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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Transport
Twelfth session
Beirut, 17-19 May 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**GENERAL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE ARAB MASHREQ:
FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE HARMONIZATION
OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION IN THE
TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION**

Summary

Pursuant to one of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport at its eleventh session (Beirut, 22-24 March 2010), on the nomination of member country representatives to the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen sent the names of their representatives to the Working Group.

This document contains the provisional agenda proposed by the secretariat for the first meeting of the Working Group. Proposed topics for discussion were based on the objectives, functions, membership, meetings and working period of the Group. The agenda is submitted to the members for discussion and adoption before the Group proceeds with the discussions of the first meeting.

Introduction

1. Since 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) allocated a significant part of its transport-related activities to the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region. In this context, ESCWA prepared a proposal to form the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region which included its objectives, functions, membership, meetings and timeframe. The proposal was submitted to the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport which discussed it and ratified the revised draft proposal dated 24 March 2010. ESCWA secretariat recommended that member countries name their representatives to the Working Group by the end of August 2010. Accordingly, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen sent the names of their representatives to the Working Group.

2. This document contains a list with the Working Group named members as well as the provisional agenda of the first meeting. ESCWA representatives participate in the discussions of this meeting as members on behalf of the Commission.

A. MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE HARMONIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION

Country	Number of assigned members	Names of members
Bahrain		
Egypt	1	- Mr. Hassan Selim, Vice Chairman of the Transport Planning Authority, Ministry of Transport
Iraq		
Jordan	1	- Mr. Naim Hamdan, Head of the Legal Affairs Unit, Ministry of Transport
Kuwait		
Lebanon		
Oman	2	- Mr. Ahmad Bin Suleiman El-Yarubi, Deputy Director of Land Transport, Directorate General of Roads and Land Transport, Ministry of Transport and Communications - Al Fadel Seif Ben Nasser El-Erfi, Deputy Director of the Legal Department
Palestine	2	- Mr. Jassem Hakam Zuheir Sanaf - Mr. Walid Hamdan Ali Al-Astal
Qatar	3	- Mr. Muhamad Hamed Al-Mulla, Expert in Economic Affairs, International Co-operation and Trade Agreements Department - Mr. Muhammad Jasem El-Doussari, Researcher in Transport Affairs, Land Transport Affairs, Ministry of Business and Trade - Mr. Rached Taleb El-Nabat El-Mouri
Saudi Arabia	2	- Mr. Youssef Jado, Director General, Institution Management, Ministry of Transport - Mr. Monther Nasser Al-Rashed, Director, Head of Public Transport Studies, Ministry of Transport

Country	Number of assigned members	Names of members
Syrian Arab Republic	2	- Mr. Ammar Kamal al-Din, Director, Management and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Transport - Mr. Iyad Al-Assaad, Director of the Arab and International cooperation, Ministry of Transport
The Sudan		
United Arab Emirates	2	- Mr. Abdullah Alkaithri, Executive Director, Land Transportation Sector, National Transport Authority - Mr. Nazim Asaad Bin Tahir, Director, Roads and Road Freight Department
Yemen	2	- Mr. Ali Muhammad Al-Subhi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport for Maritime Affairs and Ports - Mr. Hani Muhammad Al-Buani, Vice Executive President, Vice-chairman, General Authority for Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Transport

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. Introduction of the Working Group members.
2. Election of the Group secretariat.¹
3. Election of the Chair of the Working Group for 2011.²
4. Proposals regarding the budget.
5. General Discussion on the preparation of an analytical study on the status of organizational structures of government agencies operating in the transport sector in ESCWA member countries.
6. Role of ESCWA and what is required of the secretariat.
7. Topics for discussion.
8. Date and venue of the second meeting of the Group.
9. Recommendations of the first meeting.

¹ "The working group shall have a secretariat, composed of two members from the representatives of member countries (to be named annually by alphabetical order in Arabic) and ESCWA secretariat. Work mechanisms shall be developed in coordination among the members of the secretariat". Document on the Formation of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region, adopted at the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport, 22-24 March 2010, E/ESCWA/EDGD/2010/IG.1/3.

² "The chair of the working group shall be for a year and shall rotate by alphabetical order in Arabic among the member countries which are members of the group. The chair of the working group shall be a member of the working group secretariat". op. cit.