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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Group
of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail)
(First session, 27- 28 June 2002,
agenda item 3)

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON SAFETY IN TUNNELS (rail)**

Note by the secretariat

The Terms of Reference of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail) dealing with the rail infrastructure were drafted in accordance with the similar terms of reference adopted for the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (road) dealing with the road infrastructure.

Words with an asterisk (*) were added by the secretariat to reflect the intention of the Inland Transport Committee concerning the tasks of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels to deal with road and rail tunnels.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To make an inventory of all long road and rail tunnels in the ECE region on the basis of a reference length (e.g. 1,000 metres or longer) for rail*/road tunnels to be determined by the working group;
- To prepare a list of all serious fires and, if possible, major traffic accidents that have occurred in European tunnels in the last 40 years (if possible) indicating their causes (if known) and collect the most relevant findings for all these major accidents (if known);
- To obtain, if possible, information on safety provisions in tunnel management systems;
- To collect existing tunnel safety documentation (regulations, reports, recommendations, conclusions..), within the European Union and relevant international organizations (UIC*, OSZhD*, CER*, ECMT, OTIF*, etc.) and draw up a list of ongoing work within these organizations;
- To prepare recommendations for improving safety in tunnels to be built in the future;
- To prepare in a coordinated manner, in the form of recommendations and/or proposals for amendments to existing legal instruments, minimum safety provisions for the operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading, rehabilitation and refurbishment of tunnels of various types and lengths, and traffic conditions in these tunnels particularly as regards: signs, rolling stock*/vehicles, dangerous goods, driver training...;
- The above recommendations and/or amendments should, inter alia, minimize the risk of accidents in tunnels and maximize at the same time the economic efficiency of tunnel construction and operations.

It is proposed that the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels should be composed of representatives of SC.2, WP.15 as well as relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations and experts in tunnel matters appointed by the States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The Group of Experts is expected to start its work in June 2002 and terminate in the autumn of 2003 with the submission of the above recommendations which will be dealt with by the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee.
