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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks

First session

Geneva, 5 September 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotations to the provisional agenda for the first session¹

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 5 September 2011

Addendum

1. Introduction

The Expert Group may wish to take note of the results of the joint United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Workshop on “Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks” held under the auspices of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) in September 2010 and consider the joint note prepared by UNECE and UNCTAD secretariats (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2010/3) that had been circulated to the workshop participants as a background document.

The aforementioned workshop had raised awareness about the important challenges that climate change impacts and adaptation requirements present for international transport networks — a complex set of issues that has so far received little attention. It also highlighted that while transport is responsible for greenhouse gas emissions it is, at the

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (Anastasia.barinova@unece.org) or by fax (41 22-917 0039).

same time, heavily affected by the impacts of climate change. The workshop had demonstrated the urgent need to prepare appropriate policy actions, as well as the need to exchange information about best practices and concluded that there is considerable merit in establishing a new expert group to study the matter.

At its seventy-third session, in March 2011, the Inland Transport Committee noting the results of the joint UNECE-UNCTAD workshop, agreed to establish a Group of Experts on climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks and to adopt its terms of reference as specified in the annex of document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/48 (ECE/TRANS/221, para. 19). The UNECE Executive Committee at its forty-first meeting, in May 2011, approved the establishment of such an expert group (EXCOM/CONCLU/41, formal segment, item 5). The Group of Experts is expected to complete its work and submit a final report within two years (May 2013).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2010/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/48, ECE/TRANS/221,
ECE/EX/2011/L.11

2. Election of Officers

The Group of Experts will appoint its officers: a Chair, and if deemed necessary, one or two Vice-Chairs.

3. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Working Party is invited to adopt its agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/1 and Add.1

4. Climate Change and International Transport Networks: Overview of main concerns and considerations

The Expert Group may wish to discuss issues and concerns related to the impacts of climate change on international inland transport networks and adaptation requirements for different modes of inland transport (road, rail, inland water transport, combined transport, ports and their hinterland connections).

5. Programme of work

The Expert Group may wish to discuss and approve its programme of work and scheduled activities (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1

6. Partners and expected contributions

The Expert Group may wish to discuss potential partners and to make proposals on possible collaborative efforts with other United Nations bodies, governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, academia and the private sector. The Expert Group may also wish to consider the possibility of ensuring appropriate financial support for the work, i.e. by participating countries and other partners and stakeholders.

7. International Conference on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Requirements for International Transport Networks

An international conference on “Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change” was proposed by WP.5 at its twenty-third session. The Hellenic Chambers Transport Association had informed WP.5 that if there was no offer from governments, the Greek Chambers of Commerce and Industry would be ready to explore the possibility of hosting a UNECE-UNCTAD international conference towards the end of 2011 or the beginning of 2012.

The Expert Group may wish to consider this possibility as well as to discuss potential interest by member Governments or other organizations to host such an event. In case such an international conference is agreed upon, the Group of Experts will also act as a steering committee for its preparation.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/48 and Annex

8. Preliminary discussion on the structure of the final report of the Expert Group

The Expert Group may wish to exchange views on the possible structure of its final report, including recommendations and proposals to the UNECE members on improving the adaptability of international transport networks to Climate Change in areas including: infrastructure, risk assessment methodology, evaluation of adaptive measures, risk management, training tools and cross-border information sharing by national transport authorities. The Group’s terms of reference stipulate the submission of a full report of its accomplishments, including policy-oriented recommendations.

9. Other business

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other issues of interest.

10. Date and place of next meeting

The Expert Group may wish to note that its second meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva on 4 November 2011.
