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Working Party on Transport Statistics

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Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics

Common questionnaire

Report of the Task Force on streamlining the Common Questionnaire

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. The Working Party decided to establish a Task Force with a mandate to streamline the Common questionnaire and to report to the next session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/165, para. 17).

II. Report of the Task Force

2. The Task Force on streamlining the Eurostat/International Transport Forum/UNECE Common Questionnaire was held at the Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS), Statistics Netherlands in The Hague (6–7 March 2014) under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Smeets (the Netherlands). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The ITF, both DG TREN and Eurostat from the European Commission, and the UNECE secretariat were also present.

3. The Task Force meeting elected Mr. Peter Smeets (the Netherlands) as the Chair of the Meeting.

4. The Task Force meeting adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat.

A. Questionnaire on road

5. The questionnaire on road was reviewed with editorial changes to be presented to the WP.6 in a separated document.
6. For passenger cars, the breakdown by size of engine should be checked.
7. For lorries (including lights goods road vehicles), the use of the concept “permissible gross weight” should be checked. The breakdown for semi-trailers (by gross vehicle weight and by load capacity) was completely revised, however the justification of this breakdown should be further investigated.
8. All amendments to the chapter on vehicles registered apply to the chapter on “New registrations of passenger road vehicles”.
9. For “Enterprises, economic performance and employment”, only parts on investment and maintenance are kept. It was considered that data on employment are available from other sources.
10. For the chapter on “Transport measurement”, the second entry should be understood as “Goods transport by vehicles in the registered in the reporting country” and the title “National goods transport within the reporting country” should be completed with “by vehicles registered in the reporting country”. This section should be deleted if it is redundant with the previous one (to be checked). The last section on “International trade by road” was deleted.
11. The Task Force discussed the breakdown of roads (State/Provincial/Communal) and it was decided to leave this difficult issue to WP.6.

B. Questionnaire on rail

12. The questionnaire on rail was reviewed including editorial changes. A separate document will be presented to the WP.6.
13. The representative of ITF will check with the UIC if the existing breakdown of rail lines by track gauge and by type of current is needed. He will also check the breakdown of locomotives and railcars by source of power (steam or not).
14. For “Enterprises, economic performance and employment”, only parts on investment and maintenance are kept. It was considered that data on employment are available from other sources.
15. The entry on “hailed vehicles movements – seats-km and tonnes-km offered” is deleted.
16. The section on “Goods transport- by consignment and by type of transport” (Tonnes) is revised to have the same entries like in the section on Tonnes-km.

C. Questionnaire on Inland Waterways

17. The questionnaire on inland waterways was reviewed with editorial changes to be presented to the WP.6 in a separate document.
18. For “Enterprises, economic performance and employment”, only parts on investment and maintenance are kept. It was considered that data on employment are available from other sources.

19. It was not clear if the breakdown of national goods transport by range of distance class moved apply to national territory only. The representative of Eurostat was invited to verify this issue.

D. Questionnaire on oil pipelines

20. The questionnaire on oil pipelines was reviewed with editorial changes to be presented to the WP.6 in a separate document.

21. For “Enterprises, economic performance and employment”, only parts on investment and maintenance are kept. It was considered that data on employment are available from other sources.

E. Questionnaire on gas pipelines

22. The questionnaire on gas pipelines reviewed and will be presented to the WP.6 in a separate document.

23. For “Enterprises, economic performance and employment”, only parts on investment and maintenance are kept. It was considered that data on employment are available from other sources.

F. Definitions

24. The Task Force adopted draft definitions on road motor vehicles by energy type. These definitions will be presented to the WP.6 in a separate document.

G. Other matters

25. Some issues should be investigated and the Glossary amended if necessary: length of pipelines (< 50 km?), the definition of railcar trailer contra coach, the breakdown state roads/provincial roads/communal roads and the conversion of m³ to tonnes for gas.

26. Amended documents will be formatted and circulated by the representative of ITF to other delegates. Final consolidated versions should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat not later than 21 March 2014.

27. It was recalled that the goal of streamlining is to release the burden on data providers, to keep the structure of the Common questionnaire in order of stability of the data and to make it easier for all member States. For this purpose, it is important to have a better medium for transmitting the data, a justification document on why the data is needed and a better manual/use of footnotes to further explain the requirements of specific questions.
