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Working Party on Transport Statistics

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS
ON ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION**

(26-28 October 1998)

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph(s)</u>
Attendance	1
Adoption of the agenda	2
Election of officers	3
Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party	4-8
(a) Economic Commission for Europe	5-7
(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies	8
Statistics on the transport of dangerous goods	9-11
Council Regulation on Statistical Returns in Respect of Carriage of Goods by Road (European Council)	9-11
Statistics on the transport of perishable foodstuffs	12 and 13

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraph(s)</u>
Transport database and information systems development	14-21
(a) Design and Implementation of a European Transport Database System	14-17
(b) Compendium of Transport Database and Information System Capabilities in the ECE Region	18-20
(c) Status report on the Trans-European Railway (TER) and Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project Databases	21
Geographic information systems (GIS) in transport statistics	22-26
UN/EDIFACT and other developments in electronic data interchange	27-44
Updates on the use of EDI and Generic Statistical Messages (GSMES) in transport statistics	27 and 28
Methodological development, harmonization and reconciliation of transport statistics	29-44
(a) Reports of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (7 November 1997, Geneva / 15-16 June 1998, Luxembourg)	29
(b) Revision of classification systems used in transport statistics Status of work under way toward the revision of the Nomenclature of Transport Statistics (NST/R)	30 and 31
(c) Harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics	32-36
(i) Results of the Pilot Questionnaire on Urban Passenger Transport	32-35
(ii) Synthesis of National reports on Urban and Regional Transport Statistics	36
(d) Harmonization of environmental statistics in transport Results of the Eurostat/ECMT/ECE Pilot Survey on Road Vehicle Fleets	37-41
(e) Development of price and quantity indices in transport	42-44
Annual publications of transport statistics	45-53
(a) Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS)	45
(b) Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS)	46-53
Traffic Censuses in the ECE region	54-57
(a) Results of 1995 E-Road Census	54-56

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraph(s)</u>
(b) Preparation of Recommendations for 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E-road Census and Inventory)	57
Follow-up to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment	58-63
Implementation of the Draft Recommendations of the Workshop on Urban Passenger Transport and Environmental Statistics (May 1997, Washington, D.C.)	58-63
Activities of international organizations of interest to the Working Party	64-69
(i) European Commission (EC)	
DGVII	65 and 66
Eurostat	66
(ii) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)	67
(iii) International Union of Railways (UIC)	68
(iv) International Union of Public Transport (UITP)	69
Revision of the Programme of Work for 1999-2003	70 and 71
Other business	72-75
(a) Gender mainstreaming in the United Nations System	72 and 73
(b) Consideration of alternative to the term "Countries in Transition"	74
(c) Date of next session	75
Adoption of the report	76

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Annexes:

- Annex 1: List of Actions to implement decisions taken during the session
Annex 2: Resolution No. 247
Annex 3: Draft Programme of Work (1999-2003)
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REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its forty-ninth session in Geneva from 26 to 28 October 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Canada; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark, Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Poland; Romania; Slovakia, Slovenia; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom. The European Community (EC/Eurostat) was also represented. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: The International Union of Railways (UIC) and the International Union of Public Transport (UITP).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/134).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Mr. Erik GRIB (Denmark) was re-elected Chairman.

ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

4. The Working Party was informed about the activities of UN/ECE bodies as follows:

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation: ECE/1998/38; E/ECE/1365.

5. The Working Party was informed about the decisions taken by the Economic Commission for Europe on its fifty-third session (23 April 1998), in particular, that the Commission:

- requested Principal Subsidiary Bodies (PSBs) to encourage their related bodies to adopt the same report as that of the reports of the PSBs (para. 28(d));
- endorsed the follow-up mechanism approved by the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment that the ECE undertake the overall monitoring of the implementation of the Conference's Programme of Joint Action through joint meetings of the bureaux of the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy (para. 28(e)); and
- requested that each PSB review the recurrent publications falling within its purview in order to determine whether their continued publication was merited and communicate the results of the review to the secretariat for transmittal to the ACABQ (para. 28(f)).

6. The Working Party noted that all three requests were dealt with in the agenda for the forty-ninth session.

7. The Working Party asked the secretariat to attach to its final report a list of Actions to be Taken to Implement Decisions of the Working Party during the session (annex 1).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

Documentation: TRANS/BUR.1998/3; ECE/TRANS/125 and Add.1.

8. The Working Party was informed about matters of interest considered by the Inland Transport Committee at its sixtieth session (ECE/TRANS/125, paragraphs 9, 22 and 127-130). In particular, the Inland Transport Committee agreed that the Working Party on Transport Statistics should maintain its permanent status. Moreover, the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee met on 6 July 1998, where it discussed the prioritization of activities in the Programme of Work of the ITC. The Working Party took into consideration in revising its Programme of Work the Commission's "Guidelines for Prioritization of the Work of PSBs".

STATISTICS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Documentation: Informal document (EC); TRANS/WP.6/R.85; TRANS/WP.6/R.74.

Council Regulation on Statistical Returns in Respect of Carriage of Goods by Road (European Council)

9. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party was informed about the European Council Draft Regulation on Statistical Returns in Respect of Carriage of Goods by Road, which would include the possibility to indicate goods-related variables, including dangerous goods, according to the classes defined in the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR, of 30 September 1957), and had decided to wait until the Council Regulation was adopted in order to draw on the experiences of EU countries in collecting data on dangerous goods transport (TRANS/WP.6/133, paras. 10-13).

10. The representative of Eurostat informed the Working Party about the implementation of the Council Regulation, in particular, that it contained a much longer list of variables than in the past, including new provisions on cabotage and cross-trade, and that the data collection would begin in 1999, with data from the first quarter of 1999 due by end-August 1999. He explained that data would be sent to Eurostat in the form of individual survey records with the aggregation of data into tables done by Eurostat.

11. The Working Party underlined the importance of having a clear assessment of the volume of dangerous goods transport in the ECE region, recalling the difficulties faced in the past five years when trying to collect comprehensive information. Depending on its effective implementation, the Council Regulation could prove to be a significant step toward closing the statistical gap in this area. Eurostat would report on its experience in receiving data by the Council Regulation at the next session.

STATISTICS ON THE TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS

Results of the Pilot Questionnaire on Transport Equipment for Perishable Foodstuffs

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/3; TRANS/WP.6/1997/20; TRANS/WP.6/R.86; TRANS/WP.6/R.54.

12. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party considered the replies from focal points on statistics related to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP focal points) regarding possible revisions to the Pilot Questionnaire on Transport Equipment for Perishable Foodstuffs (TRANS/WP.6/1997/20), and asked

the secretariat to transmit their comments to the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) for further instruction. WP.11, at its fifty-third session (24-27 November 1997) had asked the secretariat to re-circulate the pilot questionnaire in 1998 with certain changes, including adding an additional column on page 6 of the questionnaire (trailers) between the columns "up to 1,499 kg" and "5,000 to 14, 999 kg," and clarifying that data asked for in the questionnaire applied only to ATP-approved vehicles "in service" (TRANS/WP.11/196, paras. 98-100).

13. The Working Party considered the results of the Pilot Questionnaire as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/3, to which six countries had replied (France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). After considering the matter in detail, the Working Party decided that an insufficient number of countries Contracting Parties to the ATP could provide the requested data and asked the secretariat not to recirculate the pilot questionnaire in 1999. Instead, the Working Party would re-examine this issue at its next session, in light of further inputs from WP.11, and possible input from the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG). This decision would be transmitted to WP.11 at its fifty-fourth session.

TRANSPORT DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

(a) Design and Implementation of a European Transport Database System

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/1 and Add.1.

14. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party had discussed the progress made at ECMT, Eurostat and ECE on the Development of a European Transport Database System linked to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics. The three secretariats were requested to inform the group about further developments at its next session, including, inter alia, (a) the increased capacity for the electronic exchange of data; (b) the possibility to link the common questionnaire and the (ECE) transport publications to a database system; (c) the potential use of EDI in the transmission of transport data; and (d) the possible incorporation of maps into the transport database system using geographic information system (GIS) technology (TRANS/WP.6/133, para. 23).

15. The issue was examined in greater detail at the subsequent Informal Meeting on the Common Questionnaire, and the two subsequent sessions of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics, the reports of which were circulated as TRANS/WP.6/1998/1 and Add.1, respectively.

16. The Working Party was informed about progress made since then by the three respective organizations. Representatives of ECMT and Eurostat explained that their two organizations had developed two separate systems, with similar features, both based on the structure of the Common Questionnaire. Consultants for the two organizations were currently developing a "language" with which to read data between the two systems. The ECE secretariat explained that it had taken steps internally to develop a similar system, but was awaiting the outcome of initial efforts at Eurostat and ECMT before deciding which avenue was best suited to the needs of its member States.

17. The Working Party asked the three organizations for information on further progress at its next session.

(b) Compendium of Transport Database and Information System Capabilities in the ECE Region

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/R.77/Rev.2.

18. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party had considered the second revision of the Compendium of Transport Database and Information System Capabilities in the ECE Region, which was based on updates received from Governments regarding their respective software and hardware capabilities, and asked the secretariat to have the Compendium put on the ECE's World Wide Web (WWW) Home Page, Inland Transport Databank (TRANS/WP.6/131, paras. 24-25).

19. The Working Party discussed the experience of Governments in accessing the Compendium on the Internet, noting that it continued to be a useful tool for assessing the relative capacities of member States, and provided an on-line forum for contacts in similar agencies. The Working Party agreed to transmit any new information to the secretariat who would update the Compendium on the Web.

20. In addition, the Working Party asked the secretariat to make the List of Participants, with e-mail addresses, available on the Web, as well as a list of Websites containing information related to the work of WP.6.

(c) Status report on the Trans-European Railway (TER) and Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project Databases

Documentation: TRANS/WP.5/1998/10.

21. The Working Party was informed about progress made on the Trans-European Railway (TER) and Trans-European North-South Motorway Project Databases, which were available for sale to the general public, and are located in the TER Project Office in Budapest, and the TEM Project office in Warsaw, respectively.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) IN TRANSPORT STATISTICS

Documentation: 1995 Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (UN Sales Publication Number E/F.97.II.E.20); UN/ECE Press Release; TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/1 and TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/2.

22. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party had been informed about the UN/ECE Project on the Automation and Geographic Application of the 1995 Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe, carried out in cooperation with the Institute of Territorial Studies of Barcelona (IET), in which the E Road Census was produced in the context of a Geographic Information System (GIS) (TRANS/WP.6/133, paras. 54-57).

23. The secretariat presented the results of phase I of the project, the publication of the 1995 Census in hard-copy, and explained some of the possibilities for phase II: the electronic publication of the Census. The Working Party discussed various options for Governments and other users to access the data and maps electronically, including the production of a CD-ROM, or through the use of GIS software tools that would allow statistical tables and maps to be accessed via the Internet.

24. The Working Party recalled, moreover, the decision of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) to integrate the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E-road Network with the

E-road Traffic Census, with the first Combined Census of Road Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe to be carried out in the year 2000. The GIS database developed for the 1995 Census would provide a basis for the 2000 Census and Inventory, allowing for greater accuracy, higher quality data and maps, and easier updating.

25. The Working Party expressed its appreciation for the work on phase I of the Project and asked the secretariat to continue to explore options for phase II, keeping in mind the needs of Governments, transport planners and other users.

26. The Working Party asked the secretariat to examine the possibility of organizing a Workshop on GIS in Transport, preceding the fiftieth session of the Working Party (15-16 November 1998, Geneva). The objective of the Workshop would be 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 this field.

UN/EDIFACT AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/R.89.

Update on the use of EDI and Generic Statistical Messages (GESMES) in transport statistics

27. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party considered a document by Eurostat on the use of EDI in maritime statistics and was informed that pilot projects were under way in various EU member countries using EDI techniques. The Working Party had asked the secretariat to EBES EEG6/WG7 (European Edifact Board - Working Group 7) to draft a feasibility study on the use of EDI in inland transport statistics and the Chairman had offered to provide information on the experience in Denmark using EDI for road transport statistics (TRANS/WP.6/133, paras.30-33) .

28. The Working Party was informed about developments in this regard by the Chairman, in particular, that it planned to use EDI to alleviate the response burden on transport companies, especially large enterprises. The representatives of Canada and Sweden also conveyed their experiences in using EDI for transport statistics, and the representative of France described his Government's project planned for 1999. The Working Party agreed to keep this item on the agenda for its next session.

METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, HARMONIZATION AND RECONCILIATION OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(a) Reports of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (7 November 1997, Geneva / 15-16 June 1998, Luxembourg)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/1 and Add.1.

29. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat and Eurostat, respectively, about the last two meetings of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics, in particular, developments toward the establishment of a database linked to the Common Questionnaire, and progress made toward a third edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics to include terminology on road traffic accidents, among other things (TRANS/WP.6/1998/1 and Add.1). The Working Party welcomed the continued efforts of the IWG, noting that the next session would take place in Paris (7-9 December 1998), to be hosted by ECMT.

(b) Revision of classification systems used in transport statistics

Status of work under way toward the revision of the Nomenclature of Transport Statistics (NST/R)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/R.91.

30. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party was informed about progress made by Eurostat on the revision of the NST/R and asked to be updated at its subsequent session. The representative of Eurostat reported that it had made no progress on the NST/R, due to other priorities in 1998-1999.

31. The Working Party expressed its urgency on the matter and appealed to Eurostat to make rapid progress on the revision of the NST/R and report back to the Working Party at its next session.

(c) Harmonization of urban and regional transport statistics

(i) Results of the Pilot Questionnaire on Urban Passenger Transport

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/4 and Add.1 and 2; TRANS/WP.6/1997/12; TRANS/WP.6/R.92.

32. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party had considered a proposal from the International Union of Public Transport (UITP) to incorporate terminology related to urban and public transport into the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics and the Glossary for Transport Statistics and had asked the secretariat to circulate a pilot questionnaire to member States to assess the availability of statistics on metropolitan rail and taxi transport (TRANS/WP.6/1997/12, TRANS/WP.6/133, paras. 45-46). Governments were also asked to include information on the methodologies used to collect this data, as well as pertinent definitions, including, in particular, a definition of "urban area".

33. The Working Party considered the results of the Pilot Questionnaire on Urban Passenger Transport, developed by the UITP in cooperation with the IWG, noting that 24 countries had replied, supplying varying amounts of data. The Working Party underlined the difficulties in providing certain data, including mileage and passenger/kms by taxi. Recognizing the importance of this data for shedding light on the use of public transport and the urban environment, the Working Party decided to ask the secretariat to circulate the revised Pilot Questionnaire, as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/4, annex 3, along with the 1998 Common Questionnaire. Countries who had not already provided data to the Pilot Questionnaire would be asked to supply the information at this time, as well as information on terminology and methodologies used in collecting this data; countries who had provided data already would be asked only for information on terminology and methodologies used, or to revise their data, if necessary.

34. The IWG would, in Spring 1999, consider the responses to the Pilot Questionnaire, and compare definitions used by countries with the definitions in the Glossary for Transport Statistics. Based on the responses to the questionnaire, the IWG would recommend to the Working Party at its next session whether the time was ripe to include all or part of the revised Pilot Questionnaire in the Common Questionnaire on a regular basis. If the 1999 Common Questionnaire had already been sent out by the time WP.6 held its next session, the secretariat would send out the Pilot Questionnaire as a supplementary section to the Common Questionnaire in 1999, and, if agreed, begin to circulate it along with the Common Questionnaire, on a regular basis, from the year 2000.

35. The Working Party agreed to add a new item to its agenda regarding specific methodologies for collecting data on urban and regional transport statistics, drawing on the papers previously submitted on this topic (para. 36 below), as well as any new inputs received from Governments on calculation and estimating techniques in urban transport.

(ii) Synthesis of National reports on Urban and Regional Transport Statistics

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/5; Informal document no. 2; TRANS/WP.6/1997/2; TRANS/WP.6/1997/3; TRANS/WP.6/1997/4; TRANS/WP.6/1997/5; TRANS/WP.6/1997/6; TRANS/WP.6/1997/7; and TRANS/WP.6/1997/9.

36. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party considered the results of the Workshop on Urban Passenger Transport and Environmental Statistics (12-15 May 1997, Washington D.C.), including National Reports prepared by member countries and asked the secretariat to produce a synthesis document of the above papers for its next session. The Working Party considered the synthesis of national reports (TRANS/WP.6/1998/5), as well as a report by the Netherlands on measuring urbanization, noting that the information contained therein would provide a framework in which to continue its discussion on methodologies in urban transport.

(d) Harmonization of environmental statistics in transport

Results of the Eurostat/ECMT/ECE Pilot Survey on Road Vehicle Fleets

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/6; Informal document no.6 ; TRANS/WP.6/1997/13

37. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party considered a proposal submitted by Eurostat (Environment Statistics Unit) to amend the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics in order to collect more comprehensive statistics on the environmental impact of transport and asked the secretariat to develop, in cooperation with Eurostat, a Pilot Survey based on the Eurostat proposal. Specifically, the aim of the Pilot Survey on Road Vehicle Fleets, circulated to member Governments in March 1998, was to collect more detailed information on vehicle fleets by including a breakdown of the total number of vehicles by new registrations, final deregistrations and end-of-life vehicles. In addition, the Pilot Survey asked Governments to break down new vehicles by type of motor energy (petrol, diesel, electricity); by cylinder capacity and by weight (TRANS/WP.6/133, paras. 47-48).

38. The Working Party considered the results of the Pilot Survey as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/6 and Informal document no. 6, noting that certain categories of information were difficult to complete, such as unladen weight for total vehicle stock and a breakdown of new registrations.

39. The Working Party decided to ask the secretariat to recirculate the Pilot Survey only to those countries who had not previously submitted data. In the meantime, the IWG would consider, at its Spring 1999 meeting, the validity of the tables and definitions in the Pilot Survey and recommend to the Working Party at its next session whether to integrate the new variables into the Common Questionnaire on a regular basis. If the 1999 Common Questionnaire had already been sent out by the time WP.6 held its next session, the secretariat would send out the Pilot Survey as a supplementary section to the Common Questionnaire in 1999, and, if agreed, begin to circulate it along with the Common Questionnaire, on a regular basis, from the year 2000.

40. The information collected by the Pilot Survey would be compiled into an official document for the next session of the Working Party.

41. The secretariat noted that the efforts to improve the collection of environment-related transport statistics would be particularly welcomed in light of the work to be undertaken for the follow-up to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (RCTE) (paras. 58-63 below).

(e) Development of price and quantity indices in transport

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1988/7 and Add.1; TRANS/WP.6/1997/14; TRANS/WP.6/1997/15; TRANS/WP.6/1997/16.

42. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party considered papers submitted on the development of price and quantity indices in transport by the Governments of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, and Croatia (TRANS/WP.6/1997/14 and Corr.1; TRANS/WP.6/1997/15; TRANS/WP.6/1997/16, respectively). The secretariat had asked delegations to submit any further available information with a view toward eventually compiling a manual on price and quantity indices (TRANS/WP.6/133, paras. 49-53).

43. The Working Party considered the replies received from Governments, as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/7 and Add.1, noting the continued importance of observing trends in prices for transport services.

44. The Working Party decided to ask the secretariat to organize a Workshop on Price and Quantity Indices in Transport in the year 2000. One issue to be covered in the Workshop could be the appropriate adjustment of price indices to reflect quality improvements in transport services. Any Government interested in hosting such a Workshop would contact the secretariat to initiate the planning for the event.

ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(a) Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS)

Documentation: Draft edition of ABTS, 1998.

45. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party had discussed the possibility for including an introductory text, as well as graphs and charts in the ABTS, but decided that the timeliness of the publication was more important than adding any new content at this time (TRANS/WP.6/133, paras. 26-27). The Working Party discussed other possible changes to the format and content of the ABTS, especially in light of the request by the Economic Commission for Europe for Principal Subsidiary Bodies to review their regular publications (para. 5 above). Noting that the ABTS had not been reviewed since 1992, the Working Party agreed to transmit any comments on changes to the ABTS by 15 December 1998, as well as any revisions or corrections in the Draft edition.

(b) Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS)

Documentation: 1998 edition of RAS; TRANS/WP.6/1998/8; Informal document No. 4 (Czech Republic); Informal document No. 5 (Denmark).

Draft definitions of terminology used in road traffic accident statistics

46. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party noted that preliminary discussion had taken place on the inclusion of terminology related to road traffic accidents in the third edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics. In this connection, the representative of the Czech Republic had offered to submit a draft of definitions of terminology used in road traffic accidents (TRANS/WP.6/133, para.43).

47. At the last session of the IWG (July 1998), it was decided to put further work on accident definitions on hold in order to coordinate this work with work being done on definitions used in the CARE + database.

48. The representative of Eurostat reported on progress made in the CARE project, and expressed the need to move toward a common data collection on road traffic accident statistics.

49. The Working Party considered the definitions submitted by the Czech Republic, as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/8 and Informal document No. 4, and noted that definitions on accidents were also submitted by Germany. The Working Party asked the IWG to take up the issue at its next meeting in which at least one day would be devoted to a Task Force on Road Traffic Accident Statistics. Representatives of the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Sweden and the European Community planned to participate in the Task Force. The representative of ECMT would transmit the dates of the IWG/Task Force meeting to the relevant parties.

50. The IWG would report on progress made at the next session of WP.6, with a view toward harmonizing definitions to the extent possible in order to include a chapter on accidents in the third edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics.

51. The IWG would, in this connection, examine whether it would be appropriate to omit the column on "injured" in road traffic accidents until better quality data was available.

52. The IWG would, moreover, examine whether data on road traffic accidents from national Governments could be obtained directly from the CARE database.

53. The Working Party noted with interest the document submitted by Denmark on Drunken Drivers (Informal document no. 5).

TRAFFIC CENSUSES IN THE ECE REGION

(a) Results of 1995 E-Road Census

Documentation: 1995 Census of Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (UN Publication No. E/F/.97/II.E.20); UN/ECE Press Release; TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/1, and TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/1998/2.

54. The secretariat distributed the hard copy publication of the E road census, noting that it could be obtained (for Governments and non-profit organizations) from the ECE secretariat, or through the UN Sales Publication Office (for private sector). Sample tables and maps from the 1995 Census were also available on the ECE's Home Page ([HTTP://WWW.UNICC.ORG/UNECE/](http://www.unicc.org/unece/)).

55. The secretariat gave an audio-visual presentation on the results of the 1995 E Road Census using GIS software, and explained that the 1995 Census results were not yet available in an electronic format.

The secretariat was exploring various options for publishing the 1995 Census on CD-Rom and/or to make the data and maps available on the Internet before the end of 1999.

56. The Working Party agreed to transmit any errors or discrepancies found in the 1995 Census tables or maps to the secretariat.

(b) Preparation of Recommendations for 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E-road Census and Inventory)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/13; TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/12 and Add.1; Informal document (IET, Barcelona).

57. The Working Party was informed that the Ad hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census would be held from 29 to 30 October, following WP.6, in order to prepare the Recommendations to Governments for the 2000 Combined Census and Inventory. In this connection, the Working Party requested the Ad hoc Meeting to endorse Draft resolution No. 247 on the 2000 Combined E Road Census and Inventory (TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/13, annex), and to transmit it for adoption to the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-first session (8-11 February 1999). All other discussion under this item was referred to the Ad hoc Meeting (TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/14 and Add.1).

FOLLOW-UP TO THE UN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Implementation of the Draft Recommendations of the Workshop on Urban Passenger Transport and Environmental Statistics (May 1997, Washington, D.C.)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1997/1; TRANS/WP.6/1998/6; TRANS/WP.6/1998/9; TRANS/RCTE/2/FINAL; ECE/RCTE/3/FINAL; JMTE/1998/4.

58. The Working Party recalled that, at its forty-eighth session, it had considered the report of the Workshop on Urban Passenger Transport and Environmental Statistics (1997, Washington, D.C.), and discussed the extent to which the Recommendations developed by the Workshop could serve as useful input into follow-up to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna 1997). In order to draw on the Washington Recommendations in formulating its strategy for follow-up to the Vienna Conference in the statistics area, the Working Party had asked the secretariat to circulate the Washington Recommendations to member Governments asking whether any specific plans or measures, including research, were planned in their countries along the lines of the Recommendations (WP.6/TRANS/WP.6/133, para. 39).

59. The Working Party considered the replies received from Governments as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/9, noting that a number of countries had projects under way related to transport and environment statistics, including Belarus, Latvia, Russian Federation, Sweden and Slovenia.

60. The secretariat informed the Working Party about the results of the first Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy), held on 7 July 1998, which clarified the countries and organizations that were designated lead actors in the implementation of each chapter of the RCTE's Programme of Joint Action (JMTE/1998/4, annex 2). The Working Party agreed that its work on follow-up to the Vienna Conference should be focused on Chapter I: Towards Sustainable Transport, part (d), which calls on Governments and international organizations to:

"Develop further, on the basis of already established monitoring and reviewing procedures, a common theoretical base and methodologies for collecting, analysing and reporting data on transportation activities and their environmental and health consequences. Develop a proposal for a Pan-European regular exchange and publication of data and analysis in this respect;" (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL).

61. The Working Party pointed out that it had already made progress in this direction through its efforts to incorporate environment-related variables into the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (TRANS/WP.6/1998/6 and Informal document No. 6), in addition to the work done on the Washington Recommendations and on urban public transport (TRANS/WP.6/1998/4 and Add. 1 & 2).

62. The representative of the European Community informed the Working Party about the TERM exercise (transport and environment reporting mechanism) involving Eurostat, DG VII and the European Environment Agency, in which 31 draft indicators were being developed to monitor the relationship between transport and the environment. In addition, he cited the CORINAIR Database, and promised to provide the secretariat with information on CORINAIR and TERM in connection with the forthcoming consultative meeting of International Organizations that was scheduled to be held by the end of 1998 in order to clarify the roles of lead actors in implementing the Programme of Joint Action.

63. The Working Party would consider the results of this meeting in further developing its strategy for follow-up to the Vienna Conference.

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

64. The Working Party was informed about current activities of international organizations working in the field of transport statistics, as elaborated below.

(i) European Commission (EC)

DG VII

65. The representative of DG VII said his organization had recently completed a study on European rail traffic flows, including passenger and freight traffic, as well as its annual statistical pocketbook, which is available on the Internet. The Concerted Action Committee (CAC)(European Commission) had continued its work under the auspices of the Strategic Transport Research part of the Fourth Framework Programme toward the development of a European Transport Information System (ETIS). The CAC met in Bruxelles 22-23 October, where consultants demonstrated the basis of their transport research database on the Internet.

Eurostat

66. The representative of Eurostat said the European Council had approved the Council Regulation on Statistical Returns in respect of the Carriage of Goods by Road in May 1998. Eurostat would launch a revision of the existing Directive on Rail statistics, beginning with the next Working Group meeting on Rail Statistics. Eurostat would also start, moreover, an Expert Group on the Quality of Rail Statistics. Implementation of the 1995 Council Directive on Maritime Transport Statistics is proceeding; specific implementation measures were adopted in a Commission Decision in 1998. In aviation statistics, Eurostat would continue its voluntary collection of data and in 1999 would re-start the process toward adopting a Council Directive on Aviation Statistics. With its 1998 restructuring of databases and

publications, there would be in future a larger number of smaller publications, with all data being available in the Eurostat New Cronos database. The next Coordinating Council on Transport Statistics (CCST) was scheduled to meet in February-March 1999.

(ii) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

67. The representative of ECMT said that his organization had continued its work towards the development of a database system linked to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics and also to the publication "*Statistical Annals*". This publication would be available at the end of 1998 containing data from 1995 and 1996. "Evolution in Transport" would be available at the end of 1998 containing data from 1997. "Road Accidents" would be available at the beginning of 1999 containing data from 1995 and 1996. Data from 1997 will be available in the first quarter of 1999. "Investment in Transport Infrastructure in the 1990s", a sequel to a five-yearly survey, would be available by the end of the year. A new meeting of the Group of Experts of Statisticians would take place in Paris (March or April 1999). He also noted that the Glossary of Transport Statistics, Second Edition, is now available on the Internet web-page of ECMT in both English and French ([HTTP://WWW.OECD.ORG/CEM](http://www.oecd.org/CEM)).

(iii) International Union of Railways (UIC)

68. The representative of the International Union of Railways presented his organization's database "RAILISA" available on CD-Rom, which is a compilation of railway statistical data world-wide from 1991 to 1996. Historical data are also included for certain countries in relation to infrastructure, railway traffic and network personnel. The database is accessible in English, Finnish, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

(iv) International Union of Public Transport (UITP)

69. The representative of the UITP said that his organization had contracted consultants to conduct a study of transport in one hundred towns, cities and urban regions world wide. The resultant database is due to be completed for the biennial UITP Congress in Toronto, May 1999. One or more towns in each of the European Union countries are included (with the exception of Luxembourg), together with Norway and Switzerland and four Eastern European countries. The data set to be collected includes 163 primary data items. The range of data covers basic characteristics of population; public and private transport infrastructure; public and private transport supply and service; mobility by mode; transport costs and productivity; and externalities, specifically energy use and pollution, as well as transport fatalities. The results of the study would be presented to the Working Party at its next session.

REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Revision of the Programme of Work for 1999-2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/10.

70. The Working Party considered its Programme of Work on the basis of the document prepared by the secretariat, and adopted it, with modifications, as reflected in annex 3 to this report.

71. In accordance with the request by the Commission to Principal Subsidiary Bodies, which was later clarified by the Inland Transport Committee's Bureau, the Working Party discussed the issue of assigning priorities (1-3) to each programme element and asked the secretariat to undertake this exercise, on the basis of the time frames specified for each expected output.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Gender mainstreaming in the United Nations System

Gender-specific statistics in the transport sector

Documentation: TRANS/WP.6/1998/11.

72. The Working Party recalled that the ECE, and the other four UN Regional Economic Commissions had been requested by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to assume a catalytic role in exchanging best practices in gender mainstreaming within the UN system. Noting, at its forty-eighth session, that it had already made progress in this direction by incorporating gender-specific employment statistics into its Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe (ABTS), the Working Party had agreed to transmit any relevant gender-specific transport data to the secretariat (TRANS/WP.6/133, para. 68).

73. The Working Party considered the replies received from Belarus, Latvia and the Russian Federation as contained in TRANS/WP.6/1998/11 and decided to leave this item on its agenda. The representative of the UIC said that beginning in 1999, rail statistics would include gender-specific data in employment in railway enterprises.

(b) Consideration of an alternative to the term "Countries in Transition"

74. The Working Party discussed the objection made at its forty-eighth session by the representative of Hungary to the reference in ECE documentation and meetings to "Countries in Transition" and requested once again that the ECE use "Central and Eastern European Countries," or an alternative term that would sufficiently cover also the newest members of ECE, including the Central Asian and Caucasian States. The secretariat was asked to draw this to the attention of the Inland Transport Committee at its forthcoming session.

(c) Date of next session

75. The Working Party decided that it would hold its fiftieth session from 17 to 19 November 1999, to be preceded by the Workshop on GIS in Transport (15-16 November 1999). The deadline for the transmission to the secretariat of documentation for the meeting would be 30 June 1999.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

76. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party adopted the report on its forty-ninth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex 1

**LIST OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY
ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS ON ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION**

Dangerous Goods (*Eurostat*): Inform the Working Party about experience with the first year of collection of data on road transport under the Council Regulation, especially goods transport classified by ADR class (paras. 9-11 and 66).

Perishable Foodstuffs (*WP.11/IWG*): WP.11 to provide input into Pilot Questionnaire; IWG to reflect on possibilities for incorporating data into regular (Common Questionnaire) data collection (paras. 12-13).

Database Development (*IWG*): Inform Working Party about progress on three databases (ECMT, Eurostat and ECE) at the next session (para. 14). Secretariat is to make list of participants with e-mail addresses, and list of relevant websites available on the Internet.

GIS (*Secretariat/Member country*): Examine the possibility to organize a Workshop on GIS in Transport in 1999. Member countries interested in participating in the organization of the Workshop would contact the secretariat (paras. 22-26).

E Road Census (*Secretariat*): Continue to explore various options for producing electronic version of 1995 Census data (CD Rom/Internet application) (para. 57).

NST/R (*Eurostat*): Aim to make rapid progress on revision of NST/R (paras. 30-31).

Urban and regional Transport (*UITP/IWG*): Send out revised Pilot Questionnaire based on TRANS/WP.6/1998/4, annex 3, asking countries who had not yet submitted data to do so, and those that had already, to revise their data, if necessary. All respondents would be asked about methodologies and terminology used. (Secretariat): Compile replies into official document for next session (paras. 32-35).

Price and Quantity Indices (*Secretariat/member country*): Organize a Workshop on Price and Quantity Indices in Transport for the year 2000. Member country interested in participating in the organization of Workshop would contact the secretariat (paras. 42-44).

ABTS (*Secretariat*): Countries will transmit any changes, comments or revisions of data in 1998 Draft edition to secretariat by 15 December 1998 (para. 15).

Accident Statistics (*IWG/Czech Republic, France, Germany, Sweden, CARE*): Convene Task Force on Road Traffic Accident Statistics to harmonize terminology (paras. 46-53).

Follow up to UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (*Secretariat*): Transmit information on progress made to next joint Bureau session (ITC and Environment Policy Committee) and coordinate with Eurostat and DGVII in connection with consultative meeting on international organizations (paras. 58-63).

Documentation for next WP.6 (*member countries*): Transmit any official documentation for the fiftieth session to the secretariat before 30 June 1999.

Annex 2

**2000 COMBINED CENSUS OF MOTOR TRAFFIC AND INVENTORY OF MAIN STANDARDS
AND PARAMETERS ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC ARTERIES IN EUROPE
(E Road Census and Inventory)**

Draft Resolution No. 247

to be submitted to the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-first session (8-11 February 1999)

The Inland Transport Committee,

Having regard to the last paragraph of its resolution No. 169 of 15 January 1954
(E/ECE/TRANS/445),

1. Invites Governments:

(a) To take a census of traffic on the E Roads on their national territory, in accordance with the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (AGR), and in line with the Recommendations to Governments for the 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory) as set forth in UN/ECE document TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/14/Add.1, considering 2000 as the reference year;

(b) To supply the results of the combined E Road Census and Inventory to the UN/ECE secretariat, if possible before 31 March 2002, in conformity with the Recommendations set forth in UN/ECE document TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/14/Add.1;

2. Recommends that Governments take a census of motor traffic on other non-urban roads in their national territory, applying where possible, the methods set out in the Recommendations mentioned under paragraph 1(a) above;

3. Requests Governments to inform the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) by 31 December 1999 whether they agree to implement the provisions of this resolution.

Annex 3

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1999-2003

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.11: TRANSPORT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

02.11.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents Priority: 2

Description: Development of appropriate methodologies and harmonization of statistics, including terminology used in the collection and compilation of statistics on road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline and combined transport as well as on road traffic accidents, in cooperation and coordination with other ECE bodies, related international organizations, including the ECMT and EC/Eurostat, and non-governmental organizations, in order to promote the availability of comprehensive, timely and reliable statistics for transport planning and analysis.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

(a)[d] **Target solutions to improve [improvement in] the collection of statistics in problematic areas, including, but not limited to the following items:**

Statistics on [the] Transport Equipment for [of] Perishable Foodstuffs
Statistics on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
[transport enterprise statistics, statistics on road vehicles by age]
Statistics on urban and regional passenger transport
Statistics on the environmental impact of transport
[statistics on employment in transport, including gender-specific employment
statistics and the development of]
Price and quantity indices for transport services.

Expected output: A concrete decision for each problematic area, e.g., the addition of supplementary chapters to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (urban transport, environment, perishable foodstuffs) (1999); An assessment of the applicability of the EU Directive for the collection of dangerous goods data for non-EU member states; A concrete decision on price and quantity indices (e.g., development of manual, preparation of work session) (1999-2002).

(b) **Undertake follow-up activities to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (RCTE, November 1997, Vienna) as follows:**

(i) **In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL), reduce the negative impact of transport and traffic on the environment and human health by**

Note: Changes or additions to the text adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its sixtieth session (ECE/TRANS/125/Add.1) are shown in bold character while the texts proposed for deletion have been placed in square brackets.

promoting the collection, harmonization, analysis and exchange of data on the environmental and health aspect of transport.

(ii) In accordance with the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL), at the international level, develop a common theoretical base and methodologies for collecting, analysing and reporting data on transportation activities and their environmental and health consequences; develop a proposal for a regular Pan-European exchange and publication of such data and analysis, and at the national level, collect and assess data on pollution, noise and energy consumption based on international methodologies; and develop scenarios of emission and energy consumption.

Expected output: Identification of 1-5 programmes, policies, projects, measures or research where the Working Party could contribute to the follow-up to RCTE in the statistical field; Development of 1-5 strategies for their implementation (1999-2000).

(c) [(b)] Study of methodological problems in the collection of statistics on international and national inland transport, including road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline transport and combined transport, **urban passenger transport**, accident statistics and certain aspects of port traffic; review of data collection work on international trade documents and procedures for the facilitation of international trade related to transport statistics, including the exchange of computerized data, in cooperation with other ECE bodies, ECMT and the EC. [Continuing]

Expected output: Identification of 1-3 new problem areas in transport statistics for future work, and achievement of an effective exchange of views and information on possible ways to resolve them (1999-2003).

(d)[(c)] Coordination among member Governments, other ECE bodies, and related international organizations and non-governmental organizations to harmonize terminology used in the statistics of road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline, combined transport and road traffic accidents, including, but not exclusively, in the context of the work being undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (ECE-ECMT-EC/Eurostat). **(Meetings 2-3 times per year)** [Continuing]

Expected output: Carrying-out electronic transmission of Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (1999); Development of supplementary questionnaires as decided by Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) and WP.6 (1999); Preparation of five meetings of IWG, Publication of 3rd edition of Glossary for Transport Statistics (1999-2001).

(e) Study of methods to facilitate and improve the collection of transport statistics through surveys and censuses such as automatic counting procedures, including, but not exclusively, in the context of **The Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E-road Census and Inventory)**, (compiled and published by the ECE every five years) **(Next published in 2002)**. [Continuing]

Expected output: Development of common methodologies for the collection of statistics on road traffic flows, as well as on infrastructure parameters on the AGR network, including the preparation of Recommendations to Governments for the 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E-road Census and Inventory) (1999-2000).

- (f) Monitoring of developments in the field of transport database and information systems, including geographic information systems (GIS) in order to facilitate the updating, analysis and geographic representation of transport data, **within ECE and in cooperation with ECMT and EC/Eurostat in order** to harmonize transport data internationally and avoid duplication of efforts with other organizations. [2002].

Expected output: The development of a transport database system at ECE. Consideration of various alternatives and progress made (Acces/Excel, Internet/WWW, etc.); Observation of trial run at ECMT and Eurostat to determine feasibility of database linked to Common Questionnaire (1999-2000).

- (g) Development of projects to assist countries in transition in the collection, organization and automation of transport statistics, including the convening of workshops and training seminars, drawing on the expertise of member Governments and related organizations. (Continuing)

Expected output: A concrete offer for Workshop or Seminar on Transport Statistics for CITs (GIS in Transport, 1999); (Price and Quantity Indices in Transport Services, 2000).

- (h)[(a)] Review of the Commodity Classification for Transport Statistics in Europe (CSTE) with respect to the Harmonized System, the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC), *la Nomenclature de statistiques de transport et revision* (NST/R) (the Nomenclature of Transport Statistics (NST/R) and its revised version) and other relevant nomenclatures in cooperation with the Conference of European Statisticians, other ECE bodies and the EC. [(2002)]

Expected output: A useful exchange of views and updating of information on the work in this area under way at Eurostat on the harmonization of NST/R (2002).

02.11.2 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport Priority: 3

Description: Development and maintenance of a comprehensive transport database system including methodological support for the collection and compilation of statistics on inland transport, road traffic accidents and road traffic flows used for publications on transport statistics produced by the ECE in order to maintain and improve the quality and presentation of such publications, and to facilitate the electronic transmission, manipulation and storage of data, as well as the exchange of data with other international organizations.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

- (a) Build and maintain a database for the annual collection of statistics on inland transport, including combined transport and road traffic accidents from ECE member Governments to be published in the following publications:
 - (i) Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe **and North America** (ABTS).
 - (ii) Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe **and North America** (RAS).

Expected output: Publication of 1998 edition of ABTS (1999) and 1998 edition of RAS (1998); Circulation of Questionnaires and receipt of data from member Governments for ABTS and RAS on hard-copy (1998), diskette (1998-1999) and in electronic format (1999-2000).

- (b) Provide methodological support and initiate the automation and geographic application using GIS for the collection of statistics on road traffic density, distribution and length and usage of roads as well as infrastructure standards and parameters on main international traffic arteries in Europe, in accordance with the AGR, the results of which are compiled every five years and published by the ECE as:
 - The Combined Census of Road Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory) [2002]

Expected Output: Distribution of 1995 Census results and preparation of Resolution to Governments to carry out the 2000 combined Census and Inventory (1998-1999); Development of CD-Rom of Census results and/or electronic access to Census data via the Internet (1998-1999).

- (c) Provide methodological support for the ongoing analysis and evaluation of these three statistical publications [in cooperation with the ECE Statistical Division] to continue to improve the quality and presentation of the publications, and to incorporate harmonized terminology through the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics. **Develop strategies for improvement of usefulness and presentation of publications (1999-2000).** [Continuing]

Expected output: Concrete feedback from Governments and other users on usefulness and presentation of publications and development of strategies for improvement of both (1999-2000).
