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Working Party on Rail Transport

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DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2000-2004
OF THE WORKING PARTY

Note by the Secretariat

The text of the programme of work reproduced below is based on the content of the programme of work approved by the Inland Transport Committee appearing in Addendum 1 to the report of its sixty-first session (ECE/TRANS/128/Add.1).

With a view to facilitating comparison of the descriptive part of the attached programme with the text adopted by the Committee, the secretariat has indicated additional project elements or elements replacing the old text in bold characters, while the text proposed for deletion has been reproduced in square brackets.

Please note that the distribution of documentation for the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents other than Reports and Agendas will be numbered as follows: TRANS/SC.2/year/serial number. Reports, Agendas, resolutions and major publications will retain their previous numbering system (i.e. TRANS/WP.5/189)

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2000-2004

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.5: RAIL TRANSPORT

02.5.1 Rail transport infrastructure Priority: 1

I. *Review of the situation concerning the implementation and possible amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)*

Description: Study of possibilities for the improvement of international rail transport.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Consideration of the AGC Agreement with a view to possibly: implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters; taking into account new east-west traffic flows; raising environmental, energy and safety standards; taking into account the ECE Conventions on the Environment.

Output expected: Report on amendment of the AGC network; Report on the development of a European conventional and high-speed railway network. (2000) Priority: 1

(b) Consideration of the influence of intermodal transport techniques, especially those concerning investment, as well as the harmonization of rolling stock and speed on railways to facilitate the integration of these techniques into the railway system and to create general interoperability. Output expected: Report on investment in rail infrastructure and railway rolling stock in member countries. (2000)

Priority: 1

(c) Periodic review of the list of marshalling yards of international importance with a view to cutting down their numbers.

Output expected: Updated report on the location of important marshalling yards within the European railway network. (2000)

Priority: 2

(d) **As a follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment, development and implementation of programmes to build up an efficient European Rail Freight Network by improving and promoting the:**

- **modernization and extension of rail and combined transport**

- infrastructure;
- interoperability and coordination between rail systems;
- upgrade and wider use of environment-friendly rolling stock;
- logistics and services;
- establishment of international rail freight companies.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (e) [(d)] Periodically survey passenger and goods traffic on the various sections of lines of the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning; the second survey is based on data for 1995 Output expected: Report on total train traffic on the AGC network in 1995. (2000) Priority: 2

II. *Special project: Trans-European Railway (TER)*

Description: Within the framework of the UN/ECE, the TER countries have established an appropriate administrative and financial framework, with the aim of developing a rail network as part of an integrated European international rail system.

Work to be undertaken

- (a) Consideration of specific project developments to promote international rail traffic. (Continuing); Output expected: Annual progress report on activities carried out within the TER project. Priority: 1
- (b) Consideration of possibilities for financing of TER in order to promote the upgrading and construction of internationally important rail lines. (Continuing) Priority: 3
- (c) Consideration of possible utilization of the results achieved under the project in other UN/ECE activities in the field of rail infrastructure including the implementation of AGC and AGTC in order to benefit from mutual experiences. (Continuing) Priority: 2

III. *Interregional Cooperation*

Description: Cooperation with other regional commissions and international bodies involved in development of interregional links.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will be kept informed of exchanges of information between the secretariats of the regional commissions and other international bodies in order to benefit from experiences gained in other regions of the world. (Continuing) Priority: 3

02.5.2 **Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport including rail safety and facilitation of its operations**
Priority: 1

Description:

- (a) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, particularly, for documents and procedures at border-crossing.
- (b) Harmonization of and search for standardized requirements concerning the utilization of railway infrastructure including computerization aspects.
- (c) Elaboration of proposals and preparation of studies aimed at strengthening, consolidating and extending the position of rail transport on international transport markets.
- (d) Analysis of problems relating to the harmonization and improvement of rail safety.
- (e) Consideration of prospects for the adoption of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail so as to establish a standard legal system (harmonization of the SMGS/SMPS and CIM/CIV systems).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of specific difficulties encountered at border-crossings in the transport of passengers and goods by rail with a view to accelerating border crossing operations and establishing a programme to deal with problems common to several routes.
Output expected: Report on bi- and multilateral contacts of Governments and railways to improve the crossing of borders in international rail traffic. **(2000)** **Priority: 1**
- (b) Consideration of follow-up of the implementation of recommendations and preparation of new texts or amendments to existing texts, if necessary, notably concerning the facilitation of border crossing with the aim to improve international rail traffic. **Priority: 1**
- (c) Review of requirements concerning railway operations and regulations, reduction of transport time and improvement in the precision of movements in the international carriage of goods, new operative

developments in rail transport, the integration of services of different railways. Priority: 2

- (d) The study of the possibilities for harmonizing the application and periods of summer time with a view to upgrading transport quality in rail transport. Output expected: Report on the application of summer time. (2000) Priority: 1
- (e) Analysis of Government policies concerning rail safety to contribute to an improvement of safety in international transport. Output expected: Report on the risk assessment technique in rail transport. (2000) Priority: 1

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (f) Analysis of the various elements of productivity in rail transport and the possibilities to increase rail productivity in particular for international transport. Output expected: Report on the development of productivity in rail transport in member countries. (2000) Priority: 2
- (g) Consideration on the basis of reports by the international organizations concerned of the progress accomplished on the harmonization of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail to examine whether the compatibility of the regulation concerned can be ensured. Output expected: Report by international organizations concerned on the progress made in the elimination of difficulties arising from different legal systems in international rail transport. (2000) Priority: 3
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