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## Working Party on Transport Statistics

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Item 4 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda

### Traffic censuses in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

## Eurostat's rail transport statistics – Annex G of Regulation 91/2003

Note by the secretariat

### Introduction

Eurostat's rail transport statistics are predominantly<sup>1</sup> based on **Regulation (EC) No 91/2003** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 which repealed Directive 80/1177/EC. Regulation (EC) No 91/2003 covers the transport of goods and passengers by rail, as well as the collection of statistics on rail safety. It takes account of the structures in the liberalised rail transport market by simplifying the collection of data on freight transport and by including statistics on passenger transport and rail safety.

Some transmission of data under this Regulation began in 2003. However, starting with the collection of rail freight statistics only in 2003, the number of datasets grew between 2003 and 2007. By 2007, all datasets had to be delivered to Eurostat, including the first collection of quinquennial statistics for Annexes F and G. This development was mainly due to the fact that the provision of the different Annexes was introduced gradually, as follows:

- 2003 reference year – Tables A1, A2, A3 (first set of freight transport data covering large undertakings only) and Annex I (list of undertakings) were required for the first time;
- 2004 reference year – Tables A4, A5, A6, A7, A8 and A9 (second set of freight transport data covering large undertakings only), Annex B (freight transport data covering small undertakings), Annex C (passenger transport data covering large undertakings), Annex D (passenger transport data covering small undertakings),

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<sup>1</sup> Some additional information (mostly on equipment, network and employment) is available from the Common Questionnaire. Very few variables (length of railway network at regional level) are available from the regional questionnaire (collected via the REGWeb application).

Annex E (quarterly data covering large undertakings only) and Annex H (rail accidents data covering all undertakings) were required for the first time;

- 2005 reference year – Annex F (regional transport data at NUTS 2 level) and Annex G (statistics on traffic flows on the railway network) were required for the first time.

## **Structure of Annex G data, data provisions and timeliness**

The general structure of the data on traffic on the rail network is defined in Annex G to the Regulation (appendix 1), supported by methodological Guidelines (appendix 2).

The data are provided in three tables setting out the numbers of freight, passenger and other trains (optional), which have to be transmitted in the frame of the Regulation. At least the TEN transport segments should be covered. Moreover, the tables should be supplemented by the list of the network segments, together with their technical characteristics and geographical coordinates.

The data collected on traffic flows on the rail network cover the 2005 and 2010 reference years. The deadline for transmission of the data is 18 months after the end of the reference period (namely end of June 2007 and end of June 2012 respectively).

According to the *Recommendations to Governments on the E-Rail Traffic Census in Europe in 2005 jointly undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Eurostat (2005 E-Rail Census)*, the Member States of the European Union are supposed to submit Annex G data to Eurostat, supplemented by the technical description and geographical coordinates of their network segments<sup>2</sup>. Eurostat would then pass on these data to UNECE.

Some delays are sometimes observed by Eurostat in the transmission of Annex G data: they may be due either to mistakes in a first data sending within the deadlines that need to be corrected, to the absence of technical description of the segments or to internal constraints that prevent reporting countries from providing data within the deadlines set in the Regulation.

Eurostat started transmitting Annex G data to UNECE at the beginning of July 2007. At that time, all the 2005 figures provided by Eurostat to UNECE were raw data, as Eurostat had not received all the data in the format required and as the complete validation procedures had not yet been carried out. Currently, statistics on transport by railway segments are available online in Eurobase for the reference year 2005, and Eurostat is currently implementing a new dissemination table that will show the recent 2010 data collected. Detailed information on Annex G data provisions by reporting country for the reference year 2010 are presented in Table 1.

## **Processing and dissemination of Annex G 2010 data by Eurostat**

Eurostat worked during 2012 and the beginning of 2013 on the treatment of the 2010 data provided for Annex G, and the following actions have been undertaken:

1. Initial brief assessment of the data supplied in order to detect missing information and most common errors in data encoding;
2. Adaptation of the rail production database to incorporate Annex G 2010 data;

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<sup>2</sup> EFTA countries – Norway and Liechtenstein are subject to the same data provisions as the EU countries, under separate agreements between the EU and EFTA. Switzerland started providing rail transport data from the 2008 reference year onwards.

3. Preparation of new dissemination tables and procedures for extraction from the database;
4. Preparation of a new network segments dictionary based on the list of 2010 segments provided by the countries (due to incompatibilities with the list of 2005 segments).

The following additional circumstances slowed down the validation and dissemination process:

1. Delays in Annex G data provision by the countries in turn delayed the creation of the railway 2010 network segments dictionary;
2. It was necessary to revise and clarify data and to supply missing information for a significant number of countries;
3. There has been a need for specifications related to the creation of a new dissemination table in Eurobase for the 2010 data;
4. The extraction procedures had to be updated to take into account the specificities of the 2010 data;
5. New/updated validation rules had to be implemented;
6. TRIS, the new system available at Eurostat Transport Unit for processing transport data, has been implemented during the processing of the 2010 data for Annex G.

Due to the above issues, Eurostat had to reschedule the process of disseminating Annex G 2010 data to the beginning of 2013. The final Annex G validation and dissemination processes will basically depend on the quality of the data already provided, cooperation with the countries in case of data revisions, and the quality of the IT programme used for implementing the new tables and validation rules.

Table 1  
Annex G 2010 data delivery status (as of 03/2013)

Country	Annex G tables <sup>1)</sup>	Date of data provisions to Eurostat <sup>2)</sup>	Supportive data provisions <sup>3)</sup>	Remarks
BE		Data not provided yet	GEO provided	
BG	G1,G2	04/04/2012	GEO provided	
CZ	G1, G2, G3	29/06/2012	GEO provided	
DK	G1, G2	29/11/2010 <sup>3</sup>	GEO provided	
DE	G1, G2, G3	23/11/11 (revisions still needed)	GEO – provided	Annex G data incomplete; direction is missing;
EE	G1, G2, G3	11/07/2012	GEO provided	

<sup>3</sup> The Danish E-rail statistics 2010 was calculated on basis of the traffic according to time tables for a weekday in spring 2010.

Country	Annex G tables <sup>1)</sup>	Date of data provisions to Eurostat <sup>2)</sup>	Supportive data provisions <sup>3)</sup>	Remarks
IE	G1, G2	25/01/2013	GEO provided	
EL	G1, G2	07/01/2013	GEO missing	
ES	G1, G2, G3	12/03/2012 (revisions still needed)	GEO provided	GEO data incomplete
FR	G1, G2	03/07/2012	GEO provided	
IT	G1, G2	06/07/2012	GEO provided	
LV	G1, G2	21/03/2012	GEO provided	
LT	G1, G2	09/06/2012	GEO –provided	
LU	G1, G2, G3	13/07/2012	GEO provided	
HU	G1, G2	10/07/2012	GEO provided	
NL	G1, G2, G3	09/12/2011	GEO provided	
AT	G1, G2, G3	20/03/2012	GEO provided	
PL	G1, G2, G3	08/06/2012	GEO provided	
PT	G1, G2, G3	02/05/2012	GEO provided	
RO	G1, G2	06/09/2012	GEO provided	
SI	G1, G2	27/06/2012 (revisions still needed)	GEO provided	GEO data incomplete
SK	G1, G2, G3	28/05/2012	GEO provided	
FI	G1, G2, G3	06/06/2012	GEO provided	
SE	G1, G2, G3	15/08/2012	GEO provided	GEO data incomplete
UK	G1, G2	02/07/2012	GEO provided	
LI	G1, G2, G3	20/03/2012	GEO provided	Data provided by AT on behalf of LI
NO	G1, G2	29/06/2012	GEO provided	GEO data incomplete

Country	Annex G tables <sup>1)</sup>	Date of data provisions to Eurostat <sup>2)</sup>	Supportive data provisions <sup>3)</sup>	Remarks
HR	G1, G2, G3	07/10/2011	GEO provided	
MK	G1, G2	25/10/2012	GEO missing	
TR	G1, G2, G3	13/06/2011 (revisions still needed)	GEO provided,	No Value in the

<sup>1)</sup> **G1** – goods transport by network segment; **G2** – passenger transport by network segment; **G3** – other (service trains, etc.) optional dataset;

<sup>2)</sup> shaded area – country delayed with data provisions by at least one month;

<sup>3)</sup> **GEO** – supportive information on geographical co-ordinates of the segments.

### Conclusions from the 2010 Annex G data collection

The 2010 data related to rail segments will soon be available in Eurobase, enabling a quick access to up-to-date data for all users. Data for the reference year 2005 are already accessible online.

Various issues needed to be tackled for the implementation and dissemination of the 2010 data, among which:

- Delays in providing Annex G data postponed the start of Eurostat's work;
- Preparation for the adaptation of the existing validation rules to 2010 Annex G data were reliant on data delivery;
- Preparation of the production of new rail database tables, dissemination tables and IT implementation of the new/revised validation rules were dependent on data delivery and the terms of external contracts;
- Eurostat has received revisions for Annex G 2010 data and supporting information on a regular basis; additional revisions are still expected in the near future for tackling some of the issues detected in the data files provided.