December 2005
- Eurostat - Working Group meeting on road freight transport statistics 27-28 October 2005
- Eurostat - Coordinating Committee for Transport Statistics (CCST) 23-24 November 2005
- Eurostat - Coordinating Committee for Transport Statistics (CCST) 11-12 December 2006

(c) Date of next session

56. The Working Party decided that its fifty-seventh session would be held from 7 to 9 June 2006 in Geneva.
(d) **Deadlines for the submission of documents**

Regarding the deadlines for the submission of documents to the secretariat, the Working Party **agreed** on the following deadline: **1 March 2006** for the fifty-seventh session of the Working Party.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

58. In accordance with established practice, the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting for adoption by the Working Party. This list will later be incorporated into the report of the session that will be prepared by its Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.
Annex

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2009

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 road traffic performance (vehicle-km);
- Statistics on the environmental impact of transport;
- Statistics on urban and regional passenger transport;
- Statistics on the transport of dangerous goods.

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) (2006); an assessment of the applicability of the EU Regulations for the collection of dangerous goods data for non-EU member states (2006); and the organization of informal working groups on specific topics, as deemed necessary (2005) and assessment of data on statistics on the volume of road traffic (2006).

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:

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1 Text in bold characters indicates newly proposed text; struckthrough text refers to text proposed for deletion.
(i) In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL), reduce present statistics related to 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, 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 (2001-2005) 2006).

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).


Priority: 2

(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 UNECE every five years) (Next published in 2007).

Development of common methodologies for E-Rail Censuses to obtain data on traffic flows and infrastructure parameters on the AGC network. Results of the first Erail census in 2005 are expected to be published in 2008.

Priority: 1
ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

(c) 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.

Output expected: The development of a transport database system at UNECE based on the data collected through the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics. Consideration of various alternatives and progress made (Access/Excel, Internet/WWW, etc.); observation of trial run at ECMT and Eurostat. (2005)

Priority: 2

(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.

Priority: 2

02.12.2 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport

Priority: 1

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) Handbook of Transport Statistics

Output expected: Publication of ABTS, RAS and Handbook of Transport Statistics; Circulation of Questionnaires and receipt of data from member Governments for ABTS and RAS on hard-copy, diskette and/or in electronic format.

Priority: 1
(b) Publish, every five years, **in the appropriate way**, 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

**Output expected:** Preparation of 2005 Combined E-Road Census and Inventory and E-Rail Census **(2006)**.

**Priority:** 1

**ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION**

(c) Provide methodological support for the ongoing analysis and evaluation of 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.

**Output expected:** Concrete feedback from Governments and other users on usefulness and presentation of publications and development of strategies for improvement of both. **(2005-2009)**.

**Priority:** 3