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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee

Results of the meetings of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2015

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains the results of the meetings held by the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee in 2015.

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/2016/26 and refer to the decisions of the Bureau under the relevant items of its agenda.

Introduction

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/248, para. 136), the Bureau of the ITC met on 26 February, 8 June and from 26 to 27 November 2015.

2. In accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) plan of action, the Bureau fulfils the following functions related to the organization of the annual sessions of the Committee:

(a) the preparation of a well-focused agenda with defined objectives and allocated times for the items;

(b) the indication of main topics where decisions are needed;

(c) the selection of themes of discussion for the session;

(d) the monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session;

(e) the monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication with the work of other relevant organizations;

(f) and the proposal of priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options (E/ECE/1347, chapter III, A, 2 (b)).

3. The annexes present 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 fifth meeting of the 2014–2015 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (26 February 2015)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Farid Valiyev (Azerbaijan), Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Adriana Pacuraru (Romania), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Roman Symonenko (Ukraine) and Ricardo Pascual Bregon (European Commission). Sergei Dubina (Belarus) and Takhir Aliev (Uzbekistan) were unable to attend.

II. Matters arising from the seventy-seventh session of the Inland Transport Committee

2. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction for the excellent organization of the seventy-seventh session of the Committee and the policy segment, which were well-attended and led to the adoption of several important decisions. More than 150 participants from 44 countries, including 13 outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region attended the annual session, along with the European Commission and thirty-six international and non-governmental organizations. The Bureau welcomed the timely preparation and dissemination before the annual session of the official documents and translations, as well as of a streamlined and concise draft list of main decisions in all three UNECE official languages and thanked the secretariat for its work.

3. The Bureau concluded that the policy segment organized in the morning of 24 February 2015 on “Rethinking Sustainable Urban Transport and Mobility to Meet the Challenges of a New Era” focused on a topical issue with high-calibre speakers. The challenge of the transition to sustainable mobility and transport is at the heart of the work of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), and the policy segment coincided with the completion of the study on Sustainable Urban Mobility and Public Transport in the ECE capitals, thus making a significant contribution to ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee’s work received valuable support from governments and stakeholders in its efforts to provide an international platform bringing together policymakers, disseminating best practices, providing capacity-building and carrying out analytical activities. The Committee proved again its role as (a) a centre of international agreements and conventions that accelerates the introduction of common standards and internationally agreed upon regulations for sustainable transport and mobility, including in urban environments, (b) a forum that collects and disseminates best practices from around the world, (c) a platform for policy and institutional analysis and (d) a coordinator for enhanced capacity-building and technical assistance to relevant member States.

4. The Bureau welcomed the results of the fifth meeting of the Chairs of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies, held as a restricted meeting for Government delegates only. In total 87 representatives from 40 countries, including nine non-UNECE member States and 12 Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees participated. The total number of participants almost doubled compared to the fourth Meeting of the Chairs that

took, place in 2014 on the same topic. This high interest among ECE and non-ECE countries proved the importance of the topic and the value-added of the preparation of a detailed report on the diverse experiences of the different Working Parties and Administrative Committees. The debate that ensued stirred insightful and productive exchanges on how to strengthen the participation of non-ECE Contracting Parties in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (see document ECE.TRANS.2015.R1e). The conclusion of this debate was that it is important to increase the attractiveness and appeal for all United Nations Member States to accede to United Nations legal instruments in the area of transport.

5. The Bureau was of the view that the draft list of decisions should continue to be circulated in a timely way to ITC member States, following the good practice established at the seventy-seventh session. To increase efficiency for the seventy-eighth session of ITC, either the duration of the policy segment should increase or the number of panellists should decrease to allow more time for discussions.

6. The June meeting of the Bureau should consider the topic for next year's meeting. Potential themes discussed during the Bureau meeting included sustainable transport, rail transport, customs and border crossing, and alternative sources of energy for vehicles.

7. Potential topics for next year's restricted session included the future of conventions that are not yet in force and the question of financing the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and its various analytical and technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

8. There was general agreement that three days including the policy segment are not enough for the ITC annual session. Some members of the Bureau also posed the question whether the policy segment should be conducted by an ITC official or by an external moderator. It was agreed to consider these questions together with the discussion of the next policy segment's theme at the June meeting of the Bureau.

9. The question of visibility of the work of the Committee was also raised. A Bureau member suggested that it would be productive to find innovative ways to link the outputs of the work of the Committee and its Working Parties with their impact in the real world.

10. The Bureau requested the secretariat to investigate the possibility of introducing a new webpage in the UNECE website on Transport with the names of all ITC Bureau members and former Directors.

III. Date of next meeting

11. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, 8 June 2015 starting at 10.00 a.m. in Room XXVI.

Annex II

Results of the sixth meeting of the 2014–2015 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (8 June 2015)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), Isabelle Paillet (France), Björn Oriwohl (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Florin Tudorie (Romania)¹, Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Roman Symonenko (Ukraine). Farid Valiyev (Azerbaijan), Sergei Dubina (Belarus), Takhir Aliev (Uzbekistan) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission) were unable to attend.

II. Adoption of the agenda

2. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2015/4).

III. Taking stock of the seventy-seventh session of the Inland Transport Committee

3. At its meeting on 26 February 2015, the Bureau had briefly discussed the outcome of the seventy-seventh session of the Committee. In general, the Bureau was of the opinion that the event had been well organized and very successful, in terms of the level and duration of attendance and the decisions taken. It had also expressed its satisfaction about the timely preparation, translation and dissemination before the annual session of the official documents as well as of a streamlined and concise draft list of main decisions in all three UNECE official languages. The Bureau had concluded that the policy segment organized in the morning of 24 February 2015 on “Rethinking Sustainable Urban Transport and Mobility to Meet the Challenges of a New Era” had focused on a topical issue with high-calibre speakers and attracted great interest. It had welcomed the results of the fifth meeting of the Chairs of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies and noted with satisfaction that the number of participants almost doubled compared to the fourth Meeting of the Chairs that took place in 2014 on the same topic.

4. At the same time, the Bureau was of the opinion that certain aspects of the meeting remained to be improved. Among them, was the need to better integrate the conclusions of the policy segment into the work of the subsidiary bodies of ITC. The secretariat was also asked to provide the list of past themes in future Bureau documents on policy segments.

5. Furthermore, the Bureau examined the question of the duration of the annual session and decided to increase the duration of the ITC annual session, and the duration of the high-level policy segment. It was also agreed to use one day for ITC technical assistance or for the facilitation of the solution of a high priority issue for any of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies. In 2016, a Technical Assistance (TA) event is foreseen based on the positive impact of the 2015 TA event. Accordingly, that ITC week will be organized as follows:

¹ Replacing Ms. Adriana Pacuraru who could not attend.

Monday, 22 February 2016

ITC TA event on the United Nations Inland Transport Legal Instruments.

Tuesday, 23 February 2016

9.30 - 10.30 Bureau meeting
11.00 - 12.30 Opening and policy session of ITC
14.30 - 17.30 Continuation of policy session

Wednesday, 24 February 2016

10.00 - 11.30 Sixth meeting of the Chairs
11.30 - 13.00 ITC meeting
15.00 - 18.00 ITC meeting

Thursday, 25 February 2016

10.00 - 13.00 ITC meeting
15.00 - 18.00 ITC meeting

Friday 26 February 2016

10.00 - 13.00 ITC meeting (decisions)
15.00 - 18.00 Bureau meeting

6. Furthermore, it was indicated that on the first day, it would be important to organize a lunch or a reception for the ministers or preferably for all the participants. Funding possibilities would have to be explored.

IV. Meeting of the ITC Chair with the Executive Committee

7. The Chair gave detailed information about his participation at the seventy-sixth meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 31 March 2015 and informed the Bureau that EXCOM had expressed its appreciation for the concrete and tangible results of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Bureau noted that, following the completion of the review process, EXCOM had returned to its practice of meeting with the Chairs of Sectoral Committees after their annual sessions.

V. Transport at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission

8. The Bureau was informed about the strong presence of the work of the Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission (Geneva, 16–18 April 2015). The Transport Division had been responsible for a high-level thematic discussion on “Connectivity and competitiveness for sustainable lives” and had contributed speakers to the other four high-level panels. Transport had been particularly visible at the side events front, organizing three and co-organizing one (THE PEP side event) out of the eight side events. The list of the transport side events included:

- Crashed Cars exhibition;
- Autonomous Emergency Braking demo;
- The photo exhibition of 50 Years of TIR on the Silk Road (1966-2014); and
- Bike exhibition raising awareness on THE PEP partnership on Cycling Promotion.

VI. Preparing for the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee

9. The Bureau considered the proposals prepared by the secretariat for the policy segment and sixth meeting of the Chairs of the next session of the Committee.

10. Three broad potential themes for the policy segment were discussed based on Informal document No. 3, namely rail transport, regional and global connectivity and Intelligent Transport Systems. After careful consideration, the Bureau opted for the third topic and chose the title, “Innovations for Sustainable Inland Transport with Special Attention to Information and Communication Technologies”. The core idea would be to examine aspects of ITS that relate to the work of the various ITC subsidiary bodies, as described in Informal document No. 3. To ensure timely and relevant inputs from the Working Parties, the Bureau requested the secretariat to notify all relevant Working Parties of the choice of topic and request them to pay particular attention to these questions and send feedback to the secretariat.

11. It was further agreed that the Bureau should forward its recommendations for topics, moderator, speakers and opportunities/ideas for an exhibition on relevant topics by 10 September 2015, in view of allowing the secretariat sufficient time to prepare a paper on the policy segment. The Bureau also requested the secretariat to ensure that changes to the content of the policy segment would not be accepted less than two weeks before the actual meeting.

12. Two potential topics for the sixth meeting of the Chairs were discussed: the question of the technical assistance and its financing, and the question of branding ITC from the perspective of its technical assistance and policy advice functions. The Bureau opted for the second topic, which would look into communications and branding of the ITC, its subsidiary bodies and its products thus enabling ITC to better position itself in a fast-changing external environment. Because of these benefits, the Bureau considered that this topic should remain on the agenda and a decision should be taken at its November meeting on whether a debate behind closed doors would be warranted or whether the topic should be discussed as part of the open session of the ITC.

VII. Follow-up to Rio+20 and the upcoming COP21 in Paris

13. The Bureau was informed about the main developments concerning the position of sustainable transport within the framework of the ongoing global negotiations on formulating the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Informal document No. 5). Based on the Committee’s strong expression of continued support for the inclusion of transport priorities in a coherent and comprehensive way within the framework of the SDGs, the Bureau supported the secretariat’s efforts to widely disseminate the global study on Transport for Sustainable Development so that it brings value to Governments in their ongoing negotiations. The Bureau recalled that, at its request, the secretariat had updated this successful paper and scaled it up to a global review of inland transport issues, in cooperation with the other regional commissions and relevant non-governmental organizations, such as the International Road Transport Union and International Union of Railways.

14. The Bureau expressed its strong support for the efforts of the secretariat to present and promote the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies at the twenty-first United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) that was held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, in support of relevant strategic areas of work of the Committee.

VIII. ITC cooperation with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Road Safety

15. The Bureau was informed about the main developments of the appointment of Mr. Jean Todt as the Special Envoy on Road Safety and areas of cooperation with ITC. It expressed concern about ongoing initiatives that might be duplicative of ongoing work in the context of ITC subsidiary bodies working on road safety and requested the secretariat to follow up ongoing developments.

IX. Other business

16. The Bureau requested the secretariat to follow up on the work of the Group of Experts on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) standards and their work on standards in transport PPP agreements. Traditionally this was an area of work covered by the ITC. In the context of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) work on transport financing, part of which also concerns PPP Agreements, the Bureau requested the secretariat to examine links and cooperation with the PPP Group of Experts.

17. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the current state of affairs with potential secondments and other solutions to support the work of the secretariat.

18. The secretariat informed the Bureau about delays in establishing an e-mail notification system due to major upgrading of the UNECE website and capacity limitations in the UNECE Information Systems Unit.

19. The Bureau requested the secretariat at its February post-ITC meeting to investigate the possibility of introducing a new webpage in the UNECE website on Transport with the names of all ITC Bureau members. After looking into this matter, the secretariat informed the Bureau that this initiative would require a prohibitive amount of staff energy and resources as it would necessitate research and analysis of archived information.

20. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on Thursday and Friday, 26–27 November 2015.

Annex III

Results of the seventh meeting of the 2014–2015 Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (26–27 November 2015)

I. Attendance

1. The meeting was chaired by Jerzy Kleniewski (Poland) and was attended by the following members: Isabelle Paillet (France – Vice-Chair), Sergey Andreev (Russian Federation – Vice-Chair), Kristof Schockaert (Belgium), Ingeborg Dettbarn (Germany), Antonio Erario (Italy), Bob Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland) and Roman Symonenko (Ukraine). Farid Valiyev (Azerbaijan), Sergei Dubina (Belarus), Adriana Pacuraru (Romania), Takhir Aliev (Uzbekistan) and Ricardo Pascual Bremon (European Commission) were not present. Björn Oriwohl (Germany) had left his position as transport attaché at the permanent mission of Germany. His successor attended the Bureau.

2. Members were reminded that, in accordance with the Bureau's Rules of Procedure, they should appoint a replacement if unable to attend a meeting of the Bureau.

II. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Bureau adopted its provisional agenda (TRANS/BUR.2015/6). To facilitate the preparation and travel arrangement of Bureau members, it was agreed that the Bureau agenda would be circulated at least four weeks before the actual meeting of the Bureau. It was also agreed that key documents that need decisions should be sent two weeks before the meeting and other documents as soon as possible.

III. Annual report of the Inland Transport Committee

4. The Bureau reviewed the draft annual report of activities undertaken during 2015 by the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies (Informal document No. 1). The Bureau was informed that a shorter version would be submitted to the ITC as an official document, together with a second official document on challenges for 2016. The full and complete version with photos, would be available for the Committee session as an informal document. The Bureau expressed its support for the annual report on UNECE transport activities. The Bureau reviewed the draft report and pointed out the importance of following the past year's practices and include all key results and challenges. It also considered this report as part of the branding and communication strategy of the Committee. The Bureau agreed to submit further comments, if any, to Informal document No. 1 within one week of the meeting.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

IV. Meeting of the Chairs of the Committee's Subsidiary Bodies and the Administrative Committees of UNECE legal instruments

5. The Bureau at its June 2015 meeting had considered two alternative topics for the sixth meeting of the Chairs: (i) technical assistance and financing and (ii) branding ITC. At the time, the Bureau had opted for the second topic which would look into communications and branding of ITC, its subsidiary bodies and its products thus enabling ITC to better position itself in a fast-changing external environment.

6. The debate would be expected to revolve around an analysis of ITC, other international organizations and timely transport issues ranging from SDGs to climate change. The focus would continue on cross-sectoral issues of a sensitive nature or that require a decision by governments. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress in organizing the meeting (Informal document No. 2). The Bureau noted that in light of the renaming of the Division to Sustainable Transport and the upcoming seventieth anniversary of ITC, the "new look" of the ITC could also be discussed as part of Chair's meeting. More precisely, it might also be worth considering the discussion of sensitive issues during the restricted session, while a general paper on communications and branding initiatives could be tabled at the regular session of ITC so that non-governmental delegates could contribute to the debate.

7. The Bureau recalled that the participation of the Chairs in the Committee session is important in order to promote knowledge sharing among the Committee's subsidiary bodies, create synergies, facilitate the exchange of best practices and offer a platform for strategic discussions.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

V. The 2030 Agenda

8. The Bureau was informed about the main developments on the position of sustainable transport in the framework of the completed global negotiations on formulating the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (Informal document No. 3). The Bureau noted the potential relevance of ITC in the implementation of SDGs. With regard to monitoring of SDG implementation in the field of transport the Bureau was informed that relevant discussions, including on the indicators, were taking place at EXCOM. The Bureau noted that, also on SDG implementation, the Strategic Framework of the Transport Subprogramme includes a clear mandate for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in providing assistance to country efforts. In this context, the Bureau noted the need to strengthen the role that ITC can play through its regulatory, policy dialogue, analytical, capacity-building and technical assistance activities.

9. On the basis of the Committee's continued support for including transport priorities in a coherent and comprehensive way in the framework of SDGs, the Bureau welcomed the completion of the global study on Transport for Sustainable Development and expressed its support for the secretariat's efforts to widely disseminate it. The Bureau recalled that at its request the secretariat had updated this paper and scaled it up to a global review of inland transport issues, in cooperation with all other United Nations regional commissions, as well as IRU and UIC.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3

VI. Environment, climate change and transport

10. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about activities to support governments in mitigating the negative impacts of transport on the environment: the latest developments in the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), the outcome of the Ministerial round table at the 2015 ITS World Congress and its input for COP21 (Bordeaux Manifesto), the continuing cooperation between the UNECE Environment and Sustainable Transport Divisions in the area of the Environmental Performance Reviews and their chapter on transport, and the application of the “For Future Inland Transport Systems” (ForFITS) tool in the above two areas.

11. The chapters on transport and environment of the Third Environmental Performance Reviews of Belarus, Georgia and Tajikistan are now being prepared by the Sustainable Transport Division. The analyses include the results of the ForFITS runs (Informal document No. 4).

12. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat about the progress of the application of ForFITS in countries of the ECE region as well as the regional ForFITS study (Informal document No. 5).

13. The Bureau was also informed about the highly successful 2015 THE PEP annual workshop (Irkutsk, Russian Federation, September 2015), on “Improvement of Sustainable Urban Mobility for Better Health and Environment”. The Bureau expressed its support for the conclusions of the workshop that raised the opportunity to develop an analysis on the environmental and health impacts of transport in urban settings.

14. The Bureau also welcomed the outcome of THE PEP Steering Committee and Symposium that was held on 17–18 November in Geneva (Informal document No. 6) and expressed its support for the strengthening of the representation of the transport sector within the tripartite partnership.

15. The Bureau noted with satisfaction the involvement of the Committee at the Ministerial round table at the 2015 ITS World Congress in Bordeaux, that was attended by 30 ministers and delegations, co-chaired by Mr. Alain Vidalies, Minister of State for Transport, Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and Ms. Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport. The Bureau welcomed the “Bordeaux Manifesto” (reproduced in Informal document No. 7), as major outcome of the Ministerial round table, and expressed its hope that it will be used at the upcoming COP21 as a basis for the transport contribution to mitigate climate change.

Documentation

Informal document No. 4, Informal document No. 5, Informal document No. 6, Informal document No. 7

VII. Activities related to road traffic safety

16. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the latest developments on the second Global High Level Conference on Road Safety, that took place in Brasilia, 18–19 November 2015 (i.e. the week before the meeting of the Bureau with the active participation of the Committee and the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety).

17. The Bureau was also informed about the main developments in the activities of Mr. Jean Todt, the Special Envoy, and areas of cooperation with ITC (Informal document No. 8). Reflecting on the achievements of the Special Envoy and the challenges in the implementation of his action plan, the Bureau requested to be informed in more detail about

the progress in achieving the objectives set in the Action Plan of the Special Envoy, including about the secretariat activities and the implementation of the related XB project.

18. The Bureau expressed its support for the progress in implementing the SafeFITS project (Informal document No. 9) and requested the secretariat to update it regularly at the completion of each phase of the project.

Documentation

Informal document No. 8, Informal document No. 9

VIII. Main developments in vehicle regulations

19. The Bureau was informed about the latest development in vehicles regulations: the new UN Regulations on 'electric motorcycles and mopeds' and on 'frontal impact focusing on restraint systems'; the ongoing work on regulations for automated driving on low speed manoeuvres like 'valet parking' and 'traffic jam pilot' as well as on autopilot for highway/express-way driving.

20. The secretariat informed the Bureau about recently issued brochures and leaflets on both child restraint systems and motorcycle helmets.

21. The Bureau welcome the recently type-approved helmet design that due to its aeration system and applied technologies is less bulky and better suitable to areas with a warm climate, and meets the conditions of UN Regulation No. 22. It recognized that this might lead to a turning point for the road safety of helmet users.

Documentation

Informal document No. 10, Informal document No. 11

IX. Main developments in the transport of dangerous goods and sensitive cargo

22. The Bureau was informed about the latest development in the transport of dangerous goods and sensitive cargo. It welcomed, in particular, the great appeal of Dangerous Goods Transport publications, several of which are among the top 30 United Nations bestsellers. The Bureau was also informed about the work of WP 11 on transport of perishable goods and on the difficulties it had with updating the ATP agreement with the existing unanimity rules; and about its wish to promote multilateral agreements between Parties.

X. Activities related to customs questions affecting transport and the implementation of the TIR Convention

23. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about the current situation in implementing the TIR Convention and about the eTIR project. The situation in the Russian Federation has not changed over the last few months. The meetings of WP.30 and AC.2 in October 2015 were informed that a draft decree from Russian customs (FCS), with a tentative list of 39 border-crossing points to be opened for TIR procedure, had been the object of intergovernmental consultation. At the same meeting, the representative of FCS expressed the hope that he could provide more concrete information by February 2016, once the consultation rounds have been concluded.

24. The Bureau welcomed information about the latest new accession to the TIR Convention (Pakistan) and a possible new accession (China).

25. The Bureau was informed by the secretariat about: (a) the current situation in implementing the Harmonization Convention (1982) and, in particular, progress in the drafting a new Annex 10 to the Convention on the facilitation of regulatory procedures at sea ports; (b) the International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail (January 1952) and ongoing efforts to draft a new Convention on the international traffic of passengers by rail.

XI. Progress towards unified railway law

26. The Bureau was informed about the results of the latest sessions of the Group of Experts Towards Unified Railway Law aimed at preparing a legal framework for rail transport — first to be applied from the Atlantic to the Pacific — with rules equivalent to those for road, air and maritime transport. To give adequate time to national authorities to consider the Resolution before ITC, it would be advisable to append the Resolution to letters inviting national delegations to the annual session of ITC.

XII. Euro-Asian transport links (EATL), Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects

27. The Bureau welcomed information from the secretariat about the current state of affairs vis-à-vis the management of TEM and TER, including the designation of a host country for the TER offices.

28. The Bureau noted recent activities in the EATL Project and ongoing discussions on the funding of the project activities.

XIII. Intelligent Transport Systems

29. The Bureau was informed about the co-organization of the annual flagship round table on ITS with the government of France. The event was associated with the twenty-second ITS World Congress and Exhibition in Bordeaux, France (5–9 October 2015). The Bureau was also informed about the status of implementation of the road map (Informal document No. 12).

30. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the ongoing work to further harmonize ITS related activities within the subsidiary bodies to ITC and a corresponding strategic note which should serve as a basis for discussion at the next ITC meeting and link policy issues with technical matters (Informal document No. 13). The Bureau noted that the strategic document needed to elaborate more on the objectives, added value and budgetary implications in order to allow ITC to fully assess the situation and be in a position to take a decision.

Documentation

Informal document No. 12, Informal document No. 13

XIV. Technical cooperation activities – policy dialogue and funding

31. The Bureau was informed about the progress with implementation of UNDA funded projects: (i) customs-to-customs electronic document exchange and (ii) road safety (Informal document No. 14).

Documentation

Informal document No. 14

XV. Evaluation of the activities of the UNECE Transport Division and of ITC and its subsidiary bodies

32. The Bureau was informed about the requirement to increasingly carry out independent evaluations of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, their relevance, cost-effectiveness and value added. Consequently, in the current biennium the self-evaluation has been carried out by independent consultant and has looked into activities of transport of dangerous goods. The consultant's evaluation should be available for the ITC meeting. The Bureau was also informed about the ongoing evaluation exercises by two units of OIOS: one assessed the fit for purpose of UNECE and thus its Transport Sub-Programme from the perspectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda²; while the other OIOS review team audited the Transport Sub-Programme, as well as the Environment Sub-Programme of UNECE. The secretariat requested Bureau members to be available for interviews with the evaluators/auditors. The Bureau requested regular updates, as well as to inform the ITC.

XVI. Approval of the biennial evaluation of the Committee's work 2014–2015

33. The Bureau considered the draft biennial evaluation (programme performance assessment) of its work in 2014–2015 (Informal document No. 15). An overview of the performance assessments of the transport subprogramme in line with what the Inland Transport Committee adopted at its seventy-sixth session in 2014 was provided.

34. The Bureau recommended that the Committee approve the 2014–2015 Programme performance assessment at its seventy-eighth session in 2016.

Documentation

Informal document No. 15

XVII. Programme of work and biennial evaluation 2016–2017 and Strategic framework for 2018–2019

35. The Bureau considered the programme of work and expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement proposed for each cluster of activities of the Transport programme of work for the period 2016–2017, reproduced in Informal document No. 16 and its addendum.

36. The Bureau recommended that the Committee approve the draft programme of work and plan for biennial performance evaluation for 2016–2017 (Informal document No. 17).

37. The Bureau considered and adopted the UNECE Transport Subprogramme Draft Strategic Framework (biennial programme plan) for the period 2018–2019 (Informal document No. 18). The Draft Strategic Framework including expected accomplishments

² Case studies are to be prepared by the evaluators: one on inland water transport and the other on road safety.

and the strategy had been prepared on the basis of the mandate of the Transport Subprogramme, the accomplishments expected to be achieved in the previous biennium, and the United Nations guidelines for the preparation of the strategic biennial plans.

38. In accordance with the UNECE programme planning process, the Strategic Framework has to be reviewed by the Sectoral Committees, (or their Bureaux – in case of Committees not having a meeting during the last four months of 2015) before its submission to the Executive Committee in December 2015 and to United Nations Headquarters in early 2016.

Documentation

Informal document No. 16 and Add.1, Informal document No. 17, Informal document No. 18

XVIII. Consideration of items of the agenda for the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee

39. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda of the seventy-eighth session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/253) and the annotated agenda (ECE/TRANS/253/Add.1).

40. The Bureau had agreed at its June meeting to increase the duration of the ITC annual session, and the duration of the high-level policy segment that should be organized at ministerial level if possible. It had also agreed to use one day for ITC technical assistance or for the facilitation of the solution of a high priority issue for any of the Committee's subsidiary bodies. In 2016, a Technical Assistance event is foreseen based on the positive impact of the 2015 Technical Assistance event.

41. Furthermore, it was indicated that on the first day, it would be important to organize a lunch or a reception for the ministers / heads of delegations or preferably for all the participants. Funding possibilities will have to be explored.

42. The Bureau, in terms of the subject for the policy segment, endorsed the concept note and took note of the draft agenda and programme of the policy segment (Informal document No. 19) with the following modifications and comments: (a) change the wording of session I to emphasize that the focus is on access for all, not only vulnerable groups, and thus better link it to SDG 11.2; (b) the policy segment must be organized in a way that the audience is actively brought into the debate, that there is adequate time for discussion following the keynote speakers, and that a mechanism is needed to remind speakers that their speaking time is ending; (c) it would be advantageous if keynote speakers became familiar, prior to their presentations, with the full spectrum of activities of ITC in order to maximize their presentations.

43. The Bureau agreed to assist in identifying (including, where required, funding) potential speakers for each of the sessions and send inputs to the secretariat by 10 December when possible. The secretariat informed the Bureau about progress in identifying high-level speakers for the policy segment and potential stakeholders who would be involved in automated vehicle demos and exhibition during the annual session of the Committee.

44. The Bureau focused on those items of the agenda that needed consideration, required decisions or were of a sensitive nature. The Bureau was also informed by the secretariat about issues encountered in the servicing of meetings that impact the translations of documents and reports.

Documentation

Draft ECE/TRANS/253 and Add.1, Informal document No. 19

XIX. Other business

A. Election of officers for the Committee's sessions and members of the Bureau for the years 2016 and 2017

45. The Bureau took note of the forthcoming election of officers for the Committee's sessions and the Bureau for 2016 and 2017.

B. Schedule of the ITC and its Bureau meetings 2017–2018

46. The Bureau considered and approved Informal document No. 20 prepared by the secretariat on the proposed schedule of the Committee and its Bureau meetings in 2017 and 2018.

Documentation

Informal document No. 20

C. Renaming the Division

47. The Bureau welcomed the information about the change as of 7 August 2015 of the name of the Division from Transport Division to Sustainable Transport Division, and expressed its wish that this issue be part of the discussions on branding and communication at the restricted meeting of the seventy-eighth session of ITC.

D. Date of next meeting

48. The Bureau confirmed that its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 23 February 2016, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

49. The Bureau also confirmed that its meeting following the seventy-eighth session of the Committee will be held on 26 February 2016, in the afternoon.
