



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(Sixty-fourth session, 18-21 February 2002,
agenda item 3)

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES**

Note by the secretariat

**I. PROVISIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE INLAND TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE**

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Europe took place from 8 to 11 May 2001.¹ It emphasized in its discussion, inter alia, items related to environment, energy and transport: strengthening links within the ECE region; the Millennium Declaration: Challenges for Europe; ECE strategic directions.

2. The Committee may wish to take note of the various issues contained in this document which, to a large extent, are being dealt with in the context of the Committee's programme of work. The Committee is asked to take these issues duly into account when dealing with the relevant agenda items and indicate appropriate follow-up.¹

¹ Copies of the Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe covering the period from 6 May 2000 to 11 May 2001 (E/2001/37-E/ECE/1387) will be made available to participants.

Intersectoral cooperation

3. The Commission endorsed the decisions and recommendations adopted at the High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health on 4 May 2001 and invited PSBs to take them into account in their future work.
4. Furthermore, it stressed the need to provide a new impetus to the work on the follow-up to the Vienna and London Conferences by identifying a number of priority issues which, among the areas covered by the Programme of Joint Action (POJA) and the London Charter, correspond to the key challenges for sustainable transport, environment and health in the ECE region. The Commission endorsed the decisions and recommendations adopted at the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health and invited the relevant PSBs to take them into account.
5. The Commission also expressed interest for the “Blue corridor” project as a way of promoting environmentally friendly transport of goods in a major East-West pan-European corridor and because of its potential replication for other main arteries in Europe, it invited the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Inland Transport Committee to consider the feasibility of the project and report back to the Commission.
6. Moreover, the Commission invited PSBs to develop intersectoral linkages further in various areas, including:
 - (i) border-crossing and trade facilitation work on customs standards and procedures and
 - (ii) energy and transport, in particular environmental performance reviews and ECE environmental Conventions as they pertain to the energy and transport sectors.
7. Furthermore the Commission:
 - (i) requested PSBs to examine the most efficient, flexible and cost-effective modalities to address intersectoral issues such as those mentioned above. These may include: joint meetings of the PSBs or their bureaux; creation of a joint group of experts or task force under their auspices; delegation of one member of a PSB to a meeting of another PSB; specific projects jointly implemented and monitored; and the establishment of a web page to facilitate the sharing of information on developments in intersectoral cooperation.
 - (ii) requested PSBs to review annually the intersectoral cooperation already ongoing and to consider potential new issues for such cooperation to be subsequently brought to the attention of other concerned PSBs, with a decision thereon to be taken by the Commission. It was stressed that regular programme review and evaluation, and the timely dissemination of the evaluation results to member States, were critical to maintain ECE’s effectiveness.

- (iii) encouraged PSBs to find new ways of securing the means for implementing intersectoral activities, including setting aside regular resources and seeking extrabudgetary funding for these activities.

Millennium Declaration

8. On the basis of the discussion the Commission had on the Millennium Declaration, the Chairman made a number of proposals to assist ECE member countries in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration objectives and in monitoring progress. These included, inter alia:

- inviting PSBs to consider what contribution they can make to the implementation process, and how to integrate the Millennium Declaration concerns and objectives into their programmes of work;
- organizing a dialogue with the relevant stakeholders, i.e. non-governmental organizations, representatives of academia, business community, to raise awareness and promote public-private partnership in support for the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration;
- promoting information sharing and better communication on the policies undertaken at the national and regional levels for implementing the Millennium Declaration using available tools and technologies with a view to stimulating the effectiveness of the peer dialogue and public awareness. This, in particular, could be used to encourage implementation of ECE's legal instruments.

Operational activities

9. A number of countries in transition, namely Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine underlined the importance of ECE's role in supporting the transition process. In this connection, the Commission underlined the priority needs of Central Asia and the South Caucasus and encouraged the Executive Secretary to strengthen assistance to these countries. This could be done through regional and subregional cooperation, and together with other international institutions and organizations, in particular through special programmes and projects for the South Caucasus and Central Asia. It was understood that appropriate resources should be made available to this effect.

10. Furthermore, the Commission invited the secretariat to report on ECE activities in the Mediterranean region at the next annual session.

II. SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 2001 OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the resolutions on the “Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods” and “Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar” adopted at the ECOSOC substantive session of 2001 (Geneva, 2-26 July 2001), the texts of which are reproduced below:

2001/29

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997 and 1999/37 of 28 July 1999,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe¹ regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring also to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held in Barcelona in November 1995, and to the work programme annexed thereto, aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European transport network so as to ensure their inter-operability,

Referring further to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held in Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Conference, held in Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the permanent link,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa,² in accordance with resolution 1999/37,

Also taking note of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held respectively in Rabat in September 1995 and in Madrid in January 1997, and of the conclusions of the study on transport infrastructure in the western Mediterranean, which included the permanent link among the priority corridors in the extension of the trans-European network,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar established between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. *Also welcomes* the organization by the International Tunnelling Association, under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, of the seminar held in Rabat in April 1999 on the modelling of tunnel costs;

¹ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, *Texts adopted by the Assembly*, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

² E/2001/19, annex.

3. *Further welcomes* the progress achieved with project studies, especially the deep-sea drilling work, which has provided a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical knowledge of undersea formations;

4. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report² requested by the Council in its resolution 1999/37;

5. *Renews its invitation* to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to non-governmental organizations, in particular the International Tunnelling Association and the International Union of Railways, to participate in the studies and work on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

6. *Also renews its invitation* to the European Commission to consider the possibility of participating in the consolidation of the studies and the development of the project, both institutionally and financially, within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Cooperation being developed under the Barcelona process;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2003;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the necessary resources, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, in order to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.

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2001/34

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals³ during the biennium 1999-2000,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;

2. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2001-2002 as contained in paragraph 31 of the report of the Secretary-General;³

³ E/2001/44.

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General to publish the eleventh revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations* in Arabic, as well as the third revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria* in Arabic, French and Spanish, without delay;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations⁴ to the Governments of member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the twelfth revised version⁵ of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*, and amendments to the third revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁶ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2001;

(c) To give further consideration to the possibility of publishing the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* on CD-ROM if possible as a navigable version, for example, by commercial arrangement with external contractors;

5. *Decides* to defer further consideration of the report of the Secretary-General to its resumed substantive session of 2001.

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⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/27/Add.1 and Add.2.

⁵ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.12.

⁶ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3, amendment 1.