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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security

**REPORT OF THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INLAND
TRANSPORT SECURITY ON ITS FIRST SESSION
(Geneva, 24-25 May 2007)**

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security held its first session from 24 to 25 May 2007.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Belgium; France; Germany; Slovenia; Switzerland; Turkey. Representative of the European Community (EC) was also present.
3. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was represented. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); International Container Security Organization (ICSO); Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires (OTIF); Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Federation for Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Road Federation (IRF); International Road Transport Union (IRU); International Union of Railways (IUC).

II. INTRODUCTION

5. The Expert Group recalled that the UNECE Executive Committee, at its thirteenth session, held on 7 March 2007, had endorsed the decision of the Inland Transport Committee to establish a Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security and had approved its terms of reference. The Group of Experts took note that its work is expected to be completed by the end of January 2008. Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director of Transport Division, delivered introductory remarks by stressing a link between the recent major terrorist attacks and transport.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. The Group of Experts elected a Chairperson: Mr. Rene van Bever of Belgium.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Group of Experts adopted the agenda (ECE/TRANS/AC.11/1).

V. OVERVIEW OF ISSUES/INITIATIVES

8. The Expert Group took note of presentations by national delegations, international organizations and private sector organizations. In particular, representatives of the European Commission, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the International Organization for Standardization, the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Road Union (IRU) presented their organizations' work plans and/or perspectives on inland transport security. The objective was to take stock of work being done in the area of inland transport security.

VI. PROGRAMME OF WORK

9. In the context of terms of reference, the Expert Group discussed the definition of security in relation to safety. The Group agreed to use a broad approach to the security concept (by including issues such as crime and vandalism). The focus of the Group's work, however, is threat of terrorist attack. The Expert Group also discussed the scope of its future inquiry. Accordingly, both transport of passengers and goods need to be examined, but the significant stress will be placed on the latter. "Inland transport" will include neither urban nor maritime transport. However, in order not to ignore important maritime/ports linkages, a representative of UNCTAD volunteered to prepare a special "annex". The annex is to be appended to the report and will address some critical issues that fall outside the scope of "inland transport".

VII. FINAL REPORT

10. The Expert Group discussed how to prepare recommendations and/or proposals to the UNECE members to improve inland transport security. The Group agreed to work first towards submitting a report that contains an inventory of (both existing and expected) inland transport security regulatory initiatives at international, national and industry levels. The inventory will aim to be as complete as possible, but there will be a need to be selective. International agreements may also be included in such inventory.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

11. There were no issues discussed under this agenda item.

IX. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

12. The next meeting will take place on 9-10 October 2007 in Geneva.
