



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Sixty-sixth session, 17-19 February 2004,
agenda item 2)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE'S BUREAU MEETING
(16 February 2004)**

In accordance with the decision taken by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixty-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/156, para. 7), the list of decisions taken at the meeting of 16 February 2004 of the ITC Bureau is reproduced below.

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LIST OF DECISIONS

ATTENDANCE

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee was chaired by Mr. Peter Päßgen (Germany) and was attended by the following members: Mr. Henri Courtois (Belgium), Mr. Benoît Chevalier (France), Mr. Peter Päßgen (Germany), Ms. Diamanto Zoi (Greece), Mr. Bert Jan Griffioen (Netherlands), Mrs. Lyoudmila Renne, (Russian Federation), Mr. Jean-Claude Schneuwly (Switzerland), Mrs. Ümit Armangil, (Turkey), Mr. Yurii Perohanych and Mr. Oleksandr Schyptsov (Ukraine). The representatives of Belarus and the European Commission (EC) were unable to attend.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Bureau adopted its agenda TRANS/BUR.2004/1 without modification.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS CONCERNING THE AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(a) Transport trends and economics

3. The Bureau:

- examined the document prepared by the secretariat regarding the “Seminar on Transport Infrastructure Development for a Wider Europe”, jointly organized by the ECMT, EC, UNECE and EIB (TRANS/2004/6), and recommended that the Committee ensure the involvement of UNECE in follow-up work;
- considered the development of projects for Central Asia and their connection to western Europe taking into account possible shifts of interest in the future.

(b) Road traffic safety

4. The Bureau:

- examined the documents outlining the possible role that the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) could play in future in the follow-up to General Assembly Resolutions on the Global Road Safety Crisis (TRANS/2004/11 and Add.1), as well as a document by the FIA Foundation supporting the future global role for WP.1 (TRANS/WP.1/2004/5);
- recommended that the Committee give its full support for a future global role of WP.1 and stressed that this should not jeopardize the current mandated work of WP.1;
- requested the secretariat to prepare a resolution on the future global role of WP.1 for consideration and possible adoption by the Committee;
- considered that this new role should be performed, at least initially, within existing resources.

(c) **Transport of dangerous goods**

5. The Bureau:

- considered an explanatory note prepared for the Committee outlining the justification for and the additional value of the Convention on Civil Liability for Damage caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (CRTD);
- recommended that the revised text of CRTD (TRANS/AC.3/8/Add.1) be considered as the final text on which member Governments should state their position;
- agreed not to renew the mandate of the Ad hoc meeting of experts, but considered that work could continue between interested Governments on an informal basis if the text was not adopted at the current session.

UNECE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON TRANSPORT WHICH ARE IMPORTANT FOR NON-ACCEDING COUNTRIES

6. The Bureau:

- took note of the additional information provided by the secretariat on the reasons for the choice of legal instrument in TRANS/BUR.2003/7;
- approved the selection of legal instruments and recommended that non-acceding countries consider adhering to them.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Regarding the Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of Road Transport (RE.4), the Bureau:

- decided that the Committee could not open discussion on matters of substance, apart from the text (regarding the possibility for associations to apply for visa for their members);
- agreed that all reservations must be submitted in writing;
- decided that additions to the list of reservations could be adopted until a date yet to be decided.

Regarding the formulation of para. 99 of the ITC report (ECE/TRANS/152), the Bureau was of the opinion that the ITC should correct the report in accordance with the wording given in para. 16 (4th bullet point) of TRANS/2004/2.

Referring to the joint UNECE/ECMT meetings in the fields of rail and combined transport, the Bureau underlined the need to maintain current characteristics and organizational structures of those bodies within the new cooperative arrangements.

Recalling its discussion on a communication from the Secretary General of IRU, Mr. M. Marmy, (TRANS/2004/2, para. 50) during the Bureau's meeting of 3-4 December 2003, the Bureau noted the letter dated 29 December 2003 from the Chairman of the ITC, Mr. P. Päßgen, and the reply from the Secretary General of IRU, Mr. M. Marmy, dated 3 February 2004.

DATES OF NEXT MEETING

8. The Bureau noted that its next meeting would be held on 20 February 2004 (morning), to discuss the outcome of the sixty-sixth session of the ITC.
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