INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
Working Party on Transport Statistics
Task force on statistics on the volume of road traffic (vehicle-kilometres)
(Heerlen, The Netherlands, 22-23 May 2006)

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING

STATISTICS ON THE VOLUME OF ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLE-KILOMETRES)

held at Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Heerlen, The Netherlands

ATTENDANCE

The Task-force meeting on Statistics on the Volume of Road Traffic (vehicle-kilometres) was held at Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Heerlen, the Netherlands under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia. The UNECE secretariat, Eurostat and the ECMT were also present (see Annex).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Task-force meeting elected Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark) as the Chairman of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Task-force meeting adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (Informal document 3).

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The host country, secretariat and the chairman welcomed the participants and recalled the principal conclusions of the Copenhagen meeting (TRANS/DP.6/AC.5/2005/16), as well as the first session of the Task-force (Informal document 2).
STRUCTURE OF THE MANUAL AND DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS

The Task-force discussed and revised the draft list of contents of the handbook. The new agreed draft table of contents and distributed the work among the delegations is as follows:

HANDBOOK ON STATISTICS ON ROAD TRAFFIC PERFORMANCE
Draft Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Focal points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Full addresses are in the Annex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Scope of the handbook</td>
<td>To be decided in the next to the final stage of the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Users’ needs</td>
<td>Mrs Marly ODEKERKEN-SMEETS (The Netherlands)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:MODN@CBS.NL">MODN@CBS.NL</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted by: Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany) Ms Eleonora Papadimitriou (Greece) Mr Mario Barreto (ECMT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Data collection methods</td>
<td>Mr Lars Klit REIFF (Denmark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lk@vd.dk">lk@vd.dk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted by: Mrs Marly ODEKERKEN-SMEETS (The Netherlands)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Erik E. GRIB (Denmark)</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:eeg@dst.dk">eeg@dst.dk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted by: Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany) Mrs Sylvie MABILE (France)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Olga KASTLOVA (Czech Republic)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:olga.kastlova@mdcr.cz">olga.kastlova@mdcr.cz</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted by: Mrs Jela KYSELOVA (Slovakia) Mrs Jana LUTTMERDINGOVA (Slovakia) Mr Ingo KOSSMANN (Germany) Mr Stefan ROMANOVSCHI (Romania)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
d. Derived from fuel consumption
   - General description of methodology
   - Data sources
   - Coverage
      Cross-border trade
      Off-road consumption
      Manual counts of nationality etc.
   - Needs for supplementary statistics
   - Error sources

e. Border surveys

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<tr>
<th>4. Inland and foreign traffic</th>
<th>To be decided in the next to the final stage of the project.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Synthesis</td>
<td>To be decided in the next to the final stage of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Relevant definitions</td>
<td>Mr Hans Strelow (Eurostat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Infrastructure</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Hans.Strelow@ec.europa.eu">Hans.Strelow@ec.europa.eu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Vehicles</td>
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<td>c. Traffic</td>
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<td>d. Fuel consumption</td>
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<td>e. Others</td>
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<td>7. Proposal for a pan European survey</td>
<td>To be discussed later</td>
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PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CHAPTERS

Focal points presented their draft chapters. These were discussed at length. The principal specific observations are as follows:

Chapter 2 of the Handbook on Traffic Volume gives an overview of the user needs. Mrs Marly Odekerken-Smeets presented it. The use of information on vehicle kilometres (traffic performance, traffic movements) for several types of vehicles is widely spread and depends very much on the category of users of this data. Some major points of interest in relation to the vehicle, the user of the vehicle and the use of infrastructure are pointed out. Examples for interesting datasets concerning traffic movements according to the category of users are presented in the form of a table.

Mr. Lars Reiff presented the headlines in the draft for chapter 3a – Odometer readings. The draft is primarily based on the Danish method. It was decided to change the chapter to a more general approach and to use “fact boxes” for nation-specific examples. Papers from the Copenhagen Workshop will be studied for more inspiration.

Mr. Erik Grib presented Chapter 3b on Household surveys. The Task Force discussed the draft chapter and proposed a slight extension of the list of variables; further elaboration with regard to coverage problems in case of telephone surveys; and a more detailed description of the risk of underreporting in surveys where the sampled vehicle owners were asked to keep a diary of journeys made in a period. Mr. Ilmar Pihlak informed about an Estonian survey where drivers were asked to report the distance in urban area for each journey carried out in a period. The
distance reported should be based on odometer readings. Mr. Philak will submit further
description in writing. Mr. Vasilis Nicolaou, consultant for Eurostat, will supply preliminary result
from a survey about methodologies applied in Member States in relation to daily mobile surveys
in July 2006. The Task Force was interested in the relevant national questionnaires applied and
asked the Secretariat to bring forward the request to the participants in the Copenhagen
Workshop and well as to the delegates of WP.6.

Chapter 3c. Mrs Olga Kastlova presented document (traffic counts) submitted to the Task-force
meeting by the Czech and Slovak Republics. The paper includes type of roads where a census
should take place and the recommended coverage. Furthermore it deals with time range
(number of days, hours) and organisation including breakdown by vehicle types of the census.
Also the detailed description of method used for calculation of vehicle kilometres is attached.

Mrs Sylvie Mabile gave a short overview of the Chapter 3d which will be presented at the
September 2006 meeting of the Task force.

Mr. Stefan Romanovschi presented draft Chapter 3e that will be revised for the September 2006
meeting of the Task force according to discussion.

Focal points were recommended to prepare for the next meeting a list of words and notions that
need to be defined in the final phase of the project.

It was decided to include a table in the handbook showing the main method(s) for estimating the
overall vehicle kilometres in each member country. A first draft will be prepared for the next
meeting of the WP.6, giving the member countries a possibility to add correct information.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Task-force meeting decided to request the secretariat to put unedited draft chapters on the
web in order to provide opportunities to the interested parties to have access to these
documents and to send appropriate inputs to the focal points. The web address for these
chapters is:


Interested parties are invited to communicate their suggestions, observations,
recommendations, national experiences and comparisons, as well as other type of input
directly to the focal point of the relevant segment of the study.

NEXT MEETINGS

The Task-force meeting agreed about the dates and venues of its meetings in 2006:

- 21-22 September 2006 (Bratislava – hosted by Slovakia)
- 30 November and 1 December 2006 (Maastricht, the Netherlands – hosted by the Netherlands)

CONCLUSIONS

The meeting decided that the secretariat should continue to inform Working Party on Transport
Statistics (WP.6) about the activities of this Task force.
Delegates to the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) interested in the work of this Task-force are welcome to join its ongoing work and efforts on the project. This is an open invitation.

All general information about the activities of the project such as draft agendas with registration forms and reports are available at this address:


The interested parties are invited to visit regularly this address in order to get information about the general activities of the Task-force.

As far as specific information about each segment of the project is concerned, the interested parties are encouraged to contact directly the focal points as specified above. Full address list of the focal points is available in the Annex of this document.

The meeting decided to submit on this document to the next meeting of the WP.6.
ANNEX

Task Force on statistics on the volume of road traffic (vehicle-kilometres)

Heerlen, The Netherlands, 22-23 May 2006

Chairman: Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark)

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