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

Second session

Geneva, 8 November 2011

Report of the Expert Group on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks on its second session

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I. Attendance

1. The Expert Group (hereafter called the group) on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks held its second session on 8 November 2011. Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States participated: France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine and United Kingdom.
2. Representatives of the following United Nations organizations and specialized agencies attended the meeting: World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
3. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Road Federation (IRF).
4. Representatives of the following bodies attended the meeting at the invitation of the secretariat: Eurolab, IZT Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment, National Technical University of Athens, Network Rail (UK), University of the Aegean.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/3

5. The group adopted the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/3).

III. Detailed programme of work (agenda item 2)

Documentation: Informal document No. 1

6. The Group considered and endorsed the detailed programme of work and scheduled activities, (Informal Document No 1) prepared by the secretariat based on the programme of work approved by the Working Party at its first session (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1) and in accordance with the recommendations made during the first session of the expert group.

IV. Climate Change and International Transport Networks: Presentations of initiatives at national and international levels (agenda item 3)

7. The group was informed by its members about related initiatives at national and international levels.
8. The group appreciated the presentations made by the members of the group regarding initiatives at the national and international levels on climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks. Considering these initiatives as very useful for the future work of the group, requested the secretariat and the consultant to include these initiatives in the final report of the group as among the existing national/international case studies and possible best practices.

V. Review of scientific background, existing literature and identification of the issues pertinent to climate change impacts on transport infrastructure in the ECE region (agenda item 4)

Documentation: Informal document No. 2

9. The group considered Informal document No. 2 and additional information provided by the external consultant and the secretariat on the subject. The group appreciated the work done on the review of the scientific background and existing literature contained in Informal document No. 2 and took note of the information contained therein and especially for:

- The review of the scientific background of climate change and its implications on a global scale and the ECE region;
- The identification of the issues pertinent to climate change impacts on transport infrastructure in the ECE region;
- The review of the available literature on climate change impacts in international transport networks and adaptation solutions aimed at identifying possible existing best practices and national policies focused on inland modes of transport.

VI. Partners and expected contributions (agenda item 5)

10. Following the conclusions reached at the first session of the group where the global character of climate change impacts and adaptation on international transport networks was recognized, the group was informed by the secretariat on its efforts to explore possible collaboration opportunities with other international global and regional organizations.

11. The group appreciated the efforts of the secretariat to explore possible collaboration opportunities with the UNCTAD Secretariat, the other United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (UNCSD), WMO, the European Commission and the TEM and TER project.

12. The group requested the secretariat to continue its cooperation efforts with these organizations to ensure the global expansion of the group's work. The group also asked the secretariat to report on the results of its efforts at the next group session.

13. The group requested the secretariat to elaborate project proposals that may contribute to the group's work and explore their funding possibilities.

VII. International conference on "Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change" (agenda item 6)

Documentation: Informal document No. 3

14. The secretariat informed the group that according to unofficial information from Greece, the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association (HCTA) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thessalonica (TCCI) Greece are ready to host the international conference on "Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change" in Thessalonica, Greece in May 2012.

15. The group welcomed and thanked HCTA and TCCI for their readiness to host the international conference on "Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change" and

requested the secretariat to proceed with formal confirmation of the hosting of the event and relevant preparations so as to ensure the smooth organization of the conference.

16. The group was informed by the secretariat on the proposed structure of the conference (Informal document No. 3).

17. The group endorsed the proposed structure of the conference (outline, topics and sessions) contained in Informal document No. 3 prepared by the secretariat and asked the secretariat to research available speakers who may be available to present on the interdependencies among transport sectors topic. It also requested the secretariat to proceed with the necessary preparatory work (invitations, speakers, etc), in consultation with the group.

VIII. Outline of the contents of the final report of the Expert Group (agenda item 7)

Documentation: Informal document No. 4

18. The group considered and approved the outline of the contents of the final report prepared by the secretariat and the external consultant (Informal document No. 4).

IX. Questionnaire for collection of information on existing and potential climate change impacts on transport as well as degree of preparedness and relevant policies for adaptation (agenda item 8)

Documentation: Informal document No. 5

19. The group was informed on the draft questionnaire (Informal document No. 5) that was prepared in support of its evaluation of the available data exercise and collection of necessary information for adaptation of transport networks to climate change contained in its work programme.

20. The group considered and approved the questionnaire prepared by the secretariat and the external consultant (Informal document No. 5) with comments. It requested the secretariat to send the questionnaire as soon as possible to UNECE member States and other key stakeholders, as well as explore possible input from other organizations for the collection of the required information. The group also asked the secretariat and the external consultant to prepare the questionnaire as an electronic document to encourage more responses.

X. Other business (agenda item 9)

21. There were no other items.

XI. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 10)

22. The group decided to hold its next session in March or April 2012 (the date still to be confirmed), devoted exclusively to the preparation of the Conference.

XII. Adoption of the report

23. The group adopted the list of main decisions of its second session and requested the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report to be circulated to the members of the group for comments on items other than those contained in the list of main decisions.
