



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/2009/1
17 December 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Seventy-first session
Geneva, 24-26 February 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BUREAU OF THE
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its sixtieth session, 12-16 January 1998, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee (ITC) noting that the UNECE Plan of Action requested all principal subsidiary bodies to enlarge and strengthen the responsibility of their respective Bureaux, decided to reform its Bureau accordingly (ECE/TRANS/125, para. 14).
2. The enlarged and strengthened Bureau of ITC has since then, undertaken tasks related to the organization of the Committee's annual sessions including, the preparation of a well-focused agenda, indication of principal topics for discussion, monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session, monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication of the work of other relevant organizations, and proposing priorities in the programme of work.
3. The Bureau of ITC met on 22 February, 2 June and 27 and 28 November 2008. Due to the importance of the issues dealt with by the Bureau and existing practice, the decisions of these three meetings are reproduced below for consideration by the Committee.

Annex I
LIST OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING
OF THE BUREAU OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2008

I. ATTENDANCE

1. The meeting was chaired by Ralph Kellermann (Germany) and was attended by the following members: Andrei Tribush (Belarus), Xavier Guérin (France), Domna Papamichail (Greece), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Mikhail Maslov (Russian Federation), and Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland). Christian Dufour attended on behalf of the European Commission. Fabio Croccolo (Italy), José Alberto Franco (Portugal) and Emir Yüksel (Turkey) were unable to attend.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

2. When discussing the outcome of the seventieth session of the Committee and its ministerial segment, the Bureau concluded that these meetings had been a great success. The Bureau was of the opinion that, the ministerial segment in particular had contributed significantly to the increased visibility of the Committee. Moreover, the ministerial segment underlined the importance and relevance of the activities of the Committee and further strengthened its role as a consultation forum among countries, international organizations and the secretariat. The Bureau noted that about 280 participants had attended the segment, including 12 ministers and vice-ministers, together with ambassadors, other high-level representatives from ministries of transport from 41 countries and more than 20 related international organizations, and expressed its appreciation for the outstanding organization of the segment.

3. Furthermore, the Bureau noted that such high-level events were worth organizing. However, to maintain their impact, these events should happen relatively rarely and be linked to a specific occasion. Policy events, not necessarily at the ministerial level, should become a regular feature of the sessions of the Committee and should be linked to specific themes related to its programme of work.

4. The Bureau believed that the implementation of decision of the Committee to organize a workshop or round table discussion attached to its seventy-first session should start as soon as possible. Moreover, it expressed the view that, rather than a big round table conference, a series of daily mini-workshops might encourage participants to stay till the very end of the session. In view of the above, the Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare recommendations for consideration at its next meeting.

5. The Bureau also reviewed the newly-adopted structure of the sessions of the Committee in light of experiences from the seventieth session of the Committee. It felt that the division of the sessions into three parts, namely policy, technical and reporting, should be maintained. It stressed that the technical part of the sessions should allow adequate time for addressing the various programme activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee in view of its role as a

governing body to them, and that its reporting part should aim at the adoption of a streamlined and concise list of main decisions.

6. The Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare an outline of the agenda and programme of the next session of the Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

7. The Bureau considered the points to be presented by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee during the meeting with the Executive Committee, i.e. ITC as a bracket between European Union (EU) and non-EU countries; ITC in correlation with other international bodies dealing with transport; and ITC activities with global meaning and importance.

III. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

8. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, 2 June 2008.

Annex II

LIST OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 JUNE 2008

I. ATTENDANCE

1. The meeting was chaired by Ralph Kellermann (Germany) and was attended by the following members: Xavier Guérin (France), Domna Papamichail (Greece), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), Mikhail Maslov (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Emir Yüksel (Turkey). Sergei Negrei (Belarus), Fabio Crococo (Italy) and the representative of the European Commission were unable to attend.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/BUR.2008/4) with the inclusion of a briefing on the 2008 International Transport Forum, held in Leipzig, 28-30 May 2008, and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis These Prescriptions.

III. BRIEFING ON THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM

3. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the Transport Division of the outcome of the International Transport Forum on “Transport and Energy: the Challenge of Climate Change”, held in Leipzig, 28-30 May 2008, which was attended by high-level representatives from 53 countries. The Bureau noted that the Forum had urged the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) to accelerate its work in developing common methodologies, test cycles and measurement methods and establishing regulations on fuel consumption for new motor vehicles. The Bureau also noted that the need to find the right balance between supporting the economic drivers of trade and mobility and reducing transport energy intensity and emissions was among the main conclusions of the Forum. It also noted that according to the key messages of the Forum, this would be made possible through improved organization and optimization of different transport modes; more effective use of rail, inland waterway and short sea shipping; enhanced promotion and service quality of public transport and rail, especially in cities; fuel-efficiency improvements to existing technology; and incentives for more energy-efficient behaviour.

4. The Bureau noted that “Globalization, Trade and Transport” would be the theme of the next International Transport Forum, to be held in Leipzig, 27-29 May 2009, to which UNECE should contribute. In this connection, the Bureau welcomed the initiative on a joint transport and trade conference or round table to be organized back to back with the 2009 sessions of the Inland Transport Committee and the Trade Committee (see details under item XII of this annex).

IV. MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5. The Chairman informed the Bureau of his participation in the meeting of the Executive Committee of 22 February 2008 for the presentation of the ITC proposals on the implementation

of UNECE reform in the field of transport and noted with satisfaction that at its meeting on 20 March 2008, the Executive Committee had approved the request of ITC for the creation of two new groups of experts, on hinterland connections of seaports and on Euro-Asian transport links.

V. REORGANIZATION OF THE TRANSPORT DIVISION AND ITS STRATEGY

6. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the Transport Division of the reorganization of the division and its new strategy, and expressed its satisfaction and support to the secretariat for this initiative, its proactive attitude and responsiveness in addressing emerging challenges and opportunities.

VI IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES FOR UNECE REFORM

A. Strengthening border crossing and trade facilitation activities

7. The Bureau discussed the planned organization of a joint transport and trade conference or round table under item XII of this annex.

B. Strengthening the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) and environmental aspects of transport

8. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the results of the last session of THE PEP Steering Committee, held in Geneva, 28 - 29 April 2008 and noted that, with the assistance of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, a workshop on sustainable urban transport would be organized in September/October 2008 in Chisinau. The Bureau also noted that the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health would be held in Amsterdam on 22 - 23 January 2009 under the theme: "Making the Link: Transport Choices for our Health, Environment and Prosperity".

C. Strengthening implementation and monitoring of legal instruments

9. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of its efforts in strengthening the implementation and monitoring of legal instruments in the field of transport. It noted that only a few countries had replied to the UNECE questionnaires on the implementation of the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals and that this was creating a serious obstacle to the secretariat in pursuing its tasks.

D. Strengthening Euro-Asian transport links

10. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the plan of action for the development of Phase II of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project and its funding, including the organization of the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian transport links on 8 September 2008, back to back with the twenty-first session of Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5). A second meeting to be hosted by the Government of China is planned to take place towards the end of 2008.

E. Strengthening the TIR Convention and improving transparency

11. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of its continued efforts to improve transparency of the TIR system and to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). In particular, the Bureau welcomed the information that the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and its external auditor had signed an agreement letter for the year 2008 which was fully compliant with OIOS recommendation No. 1. The Bureau also noted that the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) had elaborated a questionnaire on the monitoring of the price of TIR carnets at the national level. The aim of the questionnaire is to obtain information on the total price which a transporter has to pay for a TIR carnet, including, in particular, the national insurance premium, taxes (such as VAT), administrative charges and further overhead costs. The secretariat will inform the Bureau of the outcome of this survey.

12. The Bureau also took note of the progress made in the eTIR project. After the finalization of chapter 1 on high-level description of the computerized TIR system, work was carried out with chapter 2 on the description of technical specifications of the system, as well as on the design of the related set of electronic messages. In addition, the secretariat, at the request of Contracting Parties and the industry, has developed a questionnaire aimed at assessing costs and benefits for government and trade resulting from the introduction of the eTIR system. This questionnaire is to be distributed to Contracting Parties shortly.

VII. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ROAD TRANSPORT

A. Electronic consignment note (eCMR)

13. The Bureau was informed of the progress made by the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) concerning the electronic consignment note, including the signing ceremony of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) held in Geneva on 27 May 2008.

14. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that eight countries (Belgium, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) had signed the Protocol in Geneva and that it would be still open for signature at United Nations Headquarters until 30 June 2009. It also noted that pursuant to article 8 the Protocol shall enter into force on the 90th day after five of these States have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.

B. Implementation of the digital tachograph (AETR)

15. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress on the implementation of the digital tachograph and of the status of the proposed amendments to the AETR, including the outcome of the 102nd SC.1 session held in Geneva, 26 - 27 May 2008 and on its ongoing discussions with the European Commission (EC) and the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) for establishing formal cooperation, recognizing JRC as the AETR authority for root certification and for interoperability certification for the digital tachograph for the non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR.

16. The Bureau noted that in spite of the remaining difficulties in reaching an agreement amongst parties concerned for the harmonization of the AETR and the respective EU regulation concerning the driving and rest time of professional drivers engaged in international transport, positive attitude towards finding solution was detected. It also noted that the matter may be solved at a forthcoming informal meeting between EU and some non-EU AETR member countries, which the secretariat will be invited to attend.

17. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the efforts and activities of the secretariat on the implementation of the digital tachograph and the proposed amendments to the AETR, as well as on the progress for establishing formal cooperation with JRC.

VIII. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

A. General Assembly resolution on global road traffic safety and the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC)

18. The Bureau considered informal document No. 1 and additional information provided by the secretariat of the results of the 87th meeting of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly on global road safety, as well as of the outcome of the first discussions held by the secretariat with the Government of the Russian Federation on the contribution of UNECE in the preparation of the global road safety conference, to be hosted by the Russian Federation in 2009.

19. The Bureau noted that the General Assembly had adopted resolution 62/244 on improving road safety, which reaffirms the importance of addressing global road safety issues through further strengthening of international cooperation and knowledge sharing and welcomes the offer by the Russian Federation to host the first high-level (ministerial) conference on road safety.

20. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat of the progress of UNRSC activities, including the cooperation of WHO and other partners of UNRSC with the United Nations regional commissions and in particular with UNECE and its Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1).

B. The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) funded project on improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets

21. The Bureau considered informal document No. 2 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress of the implementation of the UNDA funded project “on improving road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets”, to be implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions in 2008-2009.

C. The road map of the future role of Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) in global road traffic safety

22. The Bureau took note of informal document No. 3 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the draft road map concerning possible ways for WP.1 to move forward and contribute to global road safety. It noted that this draft was prepared by the secretariat at the request of WP.1 following the initiative of a small group of countries proposing the expansion of

WP.1 activities globally, and that the matter will be discussed by WP.1 at its forthcoming session.

23. The Bureau agreed to revert to this matter at its next meetings, after WP.1 had considered it.

IX. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HINTERLAND CONNECTIONS OF SEAPORTS

24. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat as to the progress of the work of the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports and the organization of a UNECE conference on the role of seaports as a link between inland and maritime transport, to be hosted by the Government of Greece in Piraeus, 17-18 September 2008.

X. REVISION OF THE WHITE PAPER ON TRENDS IN AND DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND NAVIGATION AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE

25. The Bureau considered an informal document prepared by the secretariat providing information on the mandate and scope of the revision of the 1996 White Paper on Inland Waterways to be elaborated in line with ITC resolution No. 258. The Bureau took note of the draft outline and forward-looking approach of this second edition of the White Paper and requested the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and the secretariat to also enlist the support of UNECE member States, the European Commission, River Commissions and other international bodies with a view to producing a high-quality document.

XI. COOPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

26. The Bureau took note of informal document No. 4 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress of the cooperation of the UNECE Transport Division with OSCE, including contribution of UNECE in the framework of the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, in the field of transport of dangerous goods, during the sixteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, 19-21 May 2008, Prague, Czech Republic.

27. The Bureau was also informed by the Chairman of Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) of the latest developments following the entry into force of the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (AND) on 29 February 2008, notably as regards the status of ADN, the first session of the Administrative Committee (19-20 June 2008) (see agenda ECE/ADN/1 and Add.1), and the consequences on cooperation with other organizations and on their activities, in particular the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) and the Danube Commission.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTLINE OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

28. The Bureau considered informal document No. 5 containing an outline of the agenda and programme of the seventy-first session of the Committee that was prepared by the secretariat, as

well as the additionally proposed joint transport and trade conference that was planned to start in the afternoon of the last day of the seventy-first session of the Committee and continue in the morning of the following day.

29. The Bureau stressed that sessions of the Committee should allow adequate time for addressing the diverse programme activities of its subsidiary bodies and felt that holding the joint transport and trade conference at the end of the seventy-first session of the Committee might not be so attractive to a number of delegates. Further, it was of the opinion that if there is a joint trade and transport conference, the organization of several shorter round tables should be reconsidered.

30. The Bureau agreed that the seventy-first ITC session should last no more than two and a half days. It also agreed that this would include only one policy segment (a half day with parallel sessions), in the form of a round table or conference on trade and transport, i.e. on the impact of globalization on transport, logistics and trade, to be held preferably in the afternoon of the first day or in the morning of the second day, jointly organized with the Committee on Trade. In order to strengthen trade and transport intersectoral cooperation, the parallel sessions should be designed in a way that is attractive to members of both Committees.

31. The Bureau also stressed that the technical part of the sessions should allow adequate time for discussion of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and that the reporting part of the session should aim at the adoption of a streamlined and very concise list of main decisions (2-3 pages), to be prepared by the secretariat in the three UNECE official languages.

32. The Bureau proposed some changes to the outline of the agenda and asked the secretariat to prepare the final agenda and programme accordingly.

XIII. COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1958 AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF UNIFORM TECHNICAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WHEELED VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND PARTS WHICH CAN BE FITTED AND/OR USED ON WHEELED VEHICLES AND THE CONDITIONS FOR RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF APPROVALS GRANTED ON THE BASIS THESE PRESCRIPTIONS

33. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the organization of a special ceremony for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1958 Agreement, to be held during the 145th session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), on 26 June 2008, in the afternoon.

XIV. IMPORTANT PERSONNEL AND STAFFING ISSUES IN THE TRANSPORT DIVISION

34. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the main staff issues in the Transport Division.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

35. Noting that the current acronyms of its subsidiary bodies are not harmonized and that this may create confusion for delegates, the Bureau asked the secretariat to study the matter and prepare proposals for consideration at its next meeting.

36. Following the request of the Executive Committee to all sectoral committees to set up a mechanism to ensure that gender is mainstreamed effectively into relevant areas of the Programme of Work and to include gender mainstreaming in the annual report to the Executive Committee, the Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare a paper on transport and gender for consideration at its next meeting.

XVI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

37. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 27 and 28 November 2008.

Annex III
LIST OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING
OF THE BUREAU HELD ON 27 AND 28 NOVEMBER 2008

I. ATTENDANCE

1. The meeting was chaired by Ralph Kellermann (Germany) and was attended by the following members: Domna Papamichail (Greece), Fabio Croccolo (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), Mikhail Maslov (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Emir Yüksel (Turkey), and Christian Dufour (European Commission). Sergei Negrei (Belarus) and Xavier Guérin (France) were unable to attend.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/BUR.2008/6) with the inclusion of a new item "Preparation of the half-day conference jointly organized by the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Trade".

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES FOR UNECE REFORM FOR STRENGTHENING SOME ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Report to the UNECE Executive Committee on the implementation of UNECE Reform

3. The Bureau considered informal document No. 1 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress of the implementation of the priorities of the workplan for UNECE reform in the field of transport, and the proposals prepared by the secretariat for the meeting of the Executive Committee with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Inland Transport Committee.

4. The Bureau agreed with the content of the report with some additions and requested the secretariat to submit amended informal document No. 1 to the seventy-first session of the Committee for consideration.

5. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should endorse the progress report and proposals contained therein and request its Chair and Vice-Chair to present them to the Executive Committee of UNECE at its meeting of 27 February 2009.

B. High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health

6. The Bureau considered informal document No. 2 containing the provisional programme of the high-level meeting and additional information provided by the secretariat and stressed the need for adequate representation of the transport sector in this event. The draft outcome paper of the meeting was made available to the members of the Bureau.

C. Gender mainstreaming

7. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the efforts of the secretariat to present a review of the gender issues on transport (informal document No. 3) containing valuable information for the future work of the Committee.

8. Noting that the Executive Committee had asked all sectoral committees to set up a mechanism to ensure that gender is effectively mainstreamed into relevant areas of the Programme of Work and to include gender mainstreaming in the annual report to the Executive Committee, the Bureau requested the secretariat to submit informal document No. 3, as an official document, to the seventy-first session of the Committee for consideration.

9. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should endorse this document and request the secretariat to circulate it to all its subsidiary bodies for consideration.

D. Preparation of the half day conference jointly organized by the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Trade

10. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda (informal document No. 8) of the half day conference jointly organized with the Committee on Trade in the afternoon of the first day of the seventy-first session of the Committee and additional information provided by the Directors of the Transport and Trade Divisions on the preparation of the conference.

11. The Bureau proposed some changes to the provisional agenda and asked the secretariat to introduce them, finalize the provisional agenda, issue the invitations and accelerate the organization of this joint event. Concerning expected participation, the Bureau highlighted the need for a balanced representation of the public sector, related international governmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and the business sector.

IV. TRANSPORT AND SECURITY

12. The Bureau considered informal document No. 4 and additional information provided by the secretariat concerning the progress of work of the Multidisciplinary Inland Transport Security Expert Group, including the implementation of the Group recommendations by the subsidiary bodies of the Committee.

13. The Bureau welcomed information about the forthcoming session of the Group on 15-16 January 2009 when it is expected to consider submissions by the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and to hold a seminar covering research and development, critical infrastructure protection and business continuity planning in the area of inland transport security.

14. Noting that inland transport security will remain a topic of high importance to the Committee while awaiting the report of the Chairman of the Expert Group to the seventy-first session of the Committee, the Bureau is prepared to recommend that the Committee request its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to continue working on the subject. The Bureau will also recommend including the issue of inland transport security on the agenda of the seventy-second

session of the Committee in order to assess the progress of its subsidiary bodies in addressing transport security.

V. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS (WP. 5)

A. Euro-Asian transport links

15. The Bureau considered informal document No. 5 containing the draft workplan of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) and additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress of the Group, including the outcome of its first meeting, held in Geneva on 8 September 2008 and its planned future activities and funding.

16. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the extra budgetary funding provided by the Government of the Russian Federation for the partial implementation of the EATL project phase II and noted with satisfaction that, upon the invitation of the Chinese Government, an EATL Expert Group meeting would be held in Shanghai in the first half of 2009.

B. Hinterland connections of seaports

17. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress of work of the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports, including the successful organization of the UNECE conference in Piraeus, on 17-18 September 2008 (informal document No. 6) and the planned future work.

18. Noting that at its twenty-first session in September 2008, WP.5 had requested the Committee to consider and approve the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports by one year, the Bureau recommended that the Committee should approve the requested extension of the Group.

C. Revised methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks

19. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat that, at its twenty-first session, WP.5 had approved the report on the revised methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks prepared by WP.5, and asked the Committee to consider and approve it as a successful review of document TRANS/WP.5/R.60 of 1994.

20. The Bureau welcomed the work of WP.5 and recommended that the Committee should approve the report (ECE/TRANS/205).

VI. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ROAD TRANSPORT AND ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

A. Implementation of the digital tachograph (AETR)

21. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the progress of the implementation of the digital tachograph, the proposed amendments to the AETR and the results of the discussions of the secretariat with the European Commission (EC) and the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) to establish a formal cooperation recognizing JRC as the AETR authority for root certification and interoperability certification for the digital tachograph for non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR.

22. It noted with satisfaction that at its 103rd session, the Working party on Road Transport (SC.1) had solved the pending legislative issues on driving and rest periods of professional drivers and that the group newly established under SC.1 - Informal Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Digital Tachograph in non-EU AETR countries - would hold its first meeting on 2 December 2008.

23. The Bureau also noted that a paper on the existing United Nations conventions on the facilitation of transit is being prepared by the secretariat and will be submitted for consideration by the Committee at its seventy-first session.

B. The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) funded project on improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets

24. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress of the UNDA funded project "on improving road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets", to be implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions in 2008-2009 and noted that Belarus had offered to host the UNECE seminar under the project in May 2009.

C. The future role of Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) in global road traffic safety

25. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the outcome of the discussions held by WP.1 at its fifty-sixth session, 18-21 November 2008, on its future role and the reshaping of its scope and activities so as to better contribute to finding solutions to the global road safety crisis.

26. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat of the progress of United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) activities, including the results of the first joint meeting of WP.1 and UNRSC that took place on 18 November 2008 and the preparation of the ministerial conference on global road safety, to be held in Moscow, in November 2009.

27. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the first publication of the UNECE Transport Review dedicated to road safety, prepared by the secretariat, containing lots of useful information and contributions from major road safety global players, and editorial articles by the Secretary-General, Paolo Garonna, Officer-in-Charge of UNECE and Ralph Kellermann, Chairman of the ITC.

VII. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION

A. Computerization of the TIR procedures

28. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress made in the computerization of the TIR procedures (eTIR), in particular the completion of chapter 2 of the eTIR reference model containing the high-level requirements of the future TIR system and the progress of the Russian-funded project on electronic notification of TIR transport arriving in Russia.

29. The Bureau noted that the current eTIR reference model work was focused on the analysis of e-business requirements and that in order to make further progress in this area, the secretariat intended to ask the Inland Transport Committee to prolong the mandate of the Informal Ad Hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure for the year 2009, and to invite all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention to actively participate in the activities of the Informal Ad Hoc Expert Group.

30. The Bureau welcomed this progress and recommended that the Committee should prolong the mandate of the Informal Ad Hoc Expert Group for one year and encourage all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention to actively participate in its work.

B. Border crossing and transit performance measurement

31. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the joint OSCE-UNECE project to develop and publish the "Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings".

32. The Bureau noted that the Handbook - entirely financed through OSCE - was expected to contain a chapter describing different border crossing performance measurement techniques, including assessment of their suitability and effectiveness.

VIII. SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTIC IMPLICATIONS FOR TRANSPORT

33. The Bureau noted the secretariat's presentation on a newly proposed - to be externally financed - project aimed at developing a commonly accepted methodology that would provide an evaluation tool for the assessment of supply chain challenges in the transport sector.

34. Noting that at its twenty-first session, WP.5 had endorsed the development of such a project and asked the Committee to approve it, the Bureau recommended that the Committee approve the project, ask the secretariat to ensure the necessary external funding in support of its development and encourage the donor community and concerned bodies to consider providing the necessary financial support.

35. The Bureau also welcomed the research initiative to improve the marketing of the TIR system and at the same time assess the strategic challenges and opportunities for such a system in light of market developments (global and regional supply chains, integrated logistic services, etc.).

IX. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE HARMONIZATION OF VEHICLE REGULATIONS

36. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the most recent developments of the work of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and its subsidiary working parties, administrative committees and informal groups.

37. The Bureau noted that in the two first meetings held in 2008 of the Informal Group on Fuel Quality (GRPE) newly established by WP.29, the Group had approved a road map for developing technical specifications for market fuel quality, including bio fuels, and for the investigation of the most appropriate administrative procedures and their inclusion in a legal framework.

38. The Bureau welcomed with satisfaction the decision of WP.29 to organize in 2009 a round table on CO₂ emissions and recommended that the Committee should encourage WP.29 to proceed.

X. ACRONYMS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

39. At its 2 June 2008 meeting, the Bureau, noting that current acronyms of the Committee's subsidiary bodies were not harmonized and that this might create confusion for delegates, had asked the secretariat to study the matter and prepare proposals for consideration at its next meeting.

40. The Bureau considered informal document No. 7 containing the conclusions of the study conducted by the secretariat. The Bureau noted that, for reasons explained in informal document No. 7, the secretariat was of the opinion that replacing the acronyms and titles of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee entailed difficulties and the risk of creating even greater confusion and problems, and thus it might not be to the benefit of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

41. The Bureau considered also the proposal of José Alberto Franco, on renaming and renumbering the Committee's subsidiary bodies (working parties) and other bodies subsidiary to them, circulated as informal document No. 9.

42. The Bureau agreed to continue its consultation on this topic via e-mail and submit this issue to the Committee for consideration and possible decision, and that consequently, a modified version of informal document No. 9 would be made available to the participants of the seventy-first session of the Committee. The Bureau asked Mr. Franco to present this proposal to the Committee. The Bureau also asked the secretariat to evaluate the possible legal, as well as administrative, implications of such a change, taking also into consideration the United Nations and UNECE rules/guidelines, and inform the Committee at its seventy-first session.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS OF THE AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

43. At its June meeting, the Bureau had agreed that the seventy-first session of the Committee should last no more than two and a half days and that the session would include only one half-

day policy segment in the form of a round table or conference jointly organized with the Committee on Trade on the impact of globalization on transport, logistics and trade. This policy segment would be held preferably in the afternoon of the first day. At its June meeting, the Bureau also stressed that the technical part of the session should allow adequate time for discussion of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee. Moreover, the reporting part of the session should aim at the adoption of a streamlined and very concise list of main decisions (2-3 pages), to be prepared by the secretariat in the three UNECE official languages.

44. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda of the seventy-first session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/204) and the annotated agenda (ECE/TRANS/204/Add.1), and discussed items of the agenda that needed consideration and required decisions.

45. The Bureau agreed on some changes to the agenda and the annotations and asked the secretariat to introduce them (ECE/TRANS/204/Rev.1 and ECE/TRANS/204/Add.1).

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next meeting

46. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on Monday, 23 February 2009, in the afternoon.

47. The Bureau also noted that, in view of the earlier termination of the seventy-first session of the Committee, its meeting originally scheduled for 27 February 2009, would take place in the afternoon of 26 February 2009.
