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DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2012

Note by the Secretariat

I. PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

1. The ITC reviews its programme of work every two years for the following period of four years. At its sixty-eighth session in February 2006, the ITC adopted its programme of work for the period 2006-2010. The ITC Programme of Work for 2006-2010 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1) already addressed the priorities identified in the Work Plan on ECE Reform.
2. In order to take further into account the new priorities identified in the Work Plan on the ECE Reform, at its sixty-ninth session in February 2007, the ITC adopted a few new programme elements or amendments to existing ones, as contained in the Informal Document No. 1 of the fourth meeting of the ITC Bureau 2006-2007 held in February 2007.
3. The draft programme of work contained in this document has been prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the programme of work approved by the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions and by its subsidiary bodies in the course of 2006 and 2007.
4. With a view to facilitating comparison of the description part of the attached draft programme with the text adopted by the respective subsidiary bodies of the Committee in 2006 and 2007, the secretariat has, where possible, indicated additional programme elements or elements replacing old text in bold characters while the texts proposed for deletion have been struck through.

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVES PURSUED BY THE ITC

5. In order to allow a better understanding of the scope of work of the Inland Transport Committee, the general objectives pursued in carrying out the programme of work are outlined below. Through the pursuance of these objectives, the Committee intends (i) to promote the harmonization and improvement of technical and operational regulations, standards and recommendations in the various fields of inland transport in the UNECE region; (ii) to further the facilitation of international road, rail and inland waterway transport, particularly through the simplification and harmonization of administrative border crossing procedures and documentation; (iii) to promote the coordinated development of infrastructures for road, rail and inland waterway transport as well as for combined transport; (iv) to support the development of sustainable transport by means of promoting both the reduction of the negative impact of transport on the environment and the utilization of environmentally sound modes of transport; (v) to develop appropriate methodologies and definitions for the collection, compilation and harmonization of transport statistics for the purposes of comparability and consistency; (vi) to contribute to the elaboration, administration and revision of Agreements, Conventions and other international legally binding instruments in the various fields of inland transport; (vii) to monitor progressively the implementation of these international legal instruments in the various countries; (viii) to promote subregional cooperation with a view to such implementation and (ix) to advise and assist UNECE member countries, particularly those facing major economic changes through workshops, training and other appropriate means on transport matters of specific interest in particular in developing transport systems and infrastructures.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.1: TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS

Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy, and analysis of specific transport economic issues

Priority: 1

Description: Review and exchange of information on general trends in the development of transport and of specific transport economic issues including transport development in the Mediterranean Region.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will consider and carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- A. Study of economic aspects of transport taking into account (i) the integration process going on within the UNECE region, and (ii) the reform processes under way in member countries by monitoring current changes in transport in order to identify, promote and spread positive examples for transport development.

Output expected: Report on transport developments every 5 years (2012).

Priority: 2

- B. Periodical review of new important policy developments relating to inland transport in UNECE member countries in order to make the medium- and long-term evolution of transport more transparent. The Working Party WP.5 will examine all decisions, general and specific, recently taken in member countries likely to have implications in the organization of transport and take into account the findings arrived at during international meetings focusing on salient issues of transport development.

Output expected: Reports on developments in inland transport of member countries (every five years; next report: 2012).

Priority: 1

- C. Monitoring of the developments relevant to the Pan-European Transport Corridors in cooperation with the EC.

Output expected: Report on progress made in the implementation of the Pan-European Transport Corridors (2008).

Priority: 1

- D. Study of the interrelationship of the UNECE Agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC and its Protocol, AGN) and the UNECE projects (TEM, TER) with the Pan-European transport network planning procedure with a view to:

- indicating the major international transport routes to be considered for improvement and modernization, establishing priorities and a timetable taking into account those parts of the networks where there are bottlenecks and missing links;
- assessing the cost of this infrastructure plan and making suggestions for financing it.

Output expected: Biannual report on coherent European system of international transport infrastructure (2008).

Priority: 1

- E. Further elaboration of the elements of the joint UNESCAP/UNECE programme on the development of Asia-Europe land transport links as well as the analysis of results of international meetings on the problem.
Output expected: Report on Euro-Asian transport links (2008). Priority: 1
- F. Financing schemes of transport infrastructure
Output expected: Report on national experiences Priority: 1
- G. Development of efficient management frameworks for transport infrastructure maintenance and operation, thus optimizing the need for new investments (linked to the development of the Quality-of-Service concept).
Output expected: Report on the quality of transport services (2008). Priority: 2
- H. Improving inter-modal coordination and integration with a view to establishing a balanced European transport system. This also includes activities related to seaports as important nodal points for a change of transport mode. Priority: 2
- I. Assistance regarding institutional adaptation of government administration and of transport enterprises to market economy. This also includes support through the UNECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT).^{1/}
Output expected: Annual report for information (2008). Priority: 1
- J. Strengthening of cooperation with the Mediterranean Study and Training Centre, to enable all UNECE countries to benefit from the activities carried out including the organization of workshops. The Working Party will also analyze evolution of transport developments in the Mediterranean basin and the Black Sea region, as well as consider information on the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar.
Output expected: Annual report on activities of the Study and Training Centre (2008). Priority: 2
Output expected: Biennial report on progress made in the analysis of the Europe/Africa Permanent Link through the Strait of Gibraltar (next report: 2009) Priority: 3

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- A. As follow-up to the Conference on Transport and the Environment: Development and implementation of programmes to establish attractive networks taking into account such aspects as intermodality, interoperability and environmentally sound vehicles.^{2/}

^{1/} A detailed list of subjects is circulated in document TRANS/1999/11.

^{2/} In addition to the above item, the Working Party wishes to be associated with activities on transport and environment concerning, in particular, development of methodologies for setting up databases, implementation of scientific programmes, assistance to countries in transition, development of environmental guidelines, external costs, analysis of questions related to the protection of sensitive areas (see also items I (c), (d), (g), (h); III (e); IV (c), (f) in the Programme of Joint Action).

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.2: ROAD TRANSPORT

02.2.1 Road transport infrastructure

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

I. Implementation and amendment of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

Description: In order to adapt the European road network to future requirements, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will take suitable action to implement the Agreement and amend as necessary its provisions taking into account the evolution of traffic flows, as well as the safety and security of the network.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Consideration of the AGR Agreement in the light of new traffic flows.

Output expected by 2008-2009: Adoption of amendments to Annex I to the AGR including new E-roads. Issuance of an updated map of the network **in 2008.**

Priority: 1

- (b) ~~Consideration of the AGR Agreement or recommendations with a view to~~ **Enhancing** AGR ~~provisions and~~ standards which have an impact on road safety, environmental protection and energy saving.

Output expected by 2008-2009: Preparation and possible adoption of new amendments to Annex II of the AGR **or recommendations** which relate to safety and security.

Priority: 1

II. Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project

Description: In order to assist in the construction of the TEM network as part of an integrated international road infrastructure, the Working Party on Road Transport will continue its close cooperation with TEM.

Work to be undertaken:

- (c) Review of ongoing and expected future progress in the TEM network and consideration of possibilities to contribute to its further development (e.g., combined transport, financing).

Output expected by 2008-2009: **Development of the TEM Project and**
adhesion of new members to this Project

Priority: 2

02.2.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations

Description: In order to simplify and harmonize requirements concerning international road transport and the facilitation of its operation, the Working Party on Road Transport will elaborate and update, as necessary, appropriate international instruments **and/or recommendations** and study selected aspects of international transport of passengers and goods by road, particularly those related to the facilitation of road transport between eastern and western Europe and the simplification and harmonization of administrative procedures and documentation.

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Work to be undertaken:

~~(e)~~(d) Implementation of the European Agreement on the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). **Enhanced implementation of the AETR within the framework of the biennial evaluation.**

Output expected by 2008-2009: ~~Alignment of the AETR with new provisions adopted by the European Union~~ **Adoption of new provisions concerning** the regulation of driving and rest periods for professional drivers. ~~Organization of a Seminar on the introduction of the digital tachograph for non EU States.~~

Priority: 1

Evaluation of the survey (to be conducted each two years) on the effective application of the AETR and number of problem areas identified and proposals to address them within the framework of the follow-up to the survey.

Priority: 1

~~(d)~~(e) Consideration of questions concerning the Green Card International Motor Insurance System.

Output expected by 2008-2009: Encourage and facilitate membership of the Green Card System. Consider possibilities for the establishment of an international motor insurance system for Central Asian States.

Priority: 2

~~(e)~~(f) Promote the harmonization of fiscal and other measures in order to avoid any discriminatory practices in international road transport.

Output expected by 2008-2009: Development of proposals regarding the harmonization of fiscal and other measures in international road transport.

Priority: 3

ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

02.2.3

ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

Work to be undertaken:

- (g) Modification of the Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4).

Output expected by 2008-2009: Consideration of the need to modify or add to R.E.4 on certain subjects, such as the security of passenger **and goods transport, of their drivers and their loads, access to the profession of road transport operator and international regular services by bus and coach in Europe.**

Priority: 2

- (h) Consideration of new challenges, opportunities and developments in the facilitation of border crossings and consideration of possibilities for effective measures other than legal measures on border crossing and border facilities for road transport between eastern and western Europe.

Output expected by 2008-2009: Cooperation **where appropriate** with the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) on ~~aspects of the new proposed annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention on the~~ facilitation of border crossing such as visa issuance to professional drivers, ~~an international vehicle weight certificate and road worthiness certificate,~~ **the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety on the safety of infrastructure, and the Committee on Trade on the use of electronic consignment notes.**

Priority: 1

- (i) Consideration of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) with a view to the introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) into its procedures.

Output expected by 2008-2009: **Opening for signature** of a new protocol to the CMR introducing **the electronic assignment note.**

Priority: 1

- (j) ~~Analysis of the~~ **Implementation** of transport-related UNECE agreements and conventions.

Output expected by 2008-2009: ~~Launching of a survey to evaluate the implementation of different agreements and conventions concerning road transport by Contracting Parties.~~

Adaptation of the contents of Annex 1B of the EU Regulation dealing with the digital tachograph to the context of Appendix 1B to the Annex to the AETR and translation of Appendix 1B (more 250 pages) in Russian.

Priority: 1

Follow-up on the implementation of the digital tachograph in non-EU AETR countries.

Priority: 1

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.3: ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

Priority: 1

Description: Mindful of the world-wide scope of its work, the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) will examine matters and adopt measures aimed at improving road traffic safety. To this end, it will consider, inter alia, the implementation of the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals and the European Agreements supplementing them and elaborate proposals for updating these legal instruments as well as the Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.1 and R.E.2). It will also seek to promote the global application of this work.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Monitoring and encouraging the implementation of the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals and the European Agreements supplementing them and the Protocol on Road Markings, and elaboration of amendment proposals to these legal instruments with a view to strengthening and harmonizing road safety standards.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009:

- Consideration and/or adoption where appropriate of new amendment proposals to the above instruments concerning, ~~inter alia, road signing; overtaking;~~ definitions of mopeds, motorcycles, **motorized tricycles and quadricycles**, ~~driving permits, use of telematics and vehicle safety systems, the~~ **the relationship between Annex 5 of the Convention on Road Traffic and UNECE vehicle regulations, and possibly security measures concerning road traffic recommended by the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security.**
 - ~~Publication of the Vienna Conventions and European Agreements supplementing them (incorporating the latest amendments).~~
 - **Publication of consolidated versions of the Vienna Conventions in the three other UN languages (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish)**
- (b) Revision and updating of the Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.1 and R.E.2).

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009:

- Complete revision of R.E.1 **and R.E.2** on the basis of a new structure and a new presentation – more attractive and modern – with a view to **their** publication and dissemination in particular to the other Regional Economic Commissions;

- Publication of **the revised R.E.1 and R.E.2 including all recommendations already adopted, in particular those on periodic technical inspections, assistance to victims of road accidents, pedestrians, road works signing, speed control humps, contraflow eyelists since the revision work was launched;**
- ~~Consideration, development and incorporation into R.E.1 and R.E.2 of new recommendations concerning, in particular: seatbelts and child restraint devices, first aid to victims of road accidents, the safety of the most vulnerable road users, use of mobile phones while driving, safety in tunnels, skateboarders, roller skaters, etc., roadside checks, driving permits, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, road signing, motorcycle and moped safety, communication and road safety campaigns, daytime running lamps, driving at night, speed, aggressive driving, signs for fuelling stations selling compressed natural gas, etc~~
- **Consideration, development and incorporation into R.E.2 of new recommendations concerning, in particular, variable message signs and possibly signing for cycle routes.**

- (c) Exchange of information on national road safety programmes, in particular taking into account means of financing of road safety activities, and on road safety regulations and requirements in force in member States and circulation of such information in order to avail Governments of the practice and experience gained on these matters.

Priority: 3

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009: Updating the set of tables reflecting current national road traffic safety requirements, national legal instruments and national methods of training and follow-up for categories A and B driving licences. **Possible** addition of new tables dealing, **for example**, with complementary safety equipment required on board vehicles. Issuance of ~~annual~~ information regarding road safety campaigns conducted by member countries.

- (d) Assisting countries in transition and developing countries in the establishment of sound and up-to-date traffic safety practices and procedures.

Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009: Respond to requests for technical assistance from other regional commissions or their member countries.

- (e) Consideration of selected timely topics related to road safety in the form of an in-depth discussion based on papers prepared by experts and undertaking appropriate follow-up action with a view to finding concerted solutions to the most urgent problems in the field of traffic safety.

Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009: Identification of at least one timely topic for in-depth discussion.

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- (f) Contribution to activities envisaged in the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) and follow-up to these activities from the more specific angle of road safety.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009: Consideration of **possible** proposals to amend the Vienna Conventions and European Agreements emanating from **THE PEP** ~~the Vienna and/or London follow-up processes.~~

- (g) ~~Organization of the Fifth Road Safety Week at the global level~~ **Evaluation and follow-up, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the other regional commissions, of the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week held in April 2007.** ~~Fourth Road Safety Week (5-11 April 2004) with a view to active participation of countries and organizations aimed at combating aggressive driving behaviour.~~

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009: ~~Holding of the first Global UN Road Safety Week in 2007 on the theme of young road users including young drivers and organization of activities for this event.~~ **Analysis of the impact of the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week in the UNECE region and consideration of the possibility of holding a Second Global Road Safety Week and organization of a seminar in the UNECE region.**

- (h) In close cooperation with WHO and the other regional commissions, work towards the implementation of General Assembly Resolution ~~58/289~~ **A/RES/60/5** on improving global road safety **and resolutions which might be adopted in the future.**

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2008/2009:

- Encourage Contracting Parties to the Vienna Conventions from outside the UNECE region to attend WP.1 ~~and participate actively in the activities of the UN Road Safety Collaboration.~~
- **Encourage additional countries from outside the UNECE region to adhere to the Vienna Conventions.**
- **Follow-up of the implementation of the UNDA Project “*Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets*”, in particular through the organization of seminars in 2008 and/or 2009.**

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.4: DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF VEHICLE REGULATIONS

02.4.1. Regulations for the construction of vehicles

Priority: 1

Description: The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) will develop regulations and recommendations for motor vehicles, their equipment and parts and harmonize and update the existing ones, including the relevant activities aimed at improving road transport safety, saving energy and taking into account the protection of the environment.

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Work to be undertaken:

(a) In the framework of the "Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions" (1958 Agreement) and the "Agreement concerning the establishing of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles" (1998 Agreement), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update Regulations in order to enhance performance of vehicles with respect to:

- (i) general safety and anti-theft provisions.
- (ii) pollution and energy.
- (iii) brakes and running gear.
- (iv) lighting and light-signalling.
- (v) noise.
- (vi) passive safety.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of [2007] **2009**:

1. Under the 1958 Agreement: Adoption of four new UNECE Regulations; Adoption of [seventy] **seventy-five** amendments to existing UNECE Regulations.
 2. Under the 1998 Agreement: Implementation of an action plan for listing [ten] **five** Regulations in the Compendium of Candidates; The development of new global technical regulations (gtr); Establishment of [five] **four** harmonized or new global technical regulations (gtr) in the Global Registry.
- (b) Development of recommendations regarding the construction of vehicles (Consolidated Resolution R.E.3 and Special Resolution No. 1) with the aim of providing guidance with respect to requirements not covered by regulations. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of [2007] **2009**: Adoption of two amendments to the existing Recommendations.

02.4.2. Rules on periodical technical inspections of vehicles

Priority: 1

Description: The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) will develop rules for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles with respect to their environmental and safety performance and for the reciprocal recognition of the results of such inspections.

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Work to be undertaken:

In the framework of the "Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections" (after its entry into force), the World Forum will develop one UNECE Rule for inspections of vehicles:

with regard to safety performance.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of [2007] 2009: Adoption of draft Rule No. 2 (concerning inspections with respect to safety performance) to be annexed to the 1997 Agreement and adoption of an amendment to Rule No. 1 (concerning inspections with regard to environmental performance).

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.5: RAIL TRANSPORT

02.5.1 Rail transport infrastructure

Priority: 1

I. Review of the situation concerning the implementation and possible amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)

Description: Study of possibilities for the improvement of international railway lines and their reflection on AGC.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of the AGC Agreement with a view to possibly: implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters; also taking into account new east-west traffic flows; raising environmental, energy and safety standards; taking into account the UNECE Conventions on the Environment.

Output expected: Report on amendment of the AGC network; Report on the development of a European conventional and high-speed railway network. (2007)

Priority: 1

II. Studies in Railway Infrastructure

- (a) Description: Study of the possibility of the improvement of international railway lines and their management.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will carry out the following activities:

Consideration of the influence of intermodal transport techniques, especially those concerning investment, as well as the harmonization of rolling stock and speed on railways to facilitate the integration of these techniques into the railway system and to create general interoperability.

Output expected: Report on investment in rail infrastructure and railway rolling stock in member countries. (2007)

Priority: 2

- (b) Periodic review of the list of marshalling yards of international importance with a view to cutting down their numbers.

Output expected: Updated report on the location of important marshalling yards within the European railway network. (2007)

Priority: 2

- (c) Consideration of questions concerning safety in railway tunnels.

Output expected: Review of the current situation and prospects for the development of new recommendations. (2008)

Priority: 2

- (d) Consideration of developments regarding new railway initiatives on Euro-Asian transport links (e.g. organization of demonstration trains).

Output expected: Report on the current and new initiatives. (2007)

Priority: 2

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- (e) Periodically survey passenger and goods traffic on the various sections of lines of the AGC network in order to provide support for transport planning; the third survey is based on data for 2005.

Output expected: Report on total train traffic on the AGC network in 2000.
(2007) Rail census in 2005.

Priority: 2

- (f) Consideration of other subjects as need arises.

Output expected: Report on each subject.

III. Special project: Trans-European Railway (TER)

Description: Within the framework of the UNECE, the TER countries have established an appropriate administrative and financial framework, with the aim of developing a rail network as part of an integrated European international rail system.

Work to be undertaken

- (a) Report on specific project developments to promote international rail traffic.
(Continuing)

Output expected: Annual progress report on activities carried out within the TER project.

Priority: 1

- (b) Report on possibilities for financing of TER in order to promote the upgrading and construction of internationally important rail lines.
(Continuing)

Output expected: Annual progress report

Priority: 2

- (c) Consideration of possible utilization of the results achieved under the project in other UNECE activities in the field of rail infrastructure including the implementation of AGC and AGTC in order to benefit from mutual experiences. (Continuing)

Output expected: Annual progress report.

Priority: 2

IV. Interregional Cooperation

Description: Cooperation with other regional commissions and international bodies involved in the development of interregional links.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will be kept informed of exchanges of information between the secretariats of the regional commissions and other international bodies in order to benefit from experiences gained in other regions of the world. (Continuing)

Priority: 3

02.5.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport including rail safety and facilitation of its operations

Priority: 1

Description:

- (a) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, particularly, for documents and procedures at border crossing.
- (b) Harmonization of and search for standardized requirements concerning the utilization of railway infrastructure including computerization aspects.
- (c) Elaboration of proposals and preparation of studies aimed at strengthening, consolidating and extending the position of rail transport on international transport markets.
- (d) Analysis of problems relating to the harmonization and improvement of rail safety.
- (e) Consideration of prospects for the adoption of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail so as to establish a standard legal system (harmonization of the SMGS/SMPS and CIM/CIV systems).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Rail Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of specific difficulties encountered at border crossings in the transport of passengers and goods by rail with a view to accelerating border crossing operations and establishing a programme to deal with problems common to several routes.

Output expected: Report on bi- and multilateral contacts of Governments and railways to improve the crossing of borders in international rail traffic. (2007)

Priority: 1

- (b) Consideration of follow-up of the implementation of recommendations and preparation of new texts or amendments to existing texts, if necessary, especially concerning the facilitation of border crossing with the aim to improve international rail traffic.

Priority: 1

- (c) Review of requirements concerning railway operations and regulations, reduction of transport time and improvement in the precision of movements in the international carriage of goods, new operative developments in rail transport, the integration of services of different railways. Priority: 2

- (d) The study of the possibilities for harmonizing the application and periods of summer time with a view to upgrading transport quality in rail transport.

Output expected: Report on the application of summer time. (Report on change in application of summer time when it takes place) Priority: 3

- (e) Analysis of Government policies concerning rail safety to contribute to an improvement of safety in international transport.

Output expected: Report on safety and implementation of risk assessment techniques in rail transport in the UNECE region. (2007) Priority: 1

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (f) Analysis of the various elements of productivity in rail transport and the possibilities to increase rail productivity in particular for international transport.

Output expected: Bi-annual report on the development of productivity in rail transport in member countries. (2007) Priority: 2

- (g) Consideration on the basis of reports by the international organizations concerned of the progress accomplished on the harmonization of legal regulations applicable to the contract for the transport of goods and passengers by rail to examine whether the compatibility of the regulation concerned can be ensured.

Output expected: Report by international organizations concerned on the progress made in the elimination of difficulties arising from different legal systems in international rail transport. (2007)

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.6: INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

02.6.1. Inland waterway infrastructure

Description: Development of a coherent navigable waterway network in Europe.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Inland Water Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Monitoring the implementation of AGN Agreement and consideration of possible amendments to it.

Output expected:

- (i) Preparation of action plans on elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territory of more than one State Party to AGN and preparation of proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of the AGN Agreement (as called for in resolution No. 252 of the Inland Transport Committee of 20 February 2003). Priority: 2
- (ii) **Updating the lists of ports and waterways of international importance in annexes I and II of the agreement.** Priority: 2

- (b) Revision of the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network ("blue book") in order to enable Governments to monitor the progress in the implementation of the AGN Agreement.

Output expected: Preparing every five years a revised version of the blue book. Priority: 1

- (c) **Updating** [~~Preparation and circulation of~~] maps of European inland waterways in order to avail Governments with up-to-date data concerning inland waterway infrastructure in Europe

Output expected: Publication every five years of the update of the Map of European Inland Waterways. Priority: 2

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

None.

- 02.6.2. Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport including inland water transport safety and facilitation of its operations Priority: 1

Description:

- (a) Exchange of views on selected aspects of new and improved techniques in inland water transport, their economic importance and appropriate

applications; standardization of ship's papers and consideration of relevant legal provisions with a view to their harmonization aimed at facilitating and promoting international water transport in Europe.

- (b) Standardization of technical requirements for inland navigation vessels with a view to ensuring the high level of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways and the reciprocal recognition on this basis of ship's certificates.
- (c) Harmonization of safety requirements for inland navigation in Europe with a view to ensuring homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party, using when necessary the expertise of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation, will continue its work on the following questions:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of the possibility and need for amending existing UNECE legal instruments and recommendations with provisions aimed at enhancing transport security.

Output expected: Possible adoption of relevant draft amendments to AGN Agreement, CEVNI and/or [~~Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels~~] **Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels (resolution No. 61).**

Priority: 2

- (b) Preparation and circulation of **studies** [~~a study~~] on the situation and trends in inland navigation in order to provide Governments with up-to-date basic information and data concerning inland water transport mode.

Output expected:

- (i) **Regular publishing (once every ten years) of “White Paper on Trends in and Development of Inland Navigation and its Infrastructure” to inform general public about advantages of transport by inland waterway and issues in its development;**
- (ii) Drafting a summary on recent developments in the field of inland navigation in member Governments once every two years;
- (iii) **Consideration of the possibility to elaborate a comprehensive strategic policy for inland navigation, extending beyond the EC and covering also such countries as Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.**

Priority: 1

Priority: 2

Priority: 2

- (iv) **Consideration of the questions of financing of inland waterway development. Certain basic aspects of possible distribution of cost among beneficiaries as well as the main economic indicators for such infrastructure development could become a subject of a White Paper on financing the infrastructure of inland waterway transport.** **Priority: 3**

- (c) Application and updating of [~~the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No. 17, revised)~~] **Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels (Resolution No. 61)** in order to ensure a high level of safety of navigation.

Output expected:

- (i) **Updating Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels (Resolution No. 61)** [~~General revision of the Recommendations with a view to their harmonization on a Pan-European level~~] with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and river commissions. [(2006)] **Priority: 1**

- (ii) **Further development of Resolution No. 61, including, in particular,** consideration of a possibility and modality for the elaboration of specific unified technical requirements for sea-river vessels, **sea-going ships and recreational craft.** [(2006)] **Priority: 1**

- ~~[(ii) Elaboration of harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship's certificate to ensure a common and non-discriminatory approach to such a consideration (2008)]~~ **Priority: 1**

- ~~[(d) Application and updating the Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licenses in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (annex to resolution No. 31).~~

~~Output expected: General revision of the Recommendations with a view to their harmonization on a Pan-European level with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and river commissions (2010)~~ **Priority: 1**

- (d) **Assisting Governments in facilitating the free movement of crew members across Europe.**

Output expected:

- (i) Revision of the Recommendations on Minimum Manning Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licenses in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (annex to resolution No. 31) and their **Priority: 1**

harmonization on a Pan-European level with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and river commissions (2010);

- (ii) Elaboration of a harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licenses with the aim of ensuring a general and non-discriminatory approach to this consideration; Priority: 1
 - (iii) Consideration of the possibility of a development of an all-European uniform Riverfarers' identity Document;** Priority: 2
 - (iv) Rationalisation and unification to the extent possible and, in cooperation with river commissions, of the requirements on checking the knowledge by boatmasters of specific stretches of inland waterways and their skill in coning vessels on those stretches. Consideration, with the participation of shipping companies, of the harmonization of crew members' job profiles;** Priority: 2
 - (v) Consideration, jointly with river commissions, of the establishment of a European network aiming at the facilitation of exchanges on national educational programmes and vocational training in inland navigation.** Priority: 3
- (e) Application and updating of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) and the provisions concerning Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways (SIGNI) to ensure a high level of safety in international traffic.

Output expected:

- (i) Adoption of amendments to CEVNI concerning, in particular, high-speed vessels and navigation in reduced visibility [(2006)]; Priority: 1
 - (ii) Publication of a revised SIGNI;** Priority: 1
 - (iii) Helping Governments and river commissions to identify and reduce, if possible, the difference between the CEVNI rules and the national/regional legislation.** Priority: 1
- (f) Elaboration of requirements for the prevention of pollution from vessels with a view to protecting the environment from pollution, noise and vibration originating from shipping.

Output expected:

- (i) Amendment of resolution No. 21 on Prevention of Water Pollution by Inland Navigation Vessels [(2004)]; and consideration of measures aimed at prevention of air pollution from inland navigation vessels. [~~2006~~]; Priority: 1

(ii) **Regular revision, in cooperation with EC and river commissions, the environmental standards taking into account the technological progress and the ever-increasing demand for the protection of the environment.** **Priority: 2**

(g) Promotion of implementation of existing UNECE Conventions pertaining to inland navigation and assessment of the legal instruments concerned in order to consider updating those, which have become obsolete.

Output expected:

~~Preparation, in consultation with legal experts of member Governments, and circulation of relevant questionnaires on implementing UNECE legal instruments on inland water transport in force, analysis of the responses by Governments and presentation of appropriate recommendations to the Committee.~~ **Priority: 2**

(i) **Discussing the question of practical implementation by member Governments of the provisions of the Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI) and its impact on national legislation;** **Priority: 2**

(ii) **Revision and updating of the 1965 Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels;** **Priority: 2**

(iii) **Initiating the consideration of the findings and recommendations of the Group of Volunteers on legislative obstacles, as reflected in TRANS/SC.3/2005/1 with a view to simplifying national legislation of member countries.** **Priority: 3**

(h) **Application and maintenance, in close cooperation with competent international groups of experts, of resolutions on common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service.**

Output expected: Maintenance of texts and technical annexes of the following Resolutions: **Priority: 2**

(i) **No. 48 - Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS);**

(ii) **No. 57 - Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services;**

(iii) **No. 60 - International standards for notices to skippers and for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation;**

(iv) **No. 63 - International Standards for Tracking and Tracing in Inland Waterways.**

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (i) Following the developments relating to the possible accession of Central and Eastern European countries to the CLNI Convention of 1988 with a view to deciding whether this may ensure the establishment in Europe of a unique regime of liability of owners of inland navigation vessels. (2007). Priority: 3

- (j) Consideration of upgrading the status of resolutions Nos. [~~17, revised (Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels)~~] **61 (Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels)**, 24 (European Code for Inland Waterways) and 31 (Recommendations on boatmasters' licences) including their possible conversion into binding instruments with a view to providing, *inter alia*, for reciprocal recognition by its Parties of ship's certificates and crew members' licences issued on their basis. (2006).

Output expected: Presentation of amendments to the annex to resolution No. [~~17, revised~~] **61**, and to CEVNI in such a way that they could become a part of a binding instrument.

Priority: 2

- (k) **Assisting Governments and river commissions in facilitating transport of disabled people.**

Output expected: Possible revision of Resolution No. 25, which contains Guidelines for Passenger Vessels also suited for carrying Disabled Persons.

Priority: 2

- ~~[(l) Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service.]~~

~~Output expected: Adoption of Resolution on Standard for Vessel Tracking and Tracing Systems in Inland Navigation (2007)~~

~~Priority: 2~~

~~Amendment of resolution No. 48 on Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS) (2007)~~

~~Priority: 2]~~

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.7: TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS ^{3/}Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterway and combined transportPriority: 1

Description: Consideration of regulations and technical questions concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods in the region. Preparation of new international agreements and harmonization of existing agreements in this field to enhance safety at the same time as facilitating trade, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

Work to be undertaken: By the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15)

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of proposed amendments relating expressly to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and relating to administrative and technical questions pertaining to its implementation and the national and international implementation of its annexes, to ensure the necessary updating of legislation and the introduction of a uniform, harmonized and coherent system for the regulation of the national and international transport of dangerous goods by road. (Continuing) (WP.15).

Output expected: Adoption of a set of draft amendments to Annexes A and B of ADR by the end of ~~2007~~ 2009 for entry into force on 1 January ~~2009~~ 2011, and by the end of ~~2009~~ 2011 for entry into force on 1 January ~~2011~~ (2013).

Publication of revised consolidated editions of ADR in ~~2006~~ 2008, ~~2008~~ 2010 and ~~2010~~ 2012.

Priority: 1

- (b) Consideration of proposed amendments relating expressly to the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) and pertaining to administrative and technical questions concerning their implementation, in order to ensure the necessary updating of those provisions and the introduction of a uniform, harmonized and coherent system for the regulation of the national and international transport of dangerous goods by inland waterway throughout Europe (Continuing) (WP.15/AC.2).

^{3/} At the time of submission of this document, the programme of work was pending approval by the Joint Meeting of Experts on ADN (Geneva, 21-25 January 2008).

Output expected: Adoption of a set of draft amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN in ~~2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010~~ 2008, 2010 and 2012 for application by Member States as soon as possible and for submission to the ADN Administrative Committee as soon as ADN enters into force.

Publication of revised consolidated editions of ADN in ~~2006~~ 2008, ~~2008~~ 2010 and ~~2010~~ 2012.

Priority: 1

- (c) Harmonization of the provisions of ADR, ADN and the International Regulations concerning the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID), on the basis of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and consideration of proposed amendments to the provisions common to ADR, RID and ADN in order to harmonize regulations governing the various modes of inland transport, in accordance with the provisions recommended by the United Nations for world-wide application to all transport modes, so as to facilitate multimodal transport and international trade under safety conditions in keeping with each mode of transport (Continuing) (WP.15/AC.1).

Output expected: Adoption of draft amendments to ADR, RID and ADN by the end of ~~2007~~ 2009 for entry into force on 1 January ~~2009~~ 2011 and by the end of ~~2009~~ 2011 for entry into force on 1 January ~~2011~~ 2013.

Priority: 1

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.8: TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Priority: 1

Description: The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was established at the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 5 July 2002) to consolidate and focus the relevant UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe's activities on three key priority areas: (i) integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policy; (ii) demand-side management and modal shift; and (iii) urban transport. Special attention is paid to the needs of the newly independent States (NIS) and South-East European countries as well as to ecologically particularly sensitive areas of the region.

Activities in these key areas are coordinated and implemented by THE PEP Steering Committee, composed of UNECE and WHO/Europe member State representatives from the transport, environment and health sectors, in close cooperation with relevant international and non-governmental organizations. At its third session (11-12 April 2005) the Steering Committee agreed that in its programme of work for 2005-2007 the focus should continue to be on the activities that were currently implemented, i.e.:

- (a) Web-based clearing house on transport, health and environment;
- (b) Sustainable and healthy urban transport and land-use planning;
- (c) Transport-related health impacts, costs and benefits with particular focus on children;
- (d) Practical guidance on institutional arrangements and mechanisms for integrated policy and decision-making;
- (e) Promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas; and
- (f) Preparation of the third High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health [(2007)] **(2008)**.

The third High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health is expected to provide further guidance on future activities to be carried out by THE PEP.

The Committee, the UNECE Committee on Environment Policy as well as WHO/Europe bodies will be informed of the activities undertaken under THE PEP.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Contribute to an active and coordinated support from the transport, environment and health sectors for the implementation of THE PEP. Priority: 1
- (b) Support the preparation of the sessions of THE PEP Steering Committee and its Bureau. Priority: 1

Output expected: Annual report of THE PEP Steering Committee.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.9: INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

Promotion of [combined and] intermodal transport

Priority: 1

Description: Consideration of legal, administrative, documentary, technical, economic and environmental aspects of [combined and] intermodal transport with a view to the development of measures to promote [combined and] intermodal transport as well as the maximum utilization of equipment, infrastructure and terminals used for such transport.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system whereby goods are moved in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes. Monitoring enforcement and review of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by the ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final). Monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport. Analysis of ways to implement a harmonized set of best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping). Priority: 1

Output expected: **Exchange of experiences and good practices in intermodal transport operations and policies, addressing also infrastructure and border crossing questions.** Monitoring the use of and, if necessary, preparation of implementation procedures for the “model” action plans and partnership agreements for the development of intermodal transport prepared by the Working Party and adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers [(Moscow, 24-25 May)(2005) and the Inland Transport Committee [in] (2006).

- (b) **Monitoring**, review and updating of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and the Protocol on Inland Waterways with a view to:
- Extending the AGTC network to all UNECE Member countries concerned taking account of the work already undertaken by UNESCAP and OSJD;
 - Taking into account new developments in transport markets (demands and requirements) also as a result of globalization of the world economy, including new East-West traffic flows;
 - Implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters;
 - Raising environmental, energy as well as safety and security standards. Priority: 1

Output expected: Adoption of an extended AGTC network covering all UNECE Member countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Inclusion into the AGTC Agreement of new East-West [combined] **intermodal** transport lines.

- (c) Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with resolution No. 241 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 5 February 1993. This includes consideration of possibilities for standardization of loading units and the compliance with safety regulations.

Priority: 1

Output expected: Review of the issues based on [one annual] reports to be prepared by the UNECE secretariat on latest developments in this field.

- (d) Analysis of modern transport chains and logistics that allow for an integration of production and distribution systems providing a rational basis for Governmental decisions on transport demand, modal choice as well as on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures, and taking into account transport safety and security requirements.

Priority: 2

Output expected: Review of technical and legal issues and development of regional implementation tools and measures based on considerations [and analyses made by the ECMT] **on the role of Governments in this field.**

- (e) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal and transshipment procedures allowing for more cost-effective handling procedures of loading units. Analysis of possibilities to improve efficiency and quality of terminal operations in intermodal transport.

Priority: 2

Output expected: Report to be prepared on the basis of information provided by UNECE Member Governments and international organizations allowing for the preparation of benchmarks for the efficient operation of intermodal terminals.

- (f) Monitoring and reports by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party on the following subjects for consideration by the Working Party upon specific request only:

- Translation and updating of the intermodal transport terminology into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish in order to contribute to the dissemination of the joint ECMT, EC and UNECE glossary of terms used in this field;
- Intermodal transport techniques and operations (including inland waterways and coastal shipping techniques) as a basis for a possible international compendium of measures for the safe handling and temporary storage of dangerous goods;
- National approval procedures for containers and swap-bodies in the framework of relevant conventions, such as the CSC Convention, with a view to better harmonizing such procedures;
- New services and technologies in [combined and] intermodal transport, including sea/inland waterways and sea/land interfaces,

and the use of bimodal road/rail vehicles with a view to analysing the potential of intermodal transport;

- Data requirements for transshipment and handling operations, of marking, coding and identification systems for means of transport and loading units in intermodal transport, including electronic data processing;
- Analysis of economic and environmental aspects of intermodal transport, including administrative measures and activities of the transport industry, with a view to promoting sustainable transport development.

Priority: 2

Output expected: Report(s) to be prepared by the secretariat as a basis for discussion by the Working Party, as appropriate.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (g) Analysis of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations.

Priority: 1

Output expected: Review of relevant activities undertaken by international organizations and, if appropriate, preparation of a draft legal instrument for multimodal land transport covering the UNECE region.

- (h) Analysis of the consequences on the organization of intermodal transport in Europe resulting from the development of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia, including the Trans-Siberian railway, and vice versa, in close cooperation with [ECMT,] UNESCAP, UNCTAD, EC, OSJD, etc.

Priority: 2

Output expected: Based on the recommendations adopted at the ECMT/UNECE Kiev Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia and the corresponding framework action plan adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers [(Moscow, 24-25 May] (2005), review of measures to facilitate border crossing procedures and analysis of the coherence between the various rail and intermodal infrastructure parameters and their possible harmonization in the longer term.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.10: CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport

Description:

- (a) Preparation and implementation and, where appropriate, review and modification of international legal instruments.
- (b) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, documents and procedures.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Review of relevant Conventions and Agreements on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their relevance and implementation as well as coherence with other international or sub-regional treaties and to keep them in line with modern transport and border control requirements.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2008:

Analysis of the application of the following UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; **International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982; International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail 1952;**^{4/} Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles.

Consideration of the need for negotiating two model container pool agreements providing guidance to the transport industry and the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the provisions of the "Customs Container Pool Convention" covering international rail and international maritime transport.

Periodic review of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to confirming their usefulness and implementation as well as possible adopting modifications where deemed necessary.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2008:

Review of all Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to deciding on which Resolutions and Recommendations to focus in the coming year.

^{4/} Text in bold refers to modifications proposed by the secretariat.

Study of the possible extension of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation to other regions, particularly relating to legal and administrative aspects.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2008:

Preparation and organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with UNESCAP, ECA and UNESCWA and other relevant UN and international organizations, on the implementation of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation, in particular in Asia, **North Africa** and the Middle East.

Study of Customs questions with a view to simplification of Customs formalities and documents in the field of transport, in particular taking account of the possibility of electronic data interchange solutions.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2008:

Analysis and revision of the provisions of both a strategic and technical nature of the TIR Convention, in particular the provisions relating to the guarantee system with a view to enhancing the functioning and efficiency for both the public and private partners in the TIR system;

Continuation of work on phase III of the TIR revision procedure, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and on provisions for a modernized EDI-based Customs administration and control system.

Study of specific legal and other measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified Customs and other border crossing procedures, such as the TIR regime, including periodic review of the status of implementation of resolution No. 220 (prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by drug smugglers). Setting-up of mechanisms and administrative procedures for the regular exchange of information with other Governmental and non-governmental organizations to combat such fraud.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2008:

Preparation of adequate instruments and measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fraud;

Review of Annex 10 of the TIR Convention on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets;

Exchange of intelligence among Customs authorities of Contracting Parties to relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation on abuses with a view to identifying measures to combat such occurrences.

Analysis of difficulties encountered relating to border crossing formalities with a view to devising administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties. The analysis will cover health, phytosanitary, veterinary and quality controls, application of standards, public safety controls, etc., including the promotion of the implementation and extension of the scope of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 1982 (Harmonization Convention).

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2008:

Finalization of a new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

Study to facilitate railway transit traffic on the basis of the CIM and the SMGS Consignment Notes.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2008:

Study the full integration of a harmonized Customs transit regime covering all COTIF and SMGS Member States.

Study the preparation of a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in International Railway Passenger Transport.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.11: TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS

Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operation

Priority: 2

Description: Review of the harmonization and the facilitation of the international transport of perishable foodstuffs under the ATP Agreement and updating of this Agreement in order to keep it in line with technological developments, taking into account safety and quality standards.

Work to be undertaken:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of amendment proposals to ATP to ensure it is updated as necessary.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: Entry into force of the revision of annexes 1 and 2 to ATP.

- (b) Exchange of information on the implementation of ATP by virtue of article 6.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: Consideration of the information exchanged between Contracting Parties and the consequences on the implementation of ATP.

- (c) Follow-up of resolution No. 243 on “Improving the traffic flow of ATP vehicles for the transport of foodstuffs covered by ATP” for better facilitation.

Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: To consider the difficulties encountered at border crossings, for the transport of perishable foodstuffs, on an annual basis.

- (d) Review of the definitions and standards (in annex 1) for the carriage of perishable foodstuffs following the Montreal Protocol to take account of new refrigerants and insulating materials, and environmental constraints.

Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: To contribute to the promotion of less polluting vehicles and fuels.

- (e) Consideration of methods developed by the IIR Sub-Commission on testing stations and study of the procedures for energy labelling.

Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: To be aware of the work done by IIR relating to the transport of perishable foodstuffs and to collect information on energy labelling.

- (f) Elaboration of an ATP Handbook. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: To have a final version of the Handbook including the revised annexes.

- (g) Compatibility between European legislation and ATP. Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: To cooperate with the Commission of the European Communities with the aim of harmonizing European regulations with ATP.

- (h) **Review of activities on the transport of perishable foodstuffs.** Priority: 1

Output expected by the end of 2009: Adoption of the biennial evaluation of the work of WP.11 for submission to the Inland Transport Committee.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (i) Consideration of proposals on the conditions of transport of fresh fruit and vegetables (2007). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2008: To finish the consideration of the feasibility of introducing rules for the transport of fresh fruit and vegetables into ATP.

- (j) Consideration of amendment proposals relating to test methods and procedures for the approval of multi-compartment and multi temperature vehicles, to take account of technical developments (2007). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: The entry into force of a new amendment to ATP on multi-compartment and multi-temperature vehicles.

- (k) Review of the approval of kit bodies (2006). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009. The entry into force of a new amendment to ATP on the approval of kit bodies.

- (l) Securing of ATP documents (2006). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: **Entry into force of new amendments to the ATP and adoption of** recommendations on the best means of securing ATP documents.

- (m) Revision of ATP paragraphs 29 and 49 (2007). Priority: 2

Output expected by the end of 2009: Drafting of a text for the revision of ATP paragraphs 29 and 49.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.12: TRANSPORT STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

02.12.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents

Priority: 2

Description: Development of appropriate methodologies and terminology for the harmonization of statistics, aiming also at the determination of indicators of sustainable transport. This includes: methodologies for the collection and compilation of statistics on road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline and combined transport as well as on road traffic accidents, in cooperation and coordination with other UNECE bodies, related international organizations, in order to promote the availability of comprehensive, timely and reliable statistics for sustainable transport planning and analysis.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Target solutions to improve the collection of statistics in problematic areas, as indicators of sustainable transport, including, but not limited to the following items:

Statistics on road traffic (vehicle-km) (output of feasibility survey expected in 2008);
Statistics on the transportation by buses and coaches (output expected in 2008);
Statistics on the environmental impact of transport;
Statistics on the transport of dangerous goods;
Statistics on transport through pipelines.

Output expected: A concrete decision for each problematic area, e.g., the addition of supplementary chapters to the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (environment; gas transport via pipelines) (2008); an assessment of the applicability of the EU Regulations for the collection of dangerous goods data for non-EU member states (2008); and the organization of informal working groups on statistics on transport through pipelines and on transport by buses and coaches, as deemed necessary (2007), and assessment of metadata on statistics on the volume of these transports (2008).

Priority: 1

- (b) Statistics related to transports and the environment.

Output expected: Continued progress toward the integration of environment-related variables into the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics, as well as the two annual transport publications.

Priority: 1

- (c) Coordination among member Governments, other UNECE bodies and related international organizations and non-governmental organizations to harmonize terminology used in the statistics of road, rail, inland waterway, pipeline, combined transport and road traffic accidents, including, but not exclusively, in the context of the work being undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (UNECE-International Transport Forum-EC/Eurostat) (Meetings 2-3 times per year).

Output expected: Improving electronic transmission of the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics (2007); development of supplementary questionnaires as decided by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) and WP.6; preparation of meetings of IWG; publication of the update of the third edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics (2008).

Priority: 2

- (d) Development of common methodologies to facilitate and improve the collection of information on road and rail traffic flows and infrastructure parameters through surveys and censuses such as automatic counting procedures, including, but not limited to, in the context of The Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory), (compiled and published by the UNECE every five years, next publication in 2008).

Development of common methodologies for E-Rail Censuses to obtain data on traffic flows and infrastructure parameters on the AGC network. Results of the first E-rail census in 2005 are expected to be published in 2008.

Priority: 1

ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

- (e) Monitoring of developments in the field of transport database and information systems, including geographic information systems (GIS), in order to facilitate the updating, analysis and geographic application of transport data, within UNECE and in cooperation with the International Transport Forum and EC/Eurostat, to harmonize transport data internationally and avoid duplication of efforts with other organizations.

Output expected: The development of a transport database system at UNECE based on the data collected through the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics. Consideration of various alternatives and progress made (Acces/Excel, Internet/WWW, etc.); observation of trial-run at International Transport Forum and Eurostat (2007).

Priority: 2

- (f) Development of projects to assist countries in transition in the collection, organization and automation of transport statistics, including the convening of workshops and training seminars, drawing on the expertise of member Governments and related organizations. Output expected: Information from Member States and international organizations on relevant activities.

Priority: 2

02.12.2 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport

Priority: 1

Description: Collection and compilation of statistics on inland transport, traffic accidents and traffic flows published by the UNECE.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Transport Statistics will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (g) Build and maintain a database for the annual collection of statistics on inland transport, including combined transport and road traffic accidents from UNECE member Governments to be published in the following publications:

- (i) Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS)
- (ii) Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS)
- (iii) Handbook of Transport Statistics

Output expected: Publication of ABTS, RAS and Handbook of Transport Statistics; Circulation of Questionnaires and receipt of data from member Governments for ABTS and RAS in electronic format. The handbook may be also published in booklet format.

Priority: 1

- (h) Publish, every five years, in the appropriate way, the results of the E-road traffic Census and Inventory carried out by member Governments in accordance with the Recommendations set forth by the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census and Rail Traffic Census as:

- (i) The Combined Census of Road Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe (E Road Census and Inventory);
- (ii) E-Rail Census.

Output expected: Preparation of 2005 Combined E-Road Census and Inventory and E-Rail Census (2008).

Priority: 1

- (i) Use of PC-Axis for disseminating data collected via the regular questionnaires.

Output expected: Availability of main data online (2008)

Priority: 1

ACTIVITIES OF LIMITED DURATION

- (j) Provide methodological support for the ongoing analysis and evaluation of statistical publications to continue to improve the quality and presentation of the publications, and to incorporate harmonized terminology through the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics. Develop strategies for improvement of usefulness and presentation of publications.

Output expected: Concrete feedback from Governments and other users on usefulness and presentation of publications and development of strategies for improvement of both.

Priority: 3

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