

PRE- INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (ITC) CONFERENCE ON “ROAD AND RAIL FINANCING”

**75th session of the Inland Transport Committee -
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

25 FEBRUARY 2013 (10.00–18.00 HOURS)

GENEVA, PALAIS DES NATIONS, SALLE XVII AND VII

BRIEFING NOTE

Introduction

The year 2013 will mark the occasion of the seventy-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), a unique inter-governmental body specialized in inland transport (road, rail, inland water and inter-modal transport, transport of dangerous goods, vehicle regulations, border crossing facilitation) and, thus, the centre of transport conventions and agreements.

The seventy-fifth jubilee session of ITC coincides with the completion of the second phase of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project and also marks the first step towards unified railway law along Euro-Asian transport corridors.

In order to celebrate these important milestones and achievements, a Transport Ministerial Meeting will be held on 26 February 2013, as the policy segment of ITC's jubilee session (Geneva, 26–28 February 2013).

The seventy-fifth jubilee session of ITC will be preceded by an **International Conference dedicated to “Road and Rail Financing”**, which will be held on **25 February 2013**.

The Conference programme consists of a mix of plenary sessions in the morning and afternoon, alternated by, in the morning, two separate, parallel break-away sessions, dedicated to road and rail specific topics. During the morning plenary session, the results of the UNECE Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) Project will be presented¹. Special attention will be given to the prioritization methodology of transport investment projects – the methodology, which has been used both for the EATL planning and for the Trans-European Railways and Motorways projects (TEM and TER). The outcome of the study comparing maritime and land transport between Europe and Asia will also be presented. The afternoon plenary session will be dedicated to public and public-private funding of road and rail transport infrastructure development, including a panel discussion by donors and International Financial Institutions, in the course of which participants will learn about the latest requirements and expectations for donor funding

¹ The results of the EATL study will be uploaded onto the website of the UNECE Transport Division on 25 February 2013 and hard copies will be available as of 26 February 2013.

The parallel break-away session dedicated to road will focus on innovative funding solutions for roads and highways i.e intelligent transport systems, Electronic Toll Collection, leveraging the land owners' benefits etc. The session dedicated to rail will highlight the work conducted towards the unification of the existing legal regimes of rail transport, the challenges that railways will face in the next decade and, in particular, those dealing with rail transport services along the Euro-Asian transport corridors.

Organizational Details

- (a.) The Conference will take place in **rooms XVII and VII**;
 - a. The **plenary sessions** in the morning and in the afternoon will take place in room XVII;
 - b. The parallel break-away session dedicated to **road** will take place in room XVII;
 - c. The parallel break-away session dedicated to **rail** will take place in room VII;
- (b.) **Presentations** should not exceed 10 minutes, except for the two introductory key-note presentations of the break-away sessions, which may last for 20 minutes;
- (c.) The **round table** in the afternoon entitled "Making investment dreams come true", will be organized in the form of a panel discussion, where participants will be asked to give a five minute introduction about their institution's future lending policy and capacity to provide grants in support of transport infrastructure developments and, then, to respond to questions.
- (d.) Speakers are requested to send their presentations (as power point **file** (.ppt) or adobe acrobat file (.pdf)), together with an abstract of their presentation (as word file (.doc) or adobe acrobat file (.pdf)) to the secretariat (konstantinos.alexopoulos@unece.org) at their earliest convenience but not later than by Thursday 21 February 2013;
- (e.) The presentations – and any additional materials, articles or written speeches - will be uploaded onto the Conference **web site**, after the sessions;
- (f.) An **electronic publication** with the abstracts of the presentations and the outcomes – conclusions of the Conference will be made available in due course;
- (g.) The outcomes – conclusions of the Conference will be discussed at the session of the ITC;
- (h.) Participants of the pre-ITC International Conference on Road and Rail Financing are also invited to participate in the 75th Jubilee Session of ITC. However, for administrative reasons, separate registration for both events is required.

Participants

All UNECE Member States and EATL project countries have been invited to attend the Conference. In addition, invitations have been extended to railways companies, road administration authorities, Chambers of Commerce, road transport operators' associations, organizations dealing with Intelligent Transport Systems and representatives of the academia.

High level representatives of relevant international organizations and International Financial Institutions that have been involved either in the EATL project or in the unified railway law activity have also received invitations to participate in the Conference.

Contact Persons for transport events during the ITC week :

On any matters	<p>Dr. Eva Molnar Tel: 022-917 2400 eva.molnar@unece.org</p> <p>Mr. Martin Magold Tel: 022-917 2453 martin.magold@unece.org</p> <p>Mr. Robert Nowak Tel: 022-917 1267 robert.nowak@unece.org</p>
Pre-ITC Conference on Road and Rail Finance – Launching the study on Europe-Asia transport linkages, Phase II Declaration on Unified Railway Law	<p>Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos Tel: 022-917 73758 konstantinos.alexopoulos@unece.org</p>
Ministerial Meeting on “ Making the Euro-Asia Transport Network Operational” EATL Declaration	<p>Mr. Miroslav Jovanovic Tel: 022-917 2493 miroslav.jovanovic@unece.org</p>
“Transport in Motion” Photo Exhibition	<p>Mrs. Martine-Sophie Fouvez Tel: 022-917 1837 martine-sophie.fouvez@unece.org</p>
Inland Transport Committee and Bureau sessions	<p>Mr. Artur Bouten Tel: 022 917 24 33 artur.bouten@unece.org</p>
Bilateral meetings	<p>Mr. Konstantin Glukhenkiy Tel: 022 917 1531 konstantin.glukhenkiy@unece.org</p>
AETR EG meeting and The meeting on Road Transport Liberalization	<p>Mr. Robert Nowak Tel: 022-917 1267 robert.nowak@unece.org</p>
Organizational matters (incl. registration)	<p>Mrs. Anastasia Barinova Tel: 022-917 2761 Anastasia.Barinova@unece.org</p> <p>Mrs. Dominique Leger Tel: 022-917 2401 dominique.leger@unece.org</p>