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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
(Fifteenth session, 2- 4 September 2002,
agenda item 4)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING PARTY

Transmitted by the Governments of Ireland and
the United States of America

Note by the secretariat

Note: On the occasion of the last session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) (Gene va, 17-19 September 2001), the Chairman (Mr. V. Arsenov), and Vice-chairman (Mr. V. Zarnoch) raised with the secretariat the question of getting member countries more involved in the activities of WP.5. It resulted from the conversation that it may be expedient for the Working Party to focus in future on certain issues that (i) will have a stronger relevance for member countries in the context of national and international transport developments, and (ii) represent a concrete and measurable contribution of the Working Party to better transport in member countries.

Replies from member Governments are reproduced below.

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IRELAND

After reviewing the inquiry by the secretariat, it was proposed that the following might be explored as regards future programme of work items:

Consideration of different regulatory models (e.g. area franchising, route franchising, etc.)

Management of integrated networks in cities, in particular where PPP projects form part of the transport mix;

Measures taken to alleviate congestion in the short-term (e.g. quality bus corridors) and their success or otherwise.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Department of Transportation believes that the U.S. and European countries face many of the same problems.

The issues of particular concern in the U.S. are:

- Closing the gap between travel demand and travel capacity – a problem that is producing congestion, with negative economic and environmental consequences (particularly acute in air transport and in the surface modes);
 - Improving inter-modal coordination and integration, which is a particular concern in freight movement;
 - Guaranteeing the safety of the travelling public;
 - Recognition of the undesired environmental consequences associated with the transport system in the U.S. and ways to mitigate those harmful effects to the maximum extent possible;
 - Ensuring the transport system is secure and (U.S.) borders are safe from illegal intrusion.
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