REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING

STATISTICS ON TRANSPORTATION BY BUSES AND COACHES

held at the International Road Transport Union (IRU) Permanent Delegation to the EU

ATTENDANCE

1. The first meeting on Statistics on Transportation by Buses and Coaches was hosted by the International Road Transport Union (IRU), and organised by the UNECE Transport Division and the IRU.

2. The meeting was held at the IRU Permanent Delegation to the EU under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Smeets (The Netherlands). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden. The UNECE secretariat, DG TREN from the European Commission, the ECMT and IRU were also present.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

3. The Task force meeting elected Mr. Peter Smeets (the Netherlands) as the Chairman of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Task force meeting adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (AC.6 Informal document No.3).
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

5. The host organisation, the secretariat and the chairman welcomed the participants.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS

6. Sweden presented a consolidated draft document on the statistical coverage and availability of data on bus transport in 24 UNECE countries that responded to the pilot questionnaire on the subject.

7. The Task force members noted this presentation and suggested to enlarge the number of countries from which replies may increase the quality of survey. These countries include France, Italy, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine.

8. Existing definitions regarding transport by buses need to be thoroughly reviewed. A need for a new set of definitions in the areas of:
   - urban
   - outside urban
   - long-distance
   - border crossing
   - regular and charted
transport by buses needs to be worked on in the future. Potentially some harmonisation may be necessary. This may assist in a better collection of statistical data in the future.

9. The final goal of the work in this Task force is to produce a draft methodological handbook on the issue of statistics of transport by buses which would be the basis for the improved and potentially harmonised collection of data.

10. The IRU offered to assist in the publication (printing) and the dissemination of the final document.

CONCLUSIONS

11. The Task force decided the following:

Definitions

Mr. Barreto (ECMT) will send a provisional list of definitions and variables concerning statistics of transport by buses for comments and possible extension not later than 2 March 2007.

Task force members will respond to Mr. Barreto not later than 23 March 2007.

Mr. Barreto will send a consolidated informal draft document not later than 13 April 2007 to the Task force members and to the UNECE secretariat to be put on the web.
User needs

Mr. Nagele (DG TREN) will send a provisional list of user needs concerning statistics of transport by buses for comments and possible extension not later than 2 March 2007.

Task force members will respond to Mr. Nagele not later than 23 March 2007.

Mr. Nagele will send a consolidated informal draft document not later than 13 April 2007 to the Task force members and to the UNECE secretariat to be put on the web.

Methodological issues

Mrs. Myhr (Sweden) will send a provisional list of methodological issues concerning statistics of transport by buses for comments and possible extension not later than 2 March 2007.

Task force members will respond to Mrs. Myhr not later than 23 March 2007.

Mrs. Myhr will send a consolidated informal draft document not later than 13 April 2007 to the Task force members and to the UNECE secretariat to be put on the web.

Transparency, open membership and contributions

General information about the activities of the Task force that include draft agendas with registration forms and reports will be available at this address:


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.

The interested parties are invited to visit regularly the web address of this project in order to get information about the general activities of the Task force, as well as to contribute to its work.

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

Future meetings

The Task force confirmed the dates for the future meetings of the Task force according to the following tentative timetable:

- 20-21 September 2007 in Brussels

The chairman and the secretariat will prepare before April 2007 the provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Task force and inform the Task force members about this accordingly. This draft agenda will include the final date and venue of the meeting.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

WORKSHOP ON STATISTICS ON LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORTATION
BY BUSES AND COACHES

Brussels, Belgium
22-23 February 2007
Chairman: Mr. P. Smeets (Netherlands)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Mrs. Olga KASTLOVA
Ministerial Counsellor
Ministry of Transport
Nabrezi L. Svobody 12, PO Box 9
CZ-110 15 PRAGUE 1
Tel: +420-972 231 439
Fax: +420-224 812 293
Email: olga.kastlova@mdcr.cz

ESTONIA

Mrs. Epp KARUS
Head of Services statistics service
Statistics Estonia
15, Enda Str.
EE-15174 TALLINN
Tel: (+372) 6259 229
Fax: (+372) 6259 370
Email: epp.karus@stat.ee

GERMANY

Mr. Uwe REIM
Head of section public transport
Federal Statistical Office of Germany
Gustav - Stresemann - Ring 11
D-65189 WIESBADEN
Tel: (+49 611) 75 2210
Fax: (+49 611) 75 3924
Email: uwe.reim@destatis.de

NETHERLANDS

Mr. Peter S.G.M. SMEETS
Senior Statistical Researcher
Statistics Netherlands
Postbus 4481
NL-6401 CZ HEERLEN
Tel: +31 45 570 6432
Fax: +31 45 570 6279
Email: psts@cbs.nl

Mr. Frits MULLENDERS
Project Manager Statistics
Statistics Netherlands
Kloosterweg 1
NL-6412 CN HEERLEN
Tel: +31 45 570 6439
Fax: +31 45 570 6279
Email:.fmls@cbs.nl
Mrs. Astrid DOHMEN  
Statistical Analyst  
Statistics Netherlands  
Kloosterweg 1  
NL-6412 CN HEERLEN  
Tel: +31 45 570 7067  
Fax: +31 45 727 440  
Email: akpt@cbs.nl

Mr. Han BOLLUYT  
Director of Operations  
EUROLINES NEDERLAND B.V.  
Julianaplein 5  
NL-1097 DN AMSTERDAM  
Tel. +31 020 560 8730  
Fax: +31 020 560 8737  
Email: H.Bolluyt@eurolines.nl

SLOVAKIA

Mrs. Jela KYSELOVA  
Chief Advisor  
Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications  
Námestie slobody 6  
810 05 BRATISLAVA  
Tel: +421 2 59 494 518  
Fax: +421 2 527 31443  
Email: jela.kyselova@telecom.gov.sk

Mrs. Jana LUTTMERDINGOVA  
Coordinator transport statistics  
Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic  
Mileticova 3  
82467 BRATISLAVA  
Tel: +421 2 5023 6268  
Fax: +421 2 5023 6632  
Email: jana.luttmerdingova@statistics.sk

SWEDEN

Mrs. Anette MYHR  
Statistician  
Swedish Institute for Transport and Communications analysis (SIKA)  
Akademigatan 2  
SE-83140 ÖSTERSUND  
Tel: +46 63 140 009  
Fax: +46 63 140 010  
Email: anette.myhr@sika-institute.se

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

European Commission (EC)

Mr. Andreas NÄGELE  
EU Official  
Office DM 28 01/22  
European Commission  
B-1049 BRUSSELS, Belgium  
Tel: (+32-2) 295 1768  
Fax: (+32 2) 299 4857  
Email: andreas.naegele@ec.europa.eu
European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

Mr. Mario BARRETO
Statistician
European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)
2-4 rue Louis David
F-95016 PARIS
France
Tel.: +33-1 45 24 97 22
Fax: +33-1 45 24 97 42
Email: mario.barreto@oecd.org

International Road Transport Union (I.R.U.)

Mr. Oleg KAMBERSKI
Head – Passenger Transport
I.R.U.
Avenue de Tervueren 32-34
B-1040 BRUSSELS, Belgium
Tel.: +32-2 743 2580
Fax: +32-2 743 2599
Email: oleg.kamberski@iru.org

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TRANSPORT DIVISION SECRETARIAT:

Mr. Miroslav JOVANOVIC
Economic Affairs Officer
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)
Transport Division
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix, 8-14
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: (+41-22) 917 2493
Fax: (+41-22) 917 0039
Email: miroslav.jovanovic@unece.org

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