



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 December 2015
English
Original: English, French and
Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Seventy-eighth session

Geneva, 23–26 February 2016

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a horizontal policy nature:

UNECE analytical work on Transport

Group of experts on benchmarking transport infrastructure construction costs

Note by the secretariat

I. Terms of Reference

A. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. In line with the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on Good practices and new tools for Financing Transport Infrastructure organized during the last session of the working party, the Group of Experts will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Identify models, methodologies, tools and good practices for evaluating, calculating and analysing inland transport infrastructure construction costs;

(b) Identify and list terminologies used in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region for construction costs of inland transport infrastructure; if possible, create a glossary of agreed terminologies and related explanations;

(c) Collect and analyse data in order to prepare a benchmarking of transport infrastructure construction costs along the ECE region for each inland transport mode – road, rail, inland waterways – including intermodal terminals, freight/logistics centres and ports; Analyse and describe the conditions / parameters under which these costs have been calculated on.

2. The Group of Experts should base its considerations on previous work of UNECE in this field, in particular the work on:
- (a) Cost benefit analysis of transport infrastructure projects, 2003¹;
 - (b) A methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding the identification of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in infrastructure networks, 2009²;
 - (c) The Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project standards and Recommended Practice, 2002³;
 - (d) The TEM and TER revised Master Plan – Final Report, 2012⁴;
 - (e) The Euro Asian Transport Linkages Project studies, 2008⁵/2012⁶.

B. Methods of work

3. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of UNECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.
4. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2016, at least twice in 2017 and at least once in 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its thirty first session (September 2018, Geneva). This report shall also contain proposals for monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.
5. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by UN services (United Nations Office at Geneva) for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
6. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. Concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as concerned road, railway and inland waterways administration authorities and companies, freight and forwarding industries, intermodal terminals, freight and logistics centres as well as ports authorities are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

C. Secretariat

7. UNECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the regional commissions of the United Nations, the European Commission, and other relevant Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

¹ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2008/wp5/CBAe.pdf

² www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2009/wp5/ECE-TRANS-205e.pdf

³ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/tem/temdocs/TEM-Std-Ed3.pdf

⁴ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/temterm/docs/TEM_and_TER_Vol_I.pdf

⁵ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/eatl/in_house_study.pdf

⁶ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/eatl/docs/EATL_Report_Phase_II.pdf