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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(Sixty-second session, 15-17 February 2000)

**NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND SUGGESTED TIMETABLE */
FOR THE COMMITTEE'S SIXTY-SECOND SESSION**

Note by the secretariat

Tuesday, 15 February 2000

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ECE/TRANS/131

I. Questions relating to the work of the Committee in general

2. RESULTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S BUREAU MEETING

TRANS/2000/6

The Bureau Meeting of the Committee has taken place on 22 and 23 November 1999 in order to prepare the sixty-second session of the Committee. The results of the Bureau Meeting will be reflected in the document to be prepared by the secretariat.

*/ The Committee may recall that, in accordance with the Plan of Action, the length of its session will have to be limited to three days.

Furthermore, the Committee may note that a meeting of its Bureau is scheduled to take place on 14 February 2000 (p.m.) and 18 February 2000 (a.m.).

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-FOURTH
SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE AND THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION IN
1999 OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

TRANS/2000/5

For this item, the secretariat has prepared a note containing information on the discussions and decisions of the Commission (fifty-fourth session, May 1999) having a bearing on the work of the Inland Transport Committee. The Committee may wish to consider, in particular, questions related to operational activities and cooperation with regional/sub-regional groupings, initiatives and organizations, and the implementation of the ECE reform process.

The Committee may wish to note that its Bureau discussed these questions and that its conclusions and recommendations thereon are reflected in document TRANS/2000/6 containing the results of the Bureau meeting.

The Commission's Annual Report (E/1999/37-E/ECE/1374) contains the full account of discussions. Information regarding the activities of the Economic and Social Council having a bearing on the work of the Committee is also included in the above-mentioned note.

**4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1997 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

JMTE/1999/6

The Committee may wish to take note of the results of the second session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (Geneva, 6 July 1999). It was attended by members of the bureaux of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Inland Transport Committee as well as by lead actors and national focal points implementing the Programme of Joint Action adopted by the Regional Conference (Vienna, 12-14 November 1997). As agreed by the Joint Meeting, it is planned that a meeting of national focal points, lead actors and other experts will be held from 7 to 9 February 2000 in Geneva. A summary oral report of this meeting will be given to the Committee by the secretariat.

The Committee may wish to consider the report of the Joint Meeting (JMTE/1999/6), particularly with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action, and comment on the results of the meeting of focal points.

The Committee may also wish to note that, as a follow-up to the London Conference on Environment and Health, a report is being prepared containing an overview of the existing agreements and conventions concerning transport, environment and health with a view to improving and harmonizing their implementation and further developing them as needed. This report which, as also requested by the Conference, should cover the possibility of new non-legally binding actions and the feasibility, necessity and contents of a new

legally-binding instrument, should be finalized by spring 2000. A draft of this report is being prepared by a consultant made available by the Danish Ministry of Environment and is expected to be circulated to all Heads of delegations before the Committee session. The Committee may wish to comment on the report and provide guidance thereon.

**5. ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSPORT SITUATION IN
ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND OF EMERGING
DEVELOPMENT TRENDS**

TRANS/2000/7

The Committee may wish to consider the document on the transport situation and trends in member countries which has been prepared by the secretariat on the basis of national contributions and other sources, following the decision taken by the Committee at its sixty-first session (ECE/TRANS/128, para. 20).

6. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

TRANS/WP.5/1999/9

TRANS/1999/11

The Committee may wish to take note of document TRANS/WP.5/1999/9 containing a summary of activities aimed at assisting countries in transition, undertaken in 1998 and 1999. In connection with this agenda item, the Committee will be informed of: (i) the South-east European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), (ii) the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), (iii) the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), (v) progress on the TEM and TER Projects, and (vi) other advisory services provided.

Based on the above documentation, the Inland Transport Committee may wish to have an exchange of views on this item and review the list of activities for assistance to countries in transition appearing in TRANS/1999/11 with due regard to any new initiatives from member Governments and/or subsidiary bodies of the Committee. It may also wish to invite Governments and relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute to the UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).

**7. STATUS OF APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL
UN/ECE TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS**

The secretariat has prepared a document in English containing tables on the status as at 10 December 1999 of signatures, ratifications and accessions concerning international instruments on inland transport concluded under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The Committee will also be informed of the current situation within ECE member countries with regard to possible signatures and ratifications of or accessions to those instruments.

The Committee may wish to note this document and invite countries which are not yet Contracting Parties to ECE Agreements and Conventions in the field of transport to accede to those international instruments.

8. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE **TRANS/2000/2**

On the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/2000/2) and of other written or oral contributions, the Committee may wish to have an exchange of views on the activities related to transport, being carried out within other ECE principal subsidiary bodies and international organizations.

II. Questions dealt with by the Committee's Subsidiary Bodies

9. TRANSPORT TRENDS AND POLICY AND TRANSPORT ECONOMICS **TRANS/WP.5/26**

The report of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), on its twelfth session, has been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee (TRANS/WP.5/26).

Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following subjects:

(a) Follow-up to the Third Pan-European Transport Conference

In the context of follow-up to the Third Pan-European Transport Conference, the Committee, at its sixtieth session, agreed that the Working Party should, in future, increasingly focus its activities on aspects of transport infrastructure and, in particular, on those related to the Pan-European Transport Corridors (PETrCs) and Pan-European Transport Areas (PETtAs), including also the Euro-Asian links (ECE/TRANS/125, paras. 9 and 42-45).

(i) Pan-European transport corridors: Progress in their Implementation in the New Independent States

The Inland Transport Committee and the Working Party, at their sixtieth and tenth sessions, respectively, felt that, similar to the work done by the TINA project (Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment) of the European Commission (EC), the ECE might undertake the technical and legal monitoring of the implementation of the Pan-European Transport Corridors in the New Independent States (NIS), particularly in Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine. To that end, the Working Party has been

collecting information to identify transport projects on the sections of the Pan-European Transport corridors No. 2, 3, 5 and 9 (branch b).

At its twelfth session, the Working Party examined the information transmitted by the Governments concerned and requested the secretariat to prepare a note on methodology for the assessment of transport infrastructure projects in the NIS, based on the methodological tools developed within the TINA process. When prepared, this note will serve as a basis for the development of recommendations to the PETrCs' Steering Committee (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 24).

Furthermore, the Working Party requested the Russian Federation to coordinate the comparison of the TINA methodology with current practices and needs in the NIS to elaborate a list of main aspects on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA), including the availability of the relevant data in the Russian Federation, and to compare this list with the content of the EU's handbook on SEA (TRANS/WP.5/26, paras. 32 and 11).

The Committee may wish to take note of the above-mentioned activities and to indicate other relevant contributions which might be included in the recommendations that WP.5 will address to the PETrCs' Steering Committees. In particular, the Committee may wish to request its subsidiary bodies to identify those elements in their current activities that could be relevant to the development of the PETrCs and to prepare recommendations in their respective areas of work, to be taken into account in the work on the PETrCs.

(ii) Technical and economic factors related to the development of Pan-European transport corridors

The Committee may wish to note the initiative taken by the Working Party, at its twelfth session, to deal with questions related (i) to automatic gauge change systems in rail transport, (ii) transitional geometric standards of transport infrastructure, and (iii) unit infrastructure cost analysis, which have a bearing on the development of PETrCs (TRANS/WP.5/26, paras. 22-27). The Committee may wish to support these activities of the Working Party in order to contribute to the facilitation of traffic flows on the PETrCs.

(iii) Euro-Asian transport links

TRANS/WP.5/1999/8

Following the decision of the Committee at its sixtieth session (ECE/TRANS/125, para. 48), the Working Party examined the note prepared by the secretariat on Euro-Asian transport links, and requested the secretariat to convene an informal ad hoc joint EC-ECE-ESCAP meeting in Geneva in the first half of 2000, with the objective to develop a work plan on this issue (TRANS/WP.5/26, para. 33).

The Committee may wish to take note of the activities to be undertaken by the Working Party and invite the three organizations concerned to participate actively in the work envisaged.

(b) Transport in the Mediterranean

**(i) Work of the Transport Study and Training
Centres in the Mediterranean region**

TRANS/2000/9

The Committee may wish to note the work carried out by the Mediterranean Transport Centres, which is reported annually to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics.

**(ii) Proposed seminar on transport facilitation
in the Mediterranean region**

The Committee may wish to endorse the endeavour of the Working Party to contribute to the facilitation of transport in the Region, particularly through the promotion of existing ECE international Agreements and Conventions. In this context, the Committee may wish to support the initiative to organize a Seminar on this issue in 2000 with the support of UN/ECE and the European Commission (TRANS/WP.5/24, para. 45) and request the secretariat to actively contribute to this initiative.

**(iii) Europe-Africa permanent link
through the Strait of Gibraltar**

E/1999/20

The Committee may wish to note that, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1997/48, ECE and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have jointly prepared a report on the studies related to the project for the period 1997-98 (E/1999/20), which has been subsequently submitted to the 1999 substantive session of ECOSOC. A new Resolution was adopted by this body (1999/37).

**(c) Studies on transport economics
and track costs undertaken by
other organizations**

**TRANS/2000/8
and Add.1**

Information received from the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) (TRANS/2000/8) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (TRANS/2000/8/Add.1) is being circulated for consideration by the Committee.

10. ROAD TRANSPORT

TRANS/SC.1/365

The report of the Working Party on Road Transport, on its ninety-third session, has been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee (TRANS/SC.1/365). Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following subjects:

(a) Road transport infrastructure

(i) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

The Committee may wish to be informed that amendment proposals to Annex I of the AGR adopted by the ninety-second session of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) in October 1998 (TRANS/SC.1/363, paras. 10-18 and annex 1) were transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for legal notification to the competent administrations of the Contracting Parties directly concerned (depositary notification reference C.N.380.1999.TREATIES-1, dated 2 June 1999). The Committee will be informed whether the amendments have entered into force as scheduled on 2 December 1999.

The Committee may also wish to take note that, at its ninety-third session, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) considered the results of the seventeenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR (28 to 29 June 1999) and adopted a number of new amendment proposals to Annex I of the AGR submitted by France, Romania and the Russian Federation. (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 14-16 and annex 1). The amendments adopted by SC.1 will be transmitted to the Secretary-General for legal notification to the competent administrations of the Contracting Parties directly concerned, in accordance with the procedures set forth in article 8 of the AGR.

**(ii) Activities of the Trans-European North-South
Motorway (TEM) Project**

TRANS/SC.1/1999/7

The Committee may wish to endorse the progress report of the TEM Project (TRANS/SC.1/1999/7) and the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Working Party on Road Transport (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 22 and 23).

(b) Road transport facilitation and harmonization

TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2

The Committee may wish to take note that SC.1 approved in principle the revisions to the AETR proposed in the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Transport (AETR) (TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2) which met on 8-9 March 1999 in Geneva (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 24-37). In this connection, the Committee may also wish to note that, in accordance with the request of the Working Party, the non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR, not

present at the session, will be informed of the revision process accordingly (TRANS/SC.1/365, para. 34).

The Committee may also wish to note that SC.1 endorsed the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of the Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of Road Transport (R.E.4) (Geneva, 25-26 March 1999). The Working Party decided that it was not yet in a position to forward the draft to the Inland Transport Committee for adoption since many Governments had not had the opportunity to examine the text in detail (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 38-42).

Furthermore, the Committee may wish to note that the Working Party considered a new draft annex to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods proposed in an informal document by the International Road Transportation Union (IRU) and Transfrigoroute (International). In this connection, the Working Party supported the initiative of WP.30 that an informal drafting group including experts from both WP.30 and SC.1 be convened to prepare the final text of the new Annex to the Harmonization Convention (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 44-47).

With regard to the possibility of developing a new protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), integrating electronic data interchange (EDI) into its procedures, the Committee may wish to note that the secretariat, together with Unidroit, envisages to cooperate on the development of the protocol (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 57-60).

Concerning the revision of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR), the Committee may wish to note the Working Party's request to the secretariat to prepare a document in collaboration with the IRU for its next session providing background information on the CVR and suggesting what revisions were necessary. The Working Party also considered the possibility of establishing an Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of the CVR to meet in 2001 (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 48-51).

11. ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

TRANS/WP.1/64

TRANS/WP.1/67

(i) Work on amendments to international instruments related to road safety

The reports of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety on its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions have been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee (TRANS/WP.1/64 and TRANS/WP.1/67).

The Committee may wish, in particular, to endorse actions taken by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) concerning the following items:

- questionnaire on the implementation by Governments of the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, as well as the 1971 European Agreements supplementing the above Conventions (TRANS/WP.1/64, paras. 4-7 and TRANS/WP.1/67, paras. 4-6);
- draft amendments to the Vienna Conventions (TRANS/WP.1/64, paras. 8-12 and TRANS/WP.1/67, paras. 7-10);
- international driving permits (TRANS/WP.1/64, paras. 13-17 and TRANS/WP.1/67, paras. 11-16);
- elaboration of a new legal instrument on driving permits (TRANS/WP.1/67, paras 20 and 21);
- revision of the Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic (R.E.1) and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2) (TRANS/WP.1/64, paras. 32-41 and TRANS/WP.1/67, paras. 22-27).

(ii) Third Road Safety Week in the ECE Region

The Committee may wish to take note of the activities and progress made in the preparation for the Third Road Safety Week in the ECE Region, 1-7 May 2000. In particular, the secretariat has developed and launched a website for the Week and published a brochure, which both highlight the safety of vulnerable road users, who are the target group of the Week.

The Committee may wish to endorse the above actions and, as the dates of the Third Road Safety Week are near, it may also wish to invite Governments and organizations to support and contribute to the activities of the Week and to inform the secretariat of the activities they are undertaking within the framework of the Third Road Safety Week.

12. SAFETY IN TUNNELS

TRANS/SC.1/365

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) discussed the question of safety in tunnels at its thirty-second session (13-16 April 1999), following the serious accidents in the Mont Blanc and Tauern Tunnels.

For its part, the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (28-29 June 1999) considered the need for amendments concerning safety in tunnels to the provisions of Annex II of the AGR. The Ad hoc Meeting asked the Working Party on Road Transport to support the establishment of a multi-disciplinary group

consisting of experts from the fields dealt with by the Working Parties WP.1, WP.15 and WP.29 (TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/34, paras. 19-21) to work on appropriate amendments to the AGR and other legal instruments dealing with road safety. At its thirty-third session (28 September-1 October 1999), WP.1 supported that proposal and agreed that WP.1 experts should take part to provide the necessary legal expertise (TRANS/WP.1/66, paras. 28-30).

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) also considered the proposal of the Ad hoc Meeting and prepared a recommendation for the Committee on the subject. In accordance with this recommendation (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 16-19 and annex 4), the Committee may wish to consider the proposal to establish a multi-disciplinary group of experts on safety in tunnels and request its relevant subsidiary bodies to propose members for that group. It is envisaged that the group would start its work in June 2000 and terminate in the autumn of 2001 with the submission of its recommendations.

**13. REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF VEHICLES**

TRANS/WP.29/78/Rev.1/Amend.2

TRANS/WP.29/663

TRANS/WP.29/680

TRANS/WP.29/689

TRANS/WP.29/690

TRANS/WP.29/691

**(a) Updating of Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement and elaboration
of new ones**

In relation to the Agreement of 20 March 1958, amended as from 16 October 1995, the Committee will be informed about the work carried out by the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP.29) and by its subsidiary Working Parties (GRPE, GRSG, GRRF, GRE, GRB, GRSP) during 1999, as reflected in the reports on the one-hundred-and-seventeenth (TRANS/WP.29/663), one-hundred-and-eighteenth (TRANS/WP.29/680) and one-hundred-and-nineteenth (TRANS/WP.29/689) sessions.

The report of the one-hundred-and-nineteenth session also refers to the adoption of the draft programme of work for 2000-2004, including the tentative list of meetings for 2000 (TRANS/WP.29/691).

(b) Status of the 1998 Agreement

The Committee will be provided with the status information concerning the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/132 and Corr.1), in particular with respect to the Contracting Parties and Signatories with ratification procedures in progress.

Taking account of the global scope of the 1998 Agreement, WP.29 adopted at its one-hundred-and-nineteenth session its Terms of Reference and Rules of

Procedure. It also adopted a new name "World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)" for the Working Party, starting from its one-hundred-and-twentieth session, in March 2000. The Inland Transport Committee is requested to consider and endorse the corresponding document (TRANS/WP.29/690).

(c) Status of the 1997 Agreement on Technical Inspections

The Committee will be provided with the status information concerning the Agreement (ECE/RCTE/CONF./4), in particular with respect to the Contracting Parties and Signatories with ratification procedures in progress.

(d) Updates to the Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (R.E.3)

The Committee may wish to draw the attention of Governments to document TRANS/WP.29/78/Rev.1/Amend.2, adopted by WP.29 at its one-hundred-and-seventeenth session and revising the classification of vehicles in the Consolidated Resolution (Annex 7/Rev.2).

14. RAIL TRANSPORT

TRANS/SC.2/192

The report of the fifty-third session of the Working Party on Rail Transport has been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee (TRANS/SC.2/192).

Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following subjects:

(a) Rail transport infrastructure

(i) European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)

The Committee may wish to note that Belgium has become a new Contracting Party to the AGC (Depositary Notification C.N.715.1999.TREATIES-1). In total, 22 countries have become Contracting Parties to the AGC (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 36-38).

The Committee will be informed of the progress made by the Working Party in the extension of the AGC network to Central Asian and Caucasus ECE member countries (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 44-46).

The Committee may also wish to endorse the Working Party's invitation to ECE member countries to become Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 39).

Furthermore, the Committee may wish to take note of the data collecting efforts on the AGC network currently in progress, and to endorse the Working Party's decision to collect information on infrastructure and traffic conditions in 2000, making full use of the experience of the UN/TER Project Central Office in this area (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 47-50).

**(ii) Activities of the Trans-European
Railway (TER) Project**

TRANS/SC.2/192

The Committee may wish to endorse the progress report of the TER project (TRANS/SC.2/1999/15) and the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Working Party on Rail Transport (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 59-60).

(b) Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

At its sixty-first session, the Committee adopted a resolution on the reduction of the border stopping time of shuttle trains in international traffic and requested the Working Party to monitor its implementation. (ECE/TRANS/128, annex 1). The Committee may wish to be informed about the monitoring system adopted by the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 29-34), and to indicate whether any other data should be included. Furthermore, the Committee may wish to discuss whether the information on border crossing gathered for the different transport modes may be analysed in more detail, with a view to assessing their economic implications and their impacts on modal split.

(c) Role of railway undertakings in the promotion of combined transport

The Committee may wish to take note of the discussions undertaken on this issue by the Working Parties SC.2 (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 66-69) and WP.24 (TRANS/WP.24/83, paras. 38-40 and TRANS/WP.24/85, paras. 38-44), and endorse the decision of SC.2 to convene an informal group (composed of the WP.24 and SC.2 bureaux, International Union of Railways (UIC) and International Union of Combined Road/Rail Transport Companies (UIRR) in order to collect information and to examine whether further development of legal and technical instruments in the railway sector is necessary to improve the current situation.

(d) Application of summer time

TRANS/SC.2/1999/16/Add.1

The Committee may wish to take note of the data provided on this issue by the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/1999/16/Add.1 and TRANS/SC.2/192 paras. 61-62). Taking into account that a harmonization seems to have been practically achieved in the European ECE Region on this issue, the Committee may wish to discuss the continuation to be given to this item in the future, and

particularly whether this item should be brought to the attention of the Committee only in case the Working Party considers that the current situation has changed.

Furthermore, Governments are invited, as in previous years, to provide information **during the Committee's sixty-second session** on:

- (1) the introduction of the summer time period in their respective countries in 2000.
- (2) the hour of transition (in local time) at the beginning and at the end of summer time.
- (3) the application of summer time over a medium-term period to enable the secretariat to prepare a document on summer time arrangements in ECE member countries.

Wednesday, 16 February 2000

15. INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

TRANS/SC.3/151

The report of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport on its forty-third session has been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee as TRANS/SC.3/151.

Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following items:

(a) Inland waterway infrastructure

ECE/TRANS/120

(i) European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

The Committee may wish to note that the Agreement which entered into force on 26 July 1999 has 10 Contracting Parties: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Switzerland. The Committee may wish to invite Governments, which have not yet done so, to take the necessary steps in order for their States to become Parties to AGN.

(ii) Update of the map of European inland waterways

The Committee may wish to take note of the publication by the secretariat of an update of the map of European inland waterways, of 1994, consisting actually of a set of three maps: a general map (in accordance with the agreed classification of inland waterways); a map of navigable draft; and a map of

navigational zones for the purpose of application of the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels.

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| (b) Technical and legal questions concerning the development and facilitation of international inland water transport | TRANS/SC.3/1999/7-10 TRANS/SC.3/1999/8/Add.1 ECE/TRANS/CMNI/CONF/2 |
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The Committee will be informed of the main activities undertaken by the Working Party relating to the harmonization of technical and safety requirements in inland navigation and may wish to take note of them. In this connection, it may endorse the adoption by the Working Party of resolutions No. 42 (on Procedure and Rules for the Inspection of Inland Navigation Vessels); No. 43 (on Mandatory Equipment of Vessels Engaged in International Transport with Radiotelephone Installations); No. 44 (amending the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) with Requirements for Prevention of Pollution from Inland Navigation Vessels); and No. 45 (amending chapter 3 and annex 3 of CEVNI) (TRANS/SC.3/151, paras. 34, 37, 39 and 35, respectively). It may also wish to take note of the publication by the secretariat of a consolidated booklet containing up-to-date data regarding the availability on European inland waterways of reception facilities for transfer of waste generated on board ships (TRANS/SC.3/150).

Furthermore, the Committee may also wish to take note and endorse actions taken by the Working Party concerning:

- (i) consideration of measures aimed at prevention of air pollution from inland navigation vessels (TRANS/SC.3/151, para. 7);
- (ii) the critical situation in Danubian shipping (TRANS/SC.3/151, para. 15);
- (iii) drafting in cooperation with the CCNR and the Danube Commission of the Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterways (CMNI) and the expected dates and venue of the Diplomatic Conference for its adoption (TRANS/SC.3/151, paras. 43 and 44);
- (iv) consideration of the possibility of introducing a common legal regime for the limitation of the liability of owners of inland navigation vessels on a Europe-wide basis (TRANS/SC.3/151, para. 47); and
- (v) assistance to countries in transition (TRANS/SC.3/151, para. 50).

16. COMBINED TRANSPORT

**TRANS/WP.24/83 and
Corr.1
TRANS/WP.24/85**

The reports of the Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24) on its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions have been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee.

Attention is drawn in particular to the following subjects:

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| (a) European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC Agreement) and Protocol on Inland Waterways thereto | ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.1 ECE/TRANS/122, Corr. 1 and Corr.2 |
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The Committee may wish to note that the AGTC Agreement has at present 23 Contracting Parties.

Following bilateral negotiations among concerned ECE member States, a second package of amendment proposals to annexes I and II of the AGTC Agreement has been adopted by the Working Party, reflecting the growing importance of combined transport in Central and Eastern Europe. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will issue the relevant depositary notification in due course. A first package of amendment proposals had come into force on 25 June 1998 (C.N.91-1998.TREATIES-1).

The Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement has at present the following Contracting Parties: Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Romania; Switzerland. It will come into force following ratification by at least five States that are linked, in a continuous manner, by the waterways identified in the Protocol.

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| (b) Possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport | TRANS/WP.24/1999/2 |
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In accordance with the request of the Committee, the Working Party has convened an informal meeting of experts to investigate further the problems posed for international transport by the existing different civil liability regimes as well as the need to possibly prepare a new international legal instrument in this field (TRANS/WP.24/1999/2). The Working Party had endorsed, in principle, the results of this expert group meeting (TRANS/WP.24/85, paras. 32-37).

The Committee may wish to be informed of the outcome of another meeting of the informal group of experts on the subject that is scheduled to be held on 10 and 11 January 2000.

The Committee may wish to decide whether work on the preparation of an international legal instrument on the liability of operators in multimodal transport should be initiated.

17. CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

TRANS/WP.30/184

TRANS/WP.30/186

The reports of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) on its ninety-second and ninety-third sessions have been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee.

Attention is drawn in particular to the following subjects:

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| (a) Customs Convention on the International | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53 |
| Transport of Goods under Cover of | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55 |
| TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975): | TRANS/WP.30/1999/7 |
| Phases II and III of the TIR revision process | |

On 17 February 1999 the amendment proposals adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee under Phase I of the TIR revision process have come into force. Implementation of these measures, which includes the establishment of an inter-governmental body, the TIR Executive Board and its TIR secretariat, has been completed to a large extent.

Work on phase II of the revision process, which has been undertaken also through a Group of Experts established by the Committee, is at a very advanced stage and it is expected that the TIR Administrative Committee will adopt a comprehensive package of amendment proposals during its session on 24 and 25 February 2000. In line with the recommendation of the Working Party, the Committee may wish to prolong the mandate of the Group of Experts on the TIR revision process for the year 2000 in order to start Phase III of the TIR revision process focusing on the computerization of the TIR Customs transit procedure (TRANS/WP.30/186, para. 42).

Moreover, the Committee may wish to note that the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975, serviced by the UN/ECE secretariat, held two sessions in 1999 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53).

**(b) International Convention on the Harmonization
of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982**

**ECE/TRANS/55
TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6**

The Committee may wish to note that the Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, at its third session (Geneva, 21 and 24 June 1999) had considered proposals for the insertion of new annexes to the Convention on (i) the facilitation of the passage of ATP vehicles carrying perishable goods as prepared by WP.11 and (ii) efficient border crossing procedures prepared by the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6). The Working Party had felt that, in principle, these proposals were acceptable (TRANS/WP.30/186, paras. 14-17).

The Committee may wish to endorse the views of the Working Party on this issue as well as its proposal to convene, in the first half of 2000, an informal drafting group on this subject representing the various parties involved, including SC.1 and UN/CEFACT.

18. TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

**(a) Report of work on the establishment and updating of Recommendations for
the Transport of Dangerous Goods within the framework of the Economic and
Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

The Committee may wish to note that the eleventh revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.11) and the third revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3) have been published in English as sales publications (Sales Nos E.99.VIII.1 and 99-VIII-2) and are being prepared in all the other official UN languages.

The Economic and Social Council adopted on 30 July 1999 resolution 1999/62 on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and resolution 1999/65 on the Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, on 26 October 1999 (see TRANS/2000/5).

The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods met from 5 to 14 July 1999 (see report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/32 and Adds.1-2) and will hold its seventeenth session from 6 to 15 December 1999 (see agenda ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/33 and Adds.1-2).

(b) Work of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/76

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/78

The RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting held two sessions (25-28 May 1999 and 14-24 September 1999) which were entirely dedicated to the restructuring of RID and ADR. The Committee may wish to note that the Joint Meeting agreed that the restructuring work should be completed in March 2000 and that the restructured RID and ADR should enter into force on 1 July 2001, with an eighteen-month transitional period for application, i.e. until 31 December 2002.

**(c) European Agreement concerning the
International Carriage of Dangerous
Goods by Road (ADR)**

TRANS/WP.15/157 and Add.1

TRANS/WP.15/159

The Committee may wish to note that there are 34 Contracting Parties to ADR. The Protocol amending articles 1(a), 14 (1) and 14 (3) (b) of ADR, adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties on 28 October 1993, has still not entered into force since this would require the deposit of the necessary legal instruments by all Contracting Parties. Twenty-four Contracting Parties have done so to-date, and the Committee may wish to urge the remaining Contracting Parties (Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Yugoslavia) to take the necessary steps to allow the Protocol to come into force.

The Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods held two sessions in 1999 (3-7 May 1999 and 8-12 November 1999). The Working Party noted that despite the recommendations of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/125, para. 112) and the discussions at the last Committee's session (ECE/TRANS/128, paras. 98-100), the Government of the Russian Federation was still requiring special authorization for the international carriage of dangerous goods. The abbreviated list of dangerous goods for which special authorization is required has not yet been transmitted to the secretariat. The Working Party also noted that the justification provided by the Government of the Russian Federation for such authorizations referred to bilateral agreements concluded with 25 European countries before the Russian Federation became a Contracting Party to ADR. However, such bilateral agreements, when imposing more stringent conditions than those prescribed by ADR are in contradiction with Article 4, paragraph (3) of ADR and should have been revoked.

Furthermore, the Working Party regretted that, in contradiction with the spirit of ADR, special permits had to be obtained from the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania for international carriage of a large range of dangerous goods in this country.

The Committee may wish to note that the Working Party adopted new amendments to Annexes A and B of ADR and agreed that they should enter into force at the same time as the restructured texts of RID and ADR, i.e. on 1 July 2001 with an eighteen month transitional period.

(d) European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) **TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/4 and Add.1**
TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/5

The Meeting of Experts on the European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways met from 19 to 22 January 1999 and adopted a few amendments to the European Provisions. A consolidated set of amendments to document TRANS/WP.15/148 has been prepared by the secretariat, which is circulated in document TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/4/Add.1.

The Committee may wish to note that the secretariat has also prepared a text of the European Provisions as amended. They will be attached as Annexes A, B1 and B2 to the draft European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/5) (see also item 18 (e) below). During its meeting from 17 to 21 January 2000, the Meeting of Experts will consider the new proposed amendments and will undertake a final checking of annexes A, B1 and B2 to the draft agreement (see TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/6).

(e) Elaboration of a Draft European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) **TRANS/AC.6/18 and Add.1**
TRANS/AC.6/20 and Add.1-2

The ad hoc Working Group on the elaboration of a Draft European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (AC.6) met twice in 1999 (2-5 March, 30 August-2 September) and the draft Agreement may be found in the following documents:

Agreement itself: TRANS/AC.6/20/Add.1

Annexed Regulations:

- Annexes A, B1 and B2: TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/5
- Annex C (Requirements and procedures applicable to inspections, issuance of certificate of approval, derogations, special authorizations, classifications societies and checks): TRANS/AC.6/20/Add.2
- Annexes D1 and D2 (Transitional provisions): documents TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2000/1 and -/2000/3, subject to final checking by the WP.15/AC.2 Meeting of Experts (see also 18 (d) above).

Furthermore, the Committee may wish to note that the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Agreement, to be organized jointly by the ECE and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)(see ECE/TRANS/125, para. (2)) has been scheduled for 22-26 May 2000.

The ad hoc Working Group AC.6 has already considered draft Rules of procedures for the Conference (TRANS/AC.6/1999/6 and TRANS/AC.6/20, paras. 65-69), and prepared a draft resolution concerning the working arrangements (TRANS/AC.6/20, paras. 70-72 and annex 3) for submission to the Conference.

The Committee may wish to endorse the draft resolution.

19. TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS

TRANS/WP.11/200

The report of the fifty-fifth session of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs has been circulated for consideration and approval by the Committee (TRANS/WP.11/200).

The Committee may wish to note that the Working Party decided to undertake the revision of the Annexes to the ATP and to elaborate an ATP Handbook to include the Working Party's comments on the interpretation of the technical questions.

The Committee may wish to support the activities of the Working Party regarding the revision process and the elaboration of the ATP Handbook.

20. TRANSPORT STATISTICS

Annotations to this agenda item will be circulated after the fiftieth session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (17-19 November 1999).

21. ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The Committee may wish to note that the documents concerning WP.29, WP.15, WP.11, WP.30, WP.24, SC.1, WP.1, SC.3, SC.2, WP.5 and WP.6, as well as related Conventions, are now accessible in Internet through the system stored in the UN/ICC data bank.

The Committee may also wish to be informed that an analysis of the "International TIR Data Bank" has been made, which is now operational. In addition, web pages for the "Third Road Safety Week in the ECE Region", the "1995 Census and Motor Traffic on Main International Traffic Arteries" and workshops have been developed and are accessible on the Internet.

III. Organization of the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

22. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2000-2004 AND THE PRIORITIZATION FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME BUDGET 2002-2003 **TRANS/2000/3**
TRANS/2000/12

The Committee may wish to consider the draft programme of work covering the period 2000-2004, as contained in document TRANS/2000/3, which will be made available to delegations.

The Committee may recall that, at its sixty-first session, it had asked the Working Parties SC.1, SC.3, WP.15 and WP.6 which had not yet complied with the requirements regarding presentation of the programme of work as indicated in TRANS/1999/7, para. 35 to do so during their meetings in 1999.

The Committee may wish to note that the necessary modifications have been included in the relevant parts of its programme of work (ECE/TRANS/128, para. 130)

Furthermore, the Committee may wish to note that, at its fifty-fourth session, the Commission had endorsed the new system of prioritization of PSBs' work programmes proposed by the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW) in E/1999/37-E/ECE/1374, para. 27. In this connection, the Committee may wish to consider a completed draft pro forma as agreed upon by its Bureau (TRANS/2000/12). The GEPW will examine the pro forma during its meeting preceding the submission of the budget narrative by the Executive Secretary in autumn 2000.

23. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN 2000 **TRANS/2000/4**

A preliminary list of meetings is being circulated by the secretariat based in principle on proposals made by the Committee's subsidiary bodies (TRANS/2000/4).

24. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE IN 2001 AND 2002

In accordance with the decision taken at its fifty-fourth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for its sessions in 2001 and 2002.

25. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE'S BUREAU IN 2000 AND 2001

The Committee may wish to decide upon the composition of its Bureau in 2000 and 2001.

IV.

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Protection of animals during
international transport

TRANS/2000/11

During its last session, the Committee requested the secretariat to follow the development relating to the preparation of a revision of the Convention on transport of live animals, carried out under the auspices of the Council of Europe (ECE/TRANS/128, para. 113-114).

The Committee may wish to take note of document TRANS/2000/11 providing information on the revision process under way.

(b) Date of next session

The Committee may note that its sixty-third session is tentatively scheduled to be held from 13 to 15 February 2001.

Thursday, 17 February 2000

27. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Committee will adopt the report of its sixty-second session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat.
