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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Seventy-second session  
Geneva, 23-25 February 2010  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

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

**Note by the secretariat**

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) or "the Committee" (ECE/TRANS/125, paras 14 and 15 and ECE/TRANS/206/Add.1), the Bureau of the ITC met on 26 February 2009, 2 June 2009, and from 30 November to 1 December 2009.
2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) plan of action the Bureau has to fulfil the following functions related to the organization of the annual sessions of the Committee including the preparation of a well-focused agenda with the definition of objectives and the setting of time-allocation for each item; indication of principal topics where decisions are needed; delineation of themes of discussion of the session; 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 of priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).
3. This document contains, in its annexes, the results of the meetings of the Bureau for consideration by the Committee in line with the mandate of its Bureau.

**Annex I**  
**RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE**  
**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2009**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

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

**II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

2. In discussing the outcome of the seventy-first session of the ITC, the Bureau felt that this session had been successful, as it had taken a number of important decisions, including addressing global warming and transport, development of fuel quality standards and methodologies for emissions of vehicles, assessment of supply chain challenges in transport, implementation of the digital tachograph, and continuation of the work on the hinterland connection of seaports, inland transport security and computerization of the TIR Convention.

3. In discussing the outcome of the conference that was jointly organized with the Committee on Trade, the Bureau concluded that this had also been successful. It noted that about 300 participants from 40 countries and more than 20 related international organizations had attended the conference. Notwithstanding the high quality of the speakers and the wide and most interesting coverage of the topics presented by them, the Bureau felt that there were too many speakers, which did not leave any time for debate.

4. The Bureau reviewed the structure of the sessions of the Committee in light of its experience from organizing the seventy-first session. It felt that the division of the session into three parts, namely policy - linked with the organization of an event - technical and reporting, should be maintained. It expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventy-first session of the Committee and the conference, as well as the timely preparation and adoption of a streamlined and concise list of main decisions in three UNECE official languages, and thanked the secretariat for its work.

5. The Bureau considered the points to be presented by the Chair of the Committee during the meeting with the Executive Committee.

**III. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, 2 June 2009.

**Annex II**  
**RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF**  
**THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 JUNE 2009**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

1. The meeting was chaired by Ralph Kellermann (Germany) and was attended by the following members: Andrei Tribush (Belarus), Isabelle Paillet (France), José Alberto Franco (Portugal), Alexander Sherstnev (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Emrah Karakiliç (Turkey). Christian Dufour (European Commission) Fabio Crococo (Italy) Domna Papamichail (Greece) and Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands) were unable to attend.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2009/4).

**III. BRIEFING ON THE 2009 INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM**

3. The Bureau was informed by the Director about the outcome of the International Transport Forum on “Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn”, held in Leipzig from 26 to 29 May 2009. This includes wider acceptance of the key role of transport in supporting economic growth and in the creation of new confidence in the world’s economic future; more attention on the impact of the severe downturn, which led to dramatic reductions in transport markets of 20 per cent; common understanding of the significance of technological solutions and close international cooperation avoiding protectionism; the need to improve economic efficiency, safety, social impacts and environmental protection in transport; and the importance of incentives for technological advance in order to ensure transport sustainability.

4. The Bureau noted that the Forum had hosted 52 Ministers and top business leaders from around the world and welcomed contribution of the UNECE through participation in policy discussion panels and a UNECE information stand, which raised the visibility of the work of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies.

5. The Bureau noted that “Transport and Innovation” would be the theme of the next International Transport Forum, to be held in Leipzig, 25-28 May 2010, in which UNECE should also contribute.

**IV. BRIEFING ON THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

6. The Bureau was informed by the Director of the outcome of the sixty-third session of the UNECE, held in Geneva, from 30 March to 1 April 2009.

7. The Bureau noted that the session had reaffirmed the strategic directions adopted by the UNECE reform and renewed the support of its member States to the work of UNECE, with due account of the specific needs of its countries with economies in transition.

8. The Bureau also noted that the debates highlighted the role of the transport sector in contributing to faster recovery of the economic crisis, both via public investment in infrastructures and an increase in regional trade; the importance of UNECE's transport legal instruments as an effective framework to remove bottlenecks and promote interoperability; the need to reduce trade barriers to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis; and the importance of the climate change mitigation and the role of transport.

## **V. MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

9. The Chairman informed the Bureau of his participation in the meeting of the Executive Committee of 27 February 2009 for the presentation of the ITC report on the implementation of the UNECE reform in the field of transport.

10. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that at its meeting on 4 May 2009, the Executive Committee had approved the extension of the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connection of Seaports by one more year.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REFORM FOR STRENGTHENING SOME ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **A. Strengthening border crossing and trade facilitation activities**

11. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress made to strengthen border crossing and trade facilitation, and of the cooperation between the transport and trade divisions following the transport and trade conference jointly organized by the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Trade in February 2009.

12. The Bureau was also informed of the ongoing discussions among UNECE member States on the future of the Trade Committee and noted that so far no consensus had been reached among countries on whether the Trade Committee should continue to operate.

13. Notwithstanding that a constructive engagement of the Trade Committee in addressing trade related issues of UNECE member countries, particularly of those in transition, may be to the benefit of UNECE, the Bureau stressed that this should not affect the structure and functioning of the ITC.

### **B. Strengthening Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme and environmental aspects of transport**

14. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the most recent developments and future activities of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP).

15. Noting the importance of maintaining THE PEP website as a shared responsibility of countries, the Bureau felt that other countries should join their efforts with those of the Netherlands and bring their contribution.

### **C. Strengthening implementation and monitoring of key legal instruments on transport, including road safety**

16. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the efforts and plans, as well as of existing difficulties in strengthening the implementation and monitoring of legal instruments in the field of transport.

17. Recalling the request of the Committee to its subsidiary bodies to review and further improve monitoring and implementation mechanisms of the legal instruments administered by them, the Bureau asked the secretariat to accelerate efforts in close cooperation with the various subsidiary bodies of the Committee encouraging more innovative approaches.

### **D. Strengthening Euro-Asian transport links**

18. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress of the Phase II of the Euro-Asian transport links (EATL) project, including the results of the "First Regional Workshop on Facilitation of Euro-Asian Transport in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Region, held in Tehran from 27 to 29 April and the future plans.

### **E. Strengthening the TIR Convention and improving transparency**

19. The Bureau considered an informal document and additional information provided by the secretariat on the continued efforts of the TIR secretariat to strengthen the TIR convention and improve transparency.

### **F. Gender mainstreaming**

20. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress made in the field of gender and transport.

## **VII. GLOBAL WARMING AND TRANSPORT**

21. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress made in the follow-up of the request of the ITC to its subsidiary bodies to address global warming and transport within their work.

22. Noting that at its seventy-first session, the ITC had supported the work of WP.29 regarding global warming and transport and the organization of a round table on this subject, the Bureau encouraged the secretariat to go forward with the plan to organize a policy forum on global warming and transport, to be held in June 2010.

## **VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIGITAL TACHOGRAPH**

23. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the latest developments with regard to the implementation of the digital tachograph in non-EU Contracting Parties to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR).

24. The Bureau noted that all related issues, including the concerns expressed by some delegates of non-EU countries members to AETR on the implementation of the digital tachograph within the established deadline, would be considered by the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) at its autumn session.

## **IX. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY**

### **A. The United Nations Development Account funded project on improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets**

25. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project “on improving road safety: setting regional and national road safety casualty reduction targets”.

26. The Bureau noted with satisfaction the results of the seminar held in Minsk, from 12 to 14 May 2009, under the plan of the secretariat to hold a conference on road safety in South-Eastern Europe to be held in Halkida (Greece) from 25 to 26 June 2009.

### **B. The first global conference on road traffic safety**

27. The Bureau was informed of the preparation for the global (ministerial) conference on road safety to be hosted by the Russian Government in Moscow from 19 to 20 November 2009 and of the UNECE contribution to that conference.

## **X. PREPARING FOR THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

28. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 1 containing the proposal of the secretariat for the organization of a policy level segment/event during the seventy-second session of the ITC.

29. The Bureau agreed that the seventy-second session of the Committee would include a half-day policy segment, in the form of a round table, on “Sustainable transport development: The case of inland water transport”, to be held in the afternoon of the first day of the session targeting the participation of senior experts at technical level from the UNECE members States and related organizations.

30. The Bureau requested the secretariat to communicate to its members the draft agenda of the round table by 15 October 2009 for comments.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

31. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the new structure of the division’s website.

32. The Bureau agreed that the election of officers for the sessions of the Committee in 2011 and 2012 and for the Bureau for 2010 and 2011, as well as the declining participation in some of its subsidiary bodies should be among the items of the agenda of its next meeting.

## **XII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

33. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on Monday and Tuesday, 30 November and 1 December 2009.
34. The Bureau also noted that its June 2010 meeting would be held on Monday, 7 June 2010.

**Annex III**  
**RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE INLAND**  
**TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER 2009**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

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

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2009/6).

**III. REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**A. Report to the Executive Committee on the implementation of the Reform of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.**

3. The Bureau considered Informal document No. 2 and additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress in the implementation of the workplan for the UNECE reform in the field of transport. It also examined the proposals prepared by the secretariat for the meeting of the Executive Committee with Chair and Vice-Chairs of the ITC.

4. The Bureau agreed with the content of the report with some additions and requested the secretariat to submit amended Informal document No. 2 to the seventy-second 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 to present them to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of UNECE at its meeting of 26 February 2010.

**B. Follow-up of the sixty-third session on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

6. The Bureau noted that, at its 4 May 2009 meeting, EXCOM had agreed to invite the Sectoral Committees to consider the outcome of the session of the Commission, held on 30 March and 1 April 2009 in Geneva in order to evaluate how the ideas and suggestions contained in the annex to the report of the Commission could be utilized (E/ECE/1453).

7. Noting that the outcome of the discussions of the Sectoral Committees should be submitted by the Chairs of these Committees at their respective meetings with the EXCOM, the Bureau agreed with the ideas and suggestions contained in chapter X of the informal document No. 2.



#### **IV. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO WORK ON TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS**

##### **A. Euro-Asian transport links**

8. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the progress and recent activities of the EATL Expert Group, including the outcome of the second meeting of the Group, held in Geneva 7 September 2009, and its third meeting and interregional workshop organized in partnership with the Ministry of Transport of Turkey and the Organization of the Black Sea Cooperation, in Istanbul, from 11 to 13 November 2009.

9. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the progress of the Group and noted with satisfaction that the secretariat was negotiating with the Governments of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to organize the next two Expert Group meetings in these countries, tentatively scheduled to be held in March 2010 and September 2010, respectively.

10. Copies of the Informal document No. 3 on EATL Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) Analysis were made available to the members of the Bureau. The Bureau requested that this document be circulated at the next session of the Committee.

11. Noting the request of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) to the Committee to extend the mandate of the EATL Expert Group by two years (until February 2012) to continue its work, the Bureau recommended that the Committee should approve the requested extension of the Group.

##### **B. Hinterland connections of seaports**

12. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the decision taken by WP.5 to adopt and publish the final report of the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports (ECE/TRANS/210) the first draft publication of which was circulated to the members of the Bureau.

13. The Bureau noted that the final report recommended inter alia that UNECE should collect and process harmonized data on port-hinterland related flows and called for an examination of the European Agreements on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), on Main International Railway Lines (AGC), on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Harmonization Convention) by respective Working Parties with a view to introducing amendments that would be conducive to the development of efficient port-hinterland linkages.

14. The Bureau considered the matter and recommend that the Committee should invite the Working Parties responsible for the tasks mentioned above Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6), Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP. 24) and Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30) to consider whether and how they could be implemented.

## **V. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ROAD TRANSPORT AND ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY**

### **A. Implementation of the digital tachograph**

15. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the progress of the implementation of the digital tachograph, and in particular about the difficulties encountered by several non-EU Contracting Parties in complying with the set deadline of 16 June 2010 for implementing the digital tachograph.

16. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that in order to facilitate cooperation between countries concerned by this issue, the secretariat will hold an additional ad-hoc expert group meeting on the implementation of the digital tachograph by non-EU Contracting Parties to AETR, in Geneva, on 26 February 2010.

17. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should invite non-EU Contracting Parties to take all the necessary measures to implement the digital tachograph within the deadline, and to invite also the European Commission, the EU member States and the private sector, as appropriate, to provide assistance to the non-EU countries concerned, enabling them to comply with the deadline.

### **B. Briefing on the first global conference on road traffic safety**

18. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the outcome of the first global conference on road safety, held in Moscow, from 19 to 20 November 2009, which was addressed by President Dmitry Medvedev and attended by 1,500 participants, including ministers and high-level delegates from 150 countries, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and private companies.

19. The Bureau noted that, supported by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the event offered a historic opportunity to raise the political profile of the global road traffic safety crisis and make progress on tackling a leading cause of death and disability. Participants called for action to address the large and growing global impact of road traffic crashes; reviewed progress made; and shared information and good practices on road safety. The meeting culminated with the adoption of the Moscow Declaration, which invites the General Assembly of the United Nations to declare 2011-2020 a Decade of Action for Road Safety.

20. The Bureau also noted that in his address to the conference participants at the official opening, UNECE Executive Secretary, speaking on behalf of all the Regional Commissions of the United Nations, highlighted the severe consequences of road traffic crashes and invited governments to implement existing road safety related UNECE agreements and conventions. Stressing the importance of setting measurable targets to reduce fatalities and injuries, the UNECE Executive Secretary informed the Conference of the main results of the United Nations Development Account funded global road safety project, implemented by the five regional commissions, pointing out that young people are the most vulnerable group when it comes to road traffic crashes and provided information on the UNECE related initiatives and future plans.

21. The Bureau also noted that UNECE was well represented in the Conference since, in addition to the UNECE Executive Secretary, Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) Chair and World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) vice-Chair were among the panel discussants of the conference, whilst the Director of UNECE Transport Division was the moderator of one of the Conference panels. Other UNECE activities included a joint United Nations regional commissions stand displaying road safety related activities, a meeting on regional commissions road safety cooperation, numerous bilateral meetings and discussions with participating ministers and delegates.

22. The Bureau welcomed the outcomes of the conference and recommended that the Committee should invite WP. 1 and the secretariat to continue and further strengthen their efforts in contributing to the global road safety issue, including through active participation in the implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The Moscow Declaration was circulated to the members of the Bureau.

23. The Bureau felt that the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, of 1968, were still not well known by countries and that information work should be undertaken to remedy this situation.

**C. The United Nations Development Account 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 made in the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) funded project “on improving road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets”, carried out by the five United Nations regional commissions in 2008-2009.

25. The Bureau was also informed that as a follow-up to the cooperation with the Hellenic Basketball Federation and the declaration on “Team Work and Fair Play on the Basketball Court and on our Roads” signed by the Greek basketball champions, in Halkida, in June 2009, this initiative was recently brought to the European level by FIBA and FIBA Europe and also supported by the Polish Authorities. Consequently, the “Respect of the rules” declaration was endorsed and signed by FIBA, UNECE and the Polish Government during a joint press conference, held in Katowice, Poland, on 17 September 2009, in the framework of the Eurobasket 2009 tournament. It is hoped that during next year World Basketball Championship in Turkey the European initiative will evolve into a global commitment.

26. The Bureau welcomed and appreciated the efforts of the secretariat and recommended that the Committee should encourage the secretariat to explore further cooperation with FIBA and invite the competent authorities of Turkey to consider supporting UNECE efforts during the 2010 World Basketball Championship in Turkey.

## **VI. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION**

### **A. Computerization of the TIR procedures**

27. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat of the recent activities and future plans of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) and of the request to the Committee to prolong the mandate of the Expert Group to the year 2010 in order to continue its work.

28. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should prolong the mandate of the Group and encourage all parties concerned to support the important work of computerization of the TIR procedure by ensuring active participation and contribution of information and communications technology experts from both Customs and the transport industry.

### **B. Border crossing performance measurement**

29. The Bureau was informed about a recent joint initiative with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in the area of border crossing facilitation, in particular about the progress of the OSCE-UNECE project to develop and publish a "Handbook of Best Practices at Borders".

30. The Bureau noted that the Handbook will contain a chapter describing different border crossing performance measurement techniques, including an assessment of their suitability and effectiveness.

## **VII. TRANSPORT AND COMPETITIVENESS**

31. The Bureau considered informal document No. 23 of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) containing the outline of the project "Supply chain challenges for national competitiveness through transport", submitted to the twenty-second session of WP.5, in September 2009 and its indicative timeline, and additional information provided by the secretariat on the programme and expected outcome of the Round Table on Supply Chain Challenges for National Competitiveness through Transport, which will be held on 2 December 2009.

32. The Bureau noted that the proposed project looks beyond indicators already developed by other bodies, focuses mainly on ports, and incorporates broader issues such as transport facilitation, border crossing operations and other areas of transport, which play vital roles for logistics and supply chains. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should approve the externally financed project contained in informal document No. 23 of WP.5.

## **VIII. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE HARMONIZATION OF VEHICLE REGULATIONS**

33. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat on the most recent developments of the work of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and of its six subsidiary Working Parties. The Bureau was also briefed about the outcome of the six sessions of the

Administrative Committees of the Agreements administered by World Forum held in 2009 and the work of its thirty informal groups working in parallel with the World Forum and its subsidiary bodies.

34. The Bureau noted that “Transport and Innovation” would be the theme of the next International Transport Forum (ITF) 2010, in which WP.29 would contribute. It also noted that ITF was organizing a round table in March 2010 and that “Transport and Society” would be the theme of the 2011 ITF Forum.

35. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat of the activities related to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), Market Fuel Quality Standards and Climate Change and Transport.

36. Noting that the assignment of the additional P3 post in WP.29 would be decided in the United Nations Headquarters shortly, the Bureau requested its members to seek support through the missions of their countries. Moreover, the Bureau noted that WP.29 work would be also supported by a Junior Professional Officer financed by Germany to work on ITS.

#### **IX. BIENNIAL EVALUATION FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**

37. The Bureau considered informal document No. 6 containing the report of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee evaluation on the accomplishments, related indicators of achievement and methodologies for the 2008-2009 biennium, for each cluster of activities, approved by the respective Working Parties.

38. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should approve the 2008-2009 evaluation.

#### **X. PERFORMANCE PLANNING FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE 2010-2011 PROGRAMME OF WORK AND APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2012-2013 BIENNIUM**

39. The Bureau considered informal document No. 7 containing an overview of the planned performance assessments for the transport subprogramme, which was prepared by the secretariat in line with the decision of the Commission requesting each Sectoral Committee to conduct biennial evaluations and set the framework for such evaluation to be performed in the 2010-2011 biennium.

40. The Bureau considered the subprogramme’s 2012-2013 strategic framework, contained also in informal document No. 7, drawn up in the context of the United Nations programme budget preparations and the UNECE programme planning process.

41. Noting that the indicators of achievement contained in informal document No. 7 for the performance evaluation of the 2010-2011 biennium were mostly quantitative rather than qualitative in nature, the Bureau felt that these indicators should be reconsidered.

42. The Bureau requested the secretariat to circulate informal document No. 7 to the chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Committee, seeking their comments within the following three weeks, before its submission to the ITC and EXCOM, as well as to the United Nations

Headquarters, as appropriate. The Bureau agreed that comments received after this deadline should be brought to the attention of the Committee at its next session.

## **XI. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS OF THE AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

43. The Bureau was reminded that at its June meeting it had agreed that the seventy-second session should last no more than two and half days and that the session would include one half-day policy segment in the form of a round table, on inland water transport in the UNECE region, to be held in the afternoon of the first day.

44. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/207), the annotated agenda (ECE/TRANS/207/Add.1), and the provisional agenda of the half-day round table (Informal Document No. 3), organized in the afternoon of 23 February 2010. It was informed by the secretariat about the progress of the organization of the round table and discussed items of the agenda that required consideration and decisions.

45. The Bureau agreed with the agenda and the annotations and asked the secretariat to proceed with their publication (ECE/TRANS/207 and Add.1).

46. The Bureau also agreed with the provisional agenda of the half-day round table (Informal document No. 3) and requested the secretariat to explore high-level participation from the Russian Federation and/or a Danube country as key note speakers and moderators.

47. Noting that to process official documents through the respective United Nations services a mandate from an intergovernmental body was required, and that at its seventy-first session the Committee had entrusted its Bureau with the responsibility to mandate the secretariat with the preparation of the necessary official documents for the annual sessions of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/206, para. 7), the Bureau mandated the secretariat to process all documents contained in annotations (ECE/TRANS/207/Add.1) for its seventy-second session, including documents ECE/TRANS/2010/1, ECE/TRANS/2010/2, ECE/TRANS/2010/3, ECE/TRANS/2010/4, ECE/TRANS/2010/5, ECE/TRANS/2010/6, ECE/TRANS/2010/7, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, ECE/TRANS/2010/9 and ECE/TRANS/2010/10.

## **XII. DECLINING PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETINGS OF SOME SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

48. The Bureau was reminded that at its June meeting it had agreed that the declining participation in some of the Committee's Subsidiary Bodies should be among the items of the agenda of its present session.

49. The Bureau considered informal document No. 4, prepared by the secretariat following consultations with the Chairman of the Committee, containing the statistics of the last three years on the participation of delegates in the Committee's Subsidiary Bodies.

50. The Bureau felt that, in spite of well-prepared and organized meetings, the number of participating UNECE member countries was unsatisfactory in some Working Parties. Notably, WP.24, SC.2, Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) are confronted with alarming decreases in participation. In addition to further efforts to increase their value added, visibility and to provide adequate and timely information about their sessions, even a structural adaptation of some Working Parties could be considered.

51. Noting that WP.24 had already prepared a report on its future work and operation (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/5), the Bureau recommended that the spring 2010 session of WP.24 should be cancelled to allow countries and the secretariat sufficient time to prepare for its autumn 2010 session effectively and in conformity with the newly proposed substantive and procedural features.

52. With a view to reaping synergies, the Bureau encouraged back-to-back meetings of Working Parties, particularly those of WP.24 and SC.2. The Bureau invited Working Parties SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3 to consider whether a merging would be a more efficient way to fulfill their tasks and encouraged SC.1 and WP.1 to cooperate more closely.

### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. Election of officers for the Committee's sessions in 2011 and 2012 and members of the Bureau for the years 2010 and 2011**

53. The Bureau exchanged views on the forthcoming election of officers for the Committee's session in 2011 and 2012, as well as on the elections of members for the Bureau for 2010 and 2011.

#### **B. Schedule of the Inland Transport Committee and its Bureau meetings 2011-2012**

54. The Bureau considered informal document No. 5 prepared by the secretariat containing the proposed schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings in 2011 and 2012.

55. The Bureau agreed in principle with the proposed schedule of meetings and requested the secretariat to explore possibilities of holding the 2011 and 2012 sessions of the Committee a week earlier or later than it is now planned, and inform the Bureau at its next meeting.

#### **C. Date of next meeting**

56. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on Monday, 22 February 2010, in the afternoon.

57. The Bureau also noted that its meeting following the seventy-second Committee's session would be held in the afternoon of 25 February 2010.

**D. Meeting of the Chair of the Committee with the Executive Committee**

58. The Bureau noted that the next meeting of the Chair of the Committee with the Executive Committee was tentatively scheduled to be held in the morning of 26 February 2010.

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