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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(Sixty-third session, 13-15 February 2001)
agenda item 3)

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION
IN 2000 OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Addendum 1

Relations with the Business Community

Note by the secretariat

Following the request of the Ad hoc Working Group on Relations with the Business Community, the Committee, at its sixty-second session, had asked its subsidiary bodies which have a relationship with the private sector (SC.1, SC.2, SC.3, WP.1, WP.11, WP.15, WP.24, WP.29, and WP.30) to assess the relationship and to identify how that relationship could be used to greater advantage to enhance the work of those bodies (ECE/TRANS/133, para.7). The reaction of the Committee's bodies in reply to the above-mentioned request is reproduced below:

The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1)

The Working Party recognized that it already cooperated with the private sector through representative organizations such as the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the Council of Bureaux and that such organizations made an important contribution to its work (TRANS/SC.1/367, para. 8).

The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)

The Working Party appreciated the working relationship it has had for many years with the business community in the rail sector, in particular with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSZhD). In view of the extensive co-operation with rail business, especially with the above-mentioned two organizations, it has been possible to deal in detail with a great number of infrastructure and facilitation items related to rail transport. The Working Party underlined the usefulness of convening joint meetings with the business community in order to analyse rail problems from the point of view of rail companies and Governments alike (TRANS/SC.2/194, para. 9).

The Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3)

The Working Party was informed by the representatives of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) of activities carried out within its Technical Committees Nos. 7, 8 and 11 relevant to inland navigation. The Working Party took note of the above information and welcomed the proposal of ISO to enhance the cooperation between ECE and ISO on inland navigation matters. It also felt that its cooperation with the business community should be further developed as recommended by ECE, in particular, through greater participation in its work of non-governmental organizations concerned. Governments were invited to inform the secretariat before 1 July 2001 of their views with regard to possible ways for enhancing the cooperation of SC.3 with the business community and subregional groupings (TRANS/SC.3/153, para. 4).

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

The Working Party postponed consideration of this issue until its next session (TRANS/WP.1/74, para. 64).

The Working Party on Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11)

The Working Party was cooperating closely with the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) and with Transfrigoroute International.

Cooperation with IIR, and more particularly with the D2 Sub-Commission on testing stations, is extremely useful to the Working Party which benefits from the scientific and technological expertise of the testing station engineers who devote a large section of their annual meeting to ATP matters.

The Working Party maintained a fruitful exchange with Transfrigoroute International which unites the refrigeration industry and associations of national carriers of perishable foodstuffs, through participation in meetings and exchanges of documents.

The Working Party has considered that increased cooperation with IIR, Transfrigoroute International and possibly other private sectors would be desirable in order to meet the needs of the

new Contracting Parties to ATP, in view of their growing number and particularly in view of the very technical nature of the Agreement, compliance with the procedures of which required considerable human and technological investment. Cooperation could take the form of jointly-organized seminars and activities to popularize and modernize ATP.

The representatives of IIR and Transfrigoroute International declared themselves in favour of participating in organizing a seminar for the number member countries of ATP jointly with WP.11. (TRANS/WP.11/202, paras. 5-9).

The Working Party on Dangerous Goods (WP.15)

The Working Party took note of the ITC request to assess its links with the private sector in the business world and underlined the fact that its work dealt directly with the various sectors of the economy (chemical, agricultural and food industries, energy, packing industries, tanks and vehicles, transport, etc.).

The NGOs representing these sectors are numerous and participate actively in the work of the Working Party. The Working Party is generally in favour of any participation request from new organizations concerned with regulations and wishing to express their opinion.

The close and regular cooperation with these organizations contributes to the improvement of safety while ensuring the effective applicability of regulations (TRANS/WP.15/163).

The Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24)

The Working Party stressed the very constructive and valuable role played by the non-governmental organizations which participated regularly in the sessions of the Working Party which represented the main private sector interests in the field of combined transport in Europe (European Intermodal Association (EIA), Groupement Européen du Transport Combiné (GETC), ISO, International Container Bureau (ICB), IRU, UIC, International Union of Combined Road/Rail Transport Companies (UIRR)) (TRANS/WP.24/89, para. 54).

The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

The Working Party stressed the constructive and valuable role played by the non-governmental organizations which participated regularly in the sessions of the Working Party either as such (IRU, International Touring Alliance/International Automobile Association (AIT/FIA), UIC, Liaison Committee of Coachwork and Trailer Builders (CLCCR)) or as part of national delegations (mainly representatives of national TIR issuing and guaranteeing associations) (TRANS/WP.30/192)
