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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session

Agenda item 5(b)

DRAFT DECISION ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions O (45), F (46), B (47), F (47) and G (47),

Reiterating the high priority of transport questions,

Conscious of the problems of countries in transition in developing market economy mechanisms in the field of transport,

Stressing consequently the importance of an efficient network of transport infrastructures for the development of the economies of countries in transition,

Reiterating the need to ensure close cooperation with the European Community and organizations dealing with transport questions with a view to achieving a coherent European Transport Concept and to avoid duplication of work and waste of resources,

Underlining its conviction that the ECE has a prominent role in regional transport cooperation,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report and the conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee;
2. Welcomes all pertinent contributions of the Committee to the thorough preparation of the second European Transport Conference;
3. Encourages the secretariat to elaborate elements for a European Transport Charter which reflect the important areas of the work of the ECE;

4. Accepts the invitation contained in UNCED Agenda 21 to study the feasibility of organizing a regional conference on transport and the environment and requests the Executive Secretary to carry out such a study in cooperation with member States, the European Community and interested organizations, making full use of the expertise and taking into account the views of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies concerned, especially the Inland Transport Committee, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Committee on Energy, and to report the results of the study to the Commission well in advance of the forty-ninth session in order to prepare its further decisions on the matter;

5. Endorses the decision of the Inland Transport Committee to stage a European Road Safety Week in 1995;

6. Supports the work undertaken to update the Provisions concerning the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN), taking note of the view of the Inland Transport Committee that harmonization is necessary with the regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Substances on the Rhine (ADNR) and urges the need for their completion;

7. Welcomes the increasing number of Contracting Parties to ECE Agreements and Conventions and invites Governments which have not yet acceded to those, especially if they are not yet in force, to examine possibilities for doing so;

8. Underlines the importance of further development and early completion of joint road and rail infrastructure projects (TEM and TER and others) and welcomes the achievements made so far;

9. Endorses Resolution No. 240 of the Inland Transport Committee on the development of combined transport on inland waterways and encourages it to turn it into a legally binding instrument;

10. Requests member Governments to increase their efforts to identify bottlenecks and missing links in international infrastructure networks and to propose solutions in the framework of the relevant ECE Agreements in order to solve these problems;

11. Invites the Inland Transport Committee to consider further a possible role of the ECE for the implementation of a coherent system of transport infrastructure networks in Europe;

12. Supports the ongoing work on the revision of the 1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts and expresses the view that this revision should be finalized as soon as possible;

13. Welcomes the completion of the revision of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing it;

14. Takes note of the results of the Global Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport and endorses the conclusions drawn by the Inland Transport Committee in that respect especially

the encouragement of the secretariat and the Working Group on Combined Transport to monitor further developments;

15. Underlines the necessity for further harmonization of international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods;

16. Endorses the revised Terms of Reference adopted by the Inland Transport Committee for its future work;

17. Agrees to the proposal of the Inland Transport Committee to hold its next session in the middle of January to ensure the submission of its report to the last Ad Hoc Informal Meeting prior to the Annual Session of the Commission;

18. Stresses the necessity immediately to appoint professionals sufficiently qualified and experienced to fill the vacant posts in the sector of transport of dangerous goods as well as in other transport sectors and to maintain in the Transport Division the number and level of professional and other staff and requests the Executive Secretary to keep the Inland Transport Committee regularly informed of the situation in that field;

19. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of this decision.