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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Seventy-fifth session

Geneva, 26 February–28 February 2013

Item 17 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the list of main decisions of the seventy-fifth session

### List of main decisions

#### Note by the secretariat

At its seventy-fifth session, the Inland Transport Committee:

1. **Adopted** the provisional agenda (ECE/TRANS/235 and Add.1);
2. **Welcomed** the organization of the second Ministerial meeting on Euro-Asian transport links with the participation of more than 200 delegates from forty-three countries and all relevant international organizations. The Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links was signed by Ministers and other high-level heads of delegations from 32 countries, reiterating the support of their Governments for the continuation of the EATL project in the next phase, with clearly identified strategic objectives; **welcomed** the signing of the Joint Declaration on Unified Railway Law by Ministers and other high-level heads of delegations from 37 countries. The Declaration aims to further strengthen cooperation in the area of Euro-Asian rail transport and contribute to the establishment of unified legal conditions for international railway transport, equivalent to those existing for other transport modes, such as road, air, inland waterways and maritime transport; **expressed** its thanks for the exhibition “Transport in Motion, showcasing more than 300 works from 22 countries and **congratulated** the prize winners (Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and Switzerland) for the extraordinary quality of their winning contributions. Finally, the Committee **extended** its gratitude to the Swiss Federal Office of Transport, which had generously offered a lunch cocktail;
3. **Took note** of the outcome of the pre-ITC Conference on Road and Rail Financing and, especially, the recommendations on the Innovative Funding Solutions for Transport Infrastructure and **invited** the secretariat and the relevant working parties, in particular the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) to further explore and analyse funding options for transport development;
4. **Welcomed** the organization of the third meeting of the Chairs of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies dedicated to the global character of UNECE legal instruments, as well as their implementation, and the ECE Reform Review, **encouraged** the engagement of the

Chairs to work, in cooperation with the secretariat, more closely together, ensuring in that way consistency and horizontal coherence between the different legal instruments under their competence and ensuring in that way efficiency and development of possible synergies in their activities. Furthermore, it **reiterated** its recommendation that such meetings promote knowledge sharing among the Chairs, representing the Committee's subsidiary bodies, create synergies, facilitate the exchange of best practices and offer a platform for strategic discussions and that, thus, they should remain a regular feature of the Committee's sessions; **noted** that many major conventions and agreements have acquired global significance, as more and more countries from outside the ECE region are becoming Contracting Parties to United Nations legal instruments in the field of transport;

5. **Reiterated** its support for the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects; **invited** the TEM-TER project member States to accelerate concrete steps to solve management issues and to forge cooperation with the relevant working parties; **requested** that the high speed train master plan initiative of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) be implemented in a way that creates economies of scale and promotes synergies and knowledge sharing; **encouraged** Governments of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, South-Caucasus and Central Asia that are not yet members of the TEM and TER projects to consider full participation, with the aim of establishing synergy between the TEM/TER and EATL projects. The Committee **took note** of the proposal, at the invitation of the Russian Railways, to hold the next working group meeting of the TER Project in Sochi (Russian Federation);

6. **Adopted** a proposal by the Group of Experts (GE) on Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) for a new mandate (Terms of Reference), **supported** the extension of the EATL GE with two more years (ECE/TRANS/2013/5) and **noted** that special attention to consistency with other networks should be paid. The Committee **welcomed** the participation of UNESCAP in the session and **took note** with satisfaction of the planned cooperation between UNECE and UNESCAP in the joint EATL Project;

7. **Expressed** its satisfaction that nearly all non-EU Contracting Parties to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) have either fully implemented or made significant progress towards full implementation of the digital tachograph; **welcomed** that the European Commission services, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), continues to act as the Root Certification Authority for all AETR Contracting Parties, based on the arrangements between UNECE, the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre, valid until 30 June 2015; **requested** that the AETR Expert Group speed up efforts to achieve consensus over proposals how to amend AETR Article 22bis to ensure equitable treatment of all AETR Contracting Parties **approved** the extension of the duration of the AETR Expert Group until December 2014, should it prove necessary for the completion of the Group's current mandate;

8. **Took note** of the invitation by Turkey to attend the meeting of the Informal Group of Experts, working on quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods, which will be held on 1 March 2013, in Geneva;

9. **Invited** all Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) to accede to the Additional Protocol concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (e-CMR) and **encouraged** the seven e-CMR Contracting Parties to begin discussions on the implementation procedures, with support from the secretariat; **took note** of a proposal by the Government of Switzerland to work on a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBus). In this regard, in order to make progress in the course of 2013, the Committee called on all interested governments to attend the special session, as decided

by the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) at its 2012 session, which is planned to take place on 10-12 July 2013 in Geneva;

10. **Invited** and **encouraged** all UNECE Member States to provide financial and in-kind support to the secretariat to ensure that the UN Road Safety Week is a success; **supported** the organization of the International Level Crossing Awareness Day, Geneva, 7 May 2013 and **encouraged** all UNECE member States to provide financial and in-kind support to make this event a success **as a follow up to** the General Assembly resolution A/66/260 on improving global road safety (of 23 May 2012), which requested UN regional commissions to organize activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week (6–12 May 2013) within their resources and with voluntary financial assistance from stakeholders; **approved**, as required by the Rules of Procedure of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (TRANS/WP.1/100/Add.1, Rule 3), a request by WP.1 to hold an additional session outside Geneva;

11. **Adopted** a proposal by WP.1 to establish a formal Expert Group to review the 1968 Road Signs and Signals Convention and assess its overall implementation, subject to the development and adoption of draft Terms of Reference by WP.1 and subsequent approval by EXCOM (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2013/2);

12. **Took note** of EXCOM's position to postpone decisions on establishing new Expert Groups, but, at the same time **urged** the secretariat to re-submit the request for the establishment of an Expert Group on Safety at level crossings;

13. **Took note** of the February 2013 session of the Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum; **requested** the secretariat to continue the organization of the annual Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum and **requested** that the 2012 Inland Transport Security Forum proceedings be translated into the three official UNECE languages and made available to ITC subsidiary bodies for their consideration;

14. **Invited** SC.2 to tangibly contribute to the revitalization of the cooperation between international railways; **approved** the request of SC.2 to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law for another two years and **endorsed** its new ToR, prepared by the secretariat, subject to approval by EXCOM (ECE/TRANS/2013/9); **welcomed** the new initiative of SC.2, in particular the master plan on high speed rail networks, efforts to implement Annex 9 of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the forthcoming rail security workshop, the rail review publication and the workshop on Public Private Partnership (PPP) schemes and railway financing and **requested** SC.2 to provide more information on these initiatives at the seventy-sixth session of the Committee. The Committee **took note** of the close collaboration between UNECE and UNESCAP in the development of the master plan on high speed trains and the efforts towards the establishment of unified railway law; **requested** Contracting Parties to the Harmonization Convention, 1982, to conduct internal procedures for the introduction of the provisions of Annex 9 at the national level and its wide application. The joint application by countries of unified requirements to the international freight transport and common approaches to border-crossing and Customs formalities would lead to tangible results when applying this Convention;

15. **Welcomed** the publication of the 2012 Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E-Waterway Network (Blue Book) as well as the map of European inland waterways in English, French and Russian and **endorsed** the decision of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) to establish an Expert Group on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation, based on its ToR;

16. **Invited** SC.3 to follow up on the implementation of the IWT White Paper, endorsed by the Committee in 2010 and consider the preparation and organization of a high level

international conference for all countries in the world with interest in inland navigation, as foreseen in the UNECE White Paper and, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, consider the most appropriate time schedule and report to the Committee at its next session;

17. **Took note of** the information on the progress in the development of the framework model of the Transport Development Index (TDI) and invited countries to take part in a pilot phase to try out the model;

18. **Supported** the continuation of the eTIR Project and the prolongation of the mandate of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) to the year 2013; **invited** the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) to develop a business plan to implement the eTIR Project and **urged** it to start working on the legal aspects of computerization of the TIR procedure without further delay;

19. **Welcomed** that the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, in 2012, adopted 99 amendments to 67 existing vehicle regulations, among them the EURO VI provisions for heavy duty vehicles (UN Regulation No. 49), which reduce the emissions of hydrocarbons (HC), NO<sub>x</sub> and particulates; 5 new UN Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement on pedestrian safety, light emitting diode (LED) light sources, lane departure warning systems (LDWS), advanced emergency braking systems (AEBS) and enhanced child restraint systems (ECRS); UN Rule No. 2, annexed to the 1997 Agreement on uniform provisions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles with regard to their roadworthiness, which entered into force on 3 February 2012; Mutual Resolution No. 1 (M.R.1) of the 1958 and the 1998 Agreements concerning the description and performance of test tools and devices necessary for the assessment of compliance of wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts according to the technical prescriptions specified in UN Regulations and UN Global Technical Regulations;

20. **Endorsed** the decision of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) to prepare, in cooperation with the International Labour Office (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), new global Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units and to elevate these Guidelines to a non-mandatory Code of Practice by providing details and technical descriptions for improved safety in packing, handling and transporting of containers (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/131) and **requested** WP.24 to present the results at its seventy-sixth session;

21. **Urged** Contracting Parties to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) that have not yet done so, to take the necessary steps to allow the Protocol of 1993, amending Article 1 (a), Article 14 (1) and Article 14 (3) (b) of ADR to come into force;

22. **Welcomed** the ADR road map adopted by the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) on how to set up the administrative structures required for the implementation of ADR, **encouraged** governments which are not yet parties to the ADR to consider accession, and those which are already parties to check whether they have put in place relevant administrative structures for implementation; **requested** the secretariat to publish the Road map as a brochure;

23. **Drew attention** to the need to continue addressing two key strategic issues in the Working Party on Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11), namely the introduction of a definition of perishable foodstuffs by amending Article 3 of the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP); and extending the scope of the ATP to cover the carriage of all perishable foodstuffs and not just those referred to in Annexes 2 and 3, and **invited** WP.11 to consider ways to improve the practical results of its work;

24. **Took note** of the preliminary analysis done by the secretariat on sustainable urban transport and mobility in the ECE region; invited countries and their capitals that have not yet sent their replies to the questionnaire on urban transport and mobility, prepared by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), to do so; **reiterated** its interest in the subject, **requested** the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive and analytical report/publication and **invited** WP.5 to regularly follow up developments in this area;
25. **Took note** of the developments that took place in 2012 on the UNDA funded project aimed at developing and implementing a monitoring and assessment tool For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS), with special focus on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and the evaluation of the impact of policies aiming to facilitate climate change mitigation; **took note** of the forthcoming release of an improved version of ForFITS (expected by the end of March 2013), followed by the preparation and publication of a user manual; **encouraged** all countries to become involved in the piloting-out phase of the model, which is expected, together with capacity building and awareness raising workshops to be organized in 2013;
26. **Took note** of the results of the three meetings of the Expert Group on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations for International Transport Networks and of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference on Adaptation of International Networks to Climate Change, that was held in Alexandroupolis (Greece), 25–26 June 2012; **reiterated** its interest in the subject and **requested** the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive and analytical report/publication;
27. **Supported** UNECE actions on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in 2013, such as the joint UNECE - ITU Round table on driver distraction in June 2013, the harmonization of ITS requirements, the continued work on questions related to liability concerns and the work on the use of telematics in the transport of dangerous goods, with the aim to further transferring knowledge of ITS to policy makers to develop intelligent transport solutions for people around the world; **expressed** the need of consistency between the different existing legal instruments that are managed by the different working parties. The Committee **encouraged** WP.1 and WP.29 to coordinate their activities and efforts to develop a consistent transversal approach on ITS, not only in resolving the legislative uncertainty, but also with special attention to aspects of drivers' education and behaviour raised by new vehicle technologies on-board vehicles; **invited** the Chairs of WP.29 and WP.1 to report on their coordinated activities at the next Bureau meeting in June 2013;
28. **Welcomed** the review of the technical assistance carried out by the secretariat over a decade and **supported** the strategy developed for the technical assistance and capacity building activities for countries with economies in transition for the next coming years, including the Special Programme of Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs) Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossings (PWG-TBC) and **requested** its implementation for the next biennium and beyond; **invited** its subsidiary bodies to allocate adequate time and attention to support capacity building and technical assistance in their respective areas of work; **requested** the secretariat to enhance its fund raising activities and to continue working on strategic partnerships with relevant international organizations; **encouraged** countries to consider financial support in the capacity building and technical assistance activities implementing the strategy;
29. **Recommended** that the regional meeting in Vientiane, which will be organized jointly by UNESCAP and UNECE on 5–7 March 2013, in preparation for the 10-year comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) be used as a platform for further promotion of accession of new countries to UN legal instruments in the field of transport;
30. **Expressed** its support for the preparation of the tripartite Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, that will be hosted by France and which will be

held in Paris from 14 to 16 April 2014, in conjunction with the Transport Research Arena (TRA);

31. **Took note** of the further increase of Contracting Parties to United Nations transport agreements and conventions and, in particular, the growing interest by countries from beyond the ECE region; **called upon** and **urged** all countries again to consider joining the United Nations agreements and conventions, developed by the Committee and administered by the UNECE Transport Division. In particular, the Committee **emphasized** the following conventions and agreements, which are considered to be essential for achieving efficient, safe and environmentally friendly transport, harmonized across countries and regions: Convention on Road Traffic; Convention on Road Signs and Signals; Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR); European-Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR); Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention); International Convention on the Harmonization of frontier controls of goods (Harmonization Convention); Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles; Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles; European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR); Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP); Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of These Prescriptions; Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles; and, Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections, amongst others;

32. **Drew the attention to** the Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail under cover of SMGS Consignment Notes, which has not yet entered into force;

33. **Approved** as a whole all the reports and related activities of its subsidiary bodies and **requested** the secretariat to incorporate related references in the complete ITC report;

34. **Took note** of the information on the 2010 E-Road and E-Rail Traffic Censuses and **urged** UNECE member States to submit the results of the censuses at the earliest opportunity to the secretariat, in compliance with ITC resolutions No. 259 and No. 260, adopted at its 70<sup>th</sup> session. The Committee **requested** all its subsidiary bodies to closely work together with the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) on all methodological issues of a statistical nature when preparing surveys for distribution among concerned stakeholders;

35. **Requested** its Chair to report the findings of the Committee to EXCOM;

36. **Adopted** the revised versions of its programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 (ECE/TRANS/2012/9/Rev.1) and the biennial evaluation plan 2012-2013 (ECE/TRANS/2012/10/Rev.1);

37. **Endorsed** the planned list of publications for the biennium 2014–2015 and **requested** the secretariat to continue its efforts to get any additional potential publication published (ECE/TRANS/2013/15);

38. **Adopted** its schedule of meetings in 2013 and from January to March 2014 (ECE/TRANS/2012/13);

39. **Adopted** the list of main decisions at its seventy-fifth session.