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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links

Second informal preparatory meeting for the 14th session of the Group of Experts on the Euro-Asian Transport Links

Second informal session

Vienna, 2–3 February 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the second informal session¹

to be held in Hofburg Conference Centre, Heldenplatz 1, A-1010 Vienna, Austria starting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 February 2016

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Identification of cargo flows on the Euro-Asian transport links.
3. Facilitating the coordination of integrated time schedules and tariffs on the Euro-Asian transport links.
4. Identification of needs and requirements by producers, shippers, traders and freight forwarders in transport and trade on EATL routes.
5. Information from participants on recent developments in transport infrastructure priority projects along EATL routes.

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge2_14_preparatory_2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (maria.mostovets@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039).

6. Geographical Information Systems.
7. Other business.
8. Date of next meeting.
9. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.2 (2016) No. 1

2. Identification of cargo flows on the Euro-Asian transport links

The Group of Experts may wish to consider the skeleton of the Phase 3 report to be prepared and presented by the Scientific and Research Institute of Motor Transport – (NIIAT) from Moscow. This document may rely on the documents already provided to the Group of Experts by the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) and the Hellenic Institute of Transport.

The Group of Experts may also wish to consider other similar inputs, for instance from the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) as possible parts of the final Phase 3 report.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.2 (2016) No. 2

3. Facilitating of the coordination of integrated time schedules and tariffs on the Euro-Asian transport links

The Group of Experts may wish to consider new information on time schedules and tariffs on EATL routes. As agreed at the thirteenth EATL session, the OSJD shall submit an updated document on trains operating with regular itineraries between Europe and Asia (Informal document WP.5/GE.2 (2015) No. 3).

The International Union of Railways shall inform the Group about new relevant EATL-related developments. Other stakeholders are also welcome to present their contribution to this agenda item.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.2 (2016) No. 3

4. Identification of needs and requirements by producers, shippers, traders and freight forwarders in transport and trade on EATL routes

The Group of Experts may wish to recall that based on an adopted work plan (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2013/1) it shall identify transportation needs and requirements

(including obstacles) which face producers, shippers, traders and freight forwarders along nine rail and road EATL corridors.

The Group of Experts may wish to recall that it invited at its twelfth session company Plaske and the Moscow State Institute for Engineers of Transport to update the document initially drafted by Plaske for the twelfth session. The document contains a comparative analysis of time and cost between rail and maritime transport between Europe and Asia (Informal document WP.5/GE.2 (2016) No. 4).

The Group of Experts will consider the presentations by producers, shippers, traders and freight forwarders who share their experiences, best practices, problems and proposals for solutions.

Documentation

Informal document WP.5/GE.2 (2016) No. 4

5. Information from participants on recent developments in transport infrastructure priority projects on EATL routes

The Group of Experts may wish to consider new information by Governments and stakeholders on this topic and provide guidance to the secretariat and the NIIAT on possible actions.

6. Geographical Information Systems

The Group of Experts will continue to receive observations and guidance from the Governments and exchange views on the further development of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS), especially on the financing of this wing of the EATL project. A possible involvement of commercial enterprises in EATL GIS will also be considered.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2014/1

7. Other business

The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts about the activities related to the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts for an additional period of one year by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (which had its annual session 7–9 September 2015) and the preparations for the next formal steps regarding the extension of the mandate by the Inland Transport Committee which will hold its seventy-eighth session on 23–25 February 2016 and the Executive Committee.

The Group of Experts shall discuss other issues about EATL Phase 3.

8. Date of next meeting

The Group of Experts will set the date and venue for its next meeting i.e., the 14th session of the Group of Experts on the Euro-Asian Transport Links.

9. Summary of decisions

The Group of Experts will adopt the list of main decisions at the end of the session.
