ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixtieth session
Geneva, 15-17 November 2006
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007-2011

Note by the secretariat

The text of the programme of work reproduced below is based on the programme of work, approved by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixty-eighth session (7-9 February 2005) (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1), and the Working Party on Rail Transport at its fifty-ninth session (TRANS/SC.2/204, para. 30). The changes proposed are in bold (text to be added) or struck through characters (text to be deleted).

1 It is recalled that the ITC, at its sixty-second session, agreed to consider the programme of work every second year. Such arrangement, however, would not exclude the possibility for the Committee’s subsidiary bodies to modify their respective programmes of work annually if there was a need to do so (ECE/TRANS/133, para. 99).
DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007-2011

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.5: RAIL TRANSPORT

02.5.1 Rail transport infrastructure  Priority: 1

I. Review of the situation concerning the implementation and possible amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)

Description: Study of possibilities for the improvement of international railway lines and their reflection on AGC.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Consideration of the AGC Agreement with a view to possibly: implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters; also taking into account new east-west traffic flows; raising environmental, energy and safety standards; taking into account the UNECE Conventions on the Environment.


Priority: 1

II. Studies in Railway Infrastructure

(a) Description: Study of the possibility of the improvement of international railway lines and their management.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will carry out the following activities:

Consideration of the influence of intermodal transport techniques, especially those concerning investment, as well as the harmonization of rolling stock and speed on railways to facilitate the integration of these techniques into the railway system and to create general interoperability.


Priority: 2

(b) Periodic review of the list of marshalling yards of international importance with a view to cutting down their numbers.

Output expected: Updated report on the location of important marshalling yards within the European railway network. (2007)  

Priority: 2

(c) Consideration of questions concerning safety in railway tunnels.


Priority: 2
(d) Consideration of developments regarding new railway initiatives on Euro-Asian transport links (e.g. organization of demonstration trains).

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(e) Periodically survey passenger and goods traffic on the various sections of lines of the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning; the third survey is based on data for 2005.

(f) Consideration of other subjects as need arises.
Output expected: Report on each subject.

III. Special project: Trans-European Railway (TER)

Description: Within the framework of the UNECE, the TER countries have established an appropriate administrative and financial framework, with the aim of developing a rail network as part of an integrated European international rail system.

Work to be undertaken

(a) Report on specific project developments to promote international rail traffic. (Continuing)
Output expected: Annual progress report on activities carried out within the TER project. Priority: 1

(b) Report on possibilities for financing of TER in order to promote the upgrading and construction of internationally important rail lines. (Continuing) Priority: 2
Output expected: Annual progress report

(c) Consideration of possible utilization of the results achieved under the project in other UNECE activities in the field of rail infrastructure including the implementation of AGC and AGTC in order to benefit from mutual experiences. (Continuing) Priority: 2
Output expected: Annual progress report

IV. Interregional Cooperation

Description: Cooperation with other regional commissions and international bodies involved in the development of interregional links.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will be kept informed of exchanges of information between the secretariats of the regional commissions and other international bodies in order to benefit from experiences gained in other regions of the world. (Continuing) Priority: 3
02.5.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport including rail safety and facilitation of its operations

Priority: 1

Description:

(a) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, particularly, for documents and procedures at border crossing.

(b) Harmonization of and search for standardized requirements concerning the utilization of railway infrastructure including computerization aspects.

(c) Elaboration of proposals and preparation of studies aimed at strengthening, consolidating and extending the position of rail transport on international transport markets.

(d) Analysis of problems relating to the harmonization and improvement of rail safety.

(e) Consideration of prospects for the adoption of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail so as to establish a standard legal system (harmonization of the SMGS/SMPS and CIM/CIV systems).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Consideration of specific difficulties encountered at border crossings in the transport of passengers and goods by rail with a view to accelerating border crossing operations and establishing a programme to deal with problems common to several routes.


(b) Consideration of follow-up of the implementation of recommendations and preparation of new texts or amendments to existing texts, if necessary, especially concerning the facilitation of border crossing with the aim to improve international rail traffic.

Priority: 1

(c) Review of requirements concerning railway operations and regulations, reduction of transport time and improvement in the precision of movements in the international carriage of goods, new operative developments in rail transport, the integration of services of different railways.

Priority: 2

(d) The study of the possibilities for harmonizing the application and periods of summer time with a view to upgrading transport quality in rail transport.

Output expected: Report on the application of summer time. (Report on change in application of summer time when it takes place) Priority: 3
(e) Analysis of Government policies concerning rail safety to contribute to an improvement of safety in international transport.
Priority: 1

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(f) Analysis of the various elements of productivity in rail transport and the possibilities to increase rail productivity in particular for international transport.
Priority: 2

(g) Consideration on the basis of reports by the international organizations concerned of the progress accomplished on the harmonization of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail to examine whether the compatibility of the regulation concerned can be ensured.
Priority: 3