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Working Party on Transport Statistics
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E-ROAD CENSUS: FOR AND AGAINST MORE FREQUENT OCCURRENCE

Note by the secretariat

In accordance with the request by the Working Party, at its fifty-fifth session (9-11 June 2004) (TRANS/WP.6/147, para. 31), the secretariat prepared this document regarding the costs and benefits of undertaking more frequent E-Road Censuses. The questionnaire that served as the basis for the collection of information from the member countries is reproduced in the annex.

The following 12 member countries send their replies about a more frequent occurrence of E Road censuses: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

The collected data point to the following general conclusions:

- Countries use various techniques for the collection of data: automatic counters, manual counting and a combination of the two methods.
- Data that are collected automatically are relatively easily available.
- Three countries argue only in favour of quinquennial censuses.

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- All countries are generally content with five-year long cycles for the undertaking of the E-Road Censuses.
 - Data that are collected in shorter intervals are not significantly better and more useful than data collected in five-year long periods.
 - The cost of the E-Road census is usually in the range between €4,000 and €50,000. In one case it was €2.5 million.
 - There is a concern with the financial and human capital costs involved in the preparation of censuses. Several countries emphasized budgetary and personnel restrictions.
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AnnexQUESTIONNAIRE
Frequent Undertaking of E-Road Motor Traffic Censuses

ITEM	FOR	AGAINST	COMMENT
Coverage E-roads			
Coverage total roads			
National capacity to undertake census every 2 years and supply data in a timely fashion			
Cost to undertake census every 2 years			
National capacity to undertake census every 3 years and supply data in a timely fashion			
Cost to undertake census every 3 years			
National capacity to undertake census every 4 years and supply data in a timely fashion			
Cost to undertake census every 4 years			
