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Working Party on Transport Statistics

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Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics

Intermodal transport statistics

Note by the secretariat

During its last session, the Working Party invited the secretariat to follow the work of the Eurostat's Task Force on intermodal transport statistics and to report on it at the present session of the Working Party.

In 2009, the UNECE has published the report "Hinterland Connections of Seaports" and concluded that available statistics are poorly suited to analyze intermodal transport flows and that developing methodological approaches is encouraged.

The Eurostat Task Force on intermodal transport statistics was created at the end of 2009, with a key assignment: to identify the users and to define the utility of "freight statistics on co-modality and logistics performance indicators".

Among several existing methodologies, the Task Force founded that the "German approach" used existing modal statistics with some limited extra data/information, to identify intermodal transport chains and main corridors, without launching any new full-scale data collections. This exercise is part of the German Statistical Office's regular data collections since 2002. A more in-depth investigation on the proceedings (model, methods, hypotheses, concepts, data input and statistical output) was launched and reported during the meetings of the task Force.

A possible application of the principles of the "German approach" at EU level was investigated, by comparing the data available at the German Statistical Office with those stemming from EU legal acts on maritime, rail, road and IWW statistics.

In December 2013, the CGST supported the application of the "German approach" at country level in a pilot exercise and the mandate of the Task Force was renewed for 2014 and 2015 with a mandate of three components:

- "follow-up the pilot exercise
- further study the best frequency for updating the list of terminals
- continue its works towards the development of a set of logistics indicators."