



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/14
11 February 1999

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Statistics

Ad hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census

REPORT OF THE AD HOC MEETING ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC CENSUS

(29-30 October 1998)

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REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Ad hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census met in Geneva on 29 and 30 October 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Sammartino (Italy). Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Croatia; Czech Republic; Finland; France; Germany; Italy; Poland; Romania; Slovenia; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/13).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Mr. Enrico SAMMARTINO (Italy) was elected Chairman.

RESULTS OF THE 1995 E ROAD CENSUS

Documentation: UN Publication (Sales No. E/F.97.II.E.20); TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/1 (Translation of country notes); TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/2 (Census data from the Russian Federation); Informal document No. 2 (Census data from Bosnia and Herzegovina).

4. The Ad hoc Meeting took note that 32 countries had participated in the 1995 Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe, as follows: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

5. The Ad hoc Meeting was informed that the 1995 Census results from the Russian Federation were contained in TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/2. Data from Bosnia and Herzegovina are contained in Informal document No. 2. The Russian and French translations of the Country Notes included in English in the Census publication were contained in TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/1. Results from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were received subsequent to the meeting and would be made available for the next session of the Working Party on Road Transport.

6. The Ad hoc Meeting took note of the results of the 1995 Census, considering that the explanatory notes related to the methodologies applied were of great interest in order to understand the differences especially across borders, as counting in each country may be done according to different methods at counting posts. The Ad hoc Meeting reiterated the importance of carrying out the Census, as the only Pan-European collection of data on this scale, and thanked the secretariat for its work. Moreover, it was noted that the 2000 combined Census and Inventory would be an important undertaking, in particular to show the evolution of traffic in the Eastern Countries over the past decade.

7. The Ad hoc meeting was informed about the UN/ECE Project on the Automation and Geographic Application of the E Road Census in which the 1995 Census data was developed, for the first time, in

the context of a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS application would allow for higher quality data and maps, better presentation and improved spatial analysis. The secretariat explained that Phase I of the Project entailed the hard-copy publication of the 1995 Census. Phase II of the project would involve the electronic publication of the 1995 Census on CD-ROM and eventual access to data and maps via the Internet.

PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2000 COMBINED CENSUS OF MOTOR TRAFFIC AND INVENTORY OF STANDARDS AND PARAMETERS ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC ARTERIES IN EUROPE (2000 COMBINED CENSUS AND INVENTORY)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/12 and Add.1; TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/13.

8. The Ad hoc meeting prepared the Recommendations to Governments for the 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (2000 combined Census and Inventory), using the prior Recommendations (1995 Census) as a basis for its discussion (TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/12/Add.1) and made the following modifications:

(a) Coverage of the Census

Modify the last sentence of paragraph 1 to read as follows: “Where an E Road is not open to traffic (e.g., because it is closed for repairs, has not yet been built, or for other reasons), the Census could, if possible, be taken on the road(s) used by the traffic which would otherwise use the E Road.”

(b) Purpose of the Census

Modify paragraph 5 to read as follows: “In particular, census data are aimed at providing detailed data on the traffic on the E Road network which will facilitate international passenger and goods traffic between European countries.”

(c) Scope of the Census

Modify paragraph 11 to read as follows: “Accordingly, it is recommended that data be provided in vehicle-kilometres on all E Roads, as well as on all other roads of the total national road network.”

(d) Comparability with the results of the 1995 Census

Modify paragraph 12 to read as follows:

“Governments should take the necessary steps to ensure that the results of the 2000 census on E Roads are as comparable as possible with the 1995 Census.”

(e) Categories of vehicles to be counted

Modify the first sentence of paragraph 13 to read as follows: “All vehicles discussed in the following categories should be counted.”

Insert former vehicle category E into Category C to read as follows:

Category C: Goods road vehicles (lorries with a permissible maximum weight of more than 3.5 tonnes, lorries with one or more trailers; tractors with semitrailers and one or more trailers; tractors with one or more trailers) and Special vehicles (agricultural tractors, special vehicles such as self-propelled rollers, bulldozers, mobile cranes and army tanks and other road motor vehicles not specified elsewhere).

Modify paragraph 14 to read as follows:

“Categories A and B constitute “light motor traffic;” categories C and D constitute “heavy motor traffic.”

Replace, in the last sentence of paragraph 17, “five” with “four” to read as follows:

“Nevertheless, for the network as a whole, a division into four vehicle categories is recommended.”

Modify the last sentence and insert a new sentence at the end of paragraph 18 to read as follows:

“Countries in which this type of traffic is important are, nevertheless, encouraged to collect and transmit this information for publication in the 2000 combined Census and Inventory. This applies also to animal-drawn vehicles.”

(f) Values to be calculated

Modify the second sentence in paragraph 19 to read as follows: “Night traffic is, in principle, defined as the AADT between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; holiday traffic is defined as the average daily traffic (ADT) during the approximately two-month vacation period (in exceptional cases one month) with the highest traffic volumes.”

Replace, in the first sentence of paragraph 23, “1995” with “2000.”

Modify the last sentence of paragraph 23 to read as follows: “In certain exceptional cases, AADT may be determined without counting, based on previous counts or on counts on adjoining sections of the same road.”

Modify the first sentence of paragraph 24 to read as follows: “Traffic data should be given for 2000.”

(g) Characteristics of E Roads

Modify the second sentence of paragraph 27 to read as follows: “ Governments are therefore requested to submit information at the same time on infrastructure parameters of E Roads, in accordance with the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), as decided by the Working Party on Road Transport at its ninety-first session (15-17 October 1999) (TRANS/SC.1/361, paras. 15-18).”

Insert new paragraph 30 bis (and subsequently renumber paragraphs) as follows: “In accordance with paragraph 27 above, information should be provided on the following: (a) design speeds on E roads, (b) average width of traffic lanes, central reserves and emergency stopping strips; and (c) the application of E Road signing.”

(h) Compilation and publication of the 2000 combined Census and Inventory

Modify paragraph 31 (f) to read as follows: “A concise description of the design of the counts and the sampling methods used, including the method used for estimating vehicle-kilometres for the whole road network;”

Insert new paragraph 34: “To the extent possible, data (and maps) should be transmitted to the ECE secretariat in an electronic format, in place of, or in addition to, the hard-copy reply.”

Tables 1-3: No change.

Tables 4 and 4 bis: Adjust in accordance with new vehicle categories A-D.

Table 5: Modify table to clarify that rows B (Motorways); C (Express Roads) and D (All Other Roads) apply to roads other than E Roads (non-E Roads).

Table 7: Insert new column (D) “Number of carriageways;” replace old column (D) with new column (E) “Normal width of road section of each carriageway;” replace old column (E) with new column (F) “Number of lanes;” insert new column (G): “ Normal or average width of lanes between counting posts;” insert new columns and adjust table to include: (H) width of central reserves; (I) width of emergency stopping strips; (J) average design speeds.

Add footnotes to Table 7 as follows:

Footnote: “For width of central reserves (H) and width of emergency stopping strips (i), indicate the normal width on the majority of kilometres between one counting post and another”.

Footnote: “ For average design speeds (J), indicate design speed on majority of kilometres between one counting post and another.

New Table 8: Create table asking countries to indicate the extent to which E Roads have been signposted as of 31 December 2000.

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 247 ON 2000 COMBINED CENSUS AND INVENTORY

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/135, annex 2.

9. The Ad hoc Meeting considered the draft resolution No. 247 on the 2000 combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (2000 combined Census and Inventory) as included in the provisional agenda of the Meeting and made some minor revisions. The revised draft resolution, as agreed by the Ad hoc Meeting, is contained in the report of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (TRANS/WP.6/135, annex 2) and will be submitted for adoption to the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-first session (8-11 February 1999).

OTHER BUSINESS

10. The Ad hoc Meeting was informed that the secretariat was organizing a Workshop on GIS in Transport (15-16 November 1999), immediately preceding the fiftieth session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics. The objective of the Workshop was to further explore the use of GIS technology for transport planning and road management, and to have an exchange of experiences among member Countries and experts in the field.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

11. As the Ad Hoc Meeting was held after the Working Party on Transport Statistics, the present report would be transmitted for adoption by the Working Party at its fiftieth session (17-19 November 1999). The Recommendations by Governments for the 2000 combined Census and Inventory would be prepared by the secretariat as an Addendum to the present report and made available for the next session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics as TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/14/Add.1.
