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Working Party on Transport Statistics

Sixty-ninth session

Geneva, 12-14 June 2018

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Summary of decisions

Draft

Summary of Decisions¹

1. The session of the Working Party was attended by the following countries and international organizations; Canada; Croatia; Czechia; Denmark; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR); Danube Commission (DC); European Commission (EC) (DG MOVE and Eurostat); International Transport Forum (ITF); International Union of Railways (UIC).

Agenda item 1

2. The Working Party adopted its agenda.

Agenda item 2

Workshop on data quality in inland waterway statistics

3. The Working Party welcomed the idea to start the session with a workshop dedicated to a specific theme, and appreciated the contributions and discussion brought on by the presentations delivered by member States and international organisations on the subject of inland waterway statistics. After an informal survey, many participants agreed that the existing data on goods moved (in tonnes and tonne-km), together with vessel registration numbers, remained the most important data for policy makers. Passenger numbers and accidents on inland waterways are useful datasets for specific policy requirements.

¹ Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, will establish the report of the session for formal transmission to the Inland Transport Committee in February 2018.

4. The Working Party instructed the secretariat to report on the results of the workshop to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) at its next session, and to ensure that that Working Party's statistical needs continued to be met.

5. The Working Party considered topics for next year's workshop, and suggestions were made including intermodal transport, transport safety, traffic visualization and various topics on road transport. The Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the secretariat, will consider these suggestions and propose a theme.

Agenda item 3

UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

6. The Working Party took note of the results of the eightieth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of interest to the Working Party, the proposals for the Inland Transport Committee strategy, and on United Nations management reform. The Working Party invited its members to provide written comments on the ITC draft strategy.

Agenda item 4 (a)

Glossary for Transport Statistics

7. The Working Party was informed about the Group of Experts' (formed by the Working Party last year) activities in updating the Glossary for Transport Statistics.

8. The Working Party welcomed progress made so far on producing a 5th edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics, noting that member States have until 24 August 2018 to provide additional comments, and that the Intersecretariat Working Group (composed of UNECE, Eurostat and the ITF) will take these final comments into consideration when producing the final document. Further, the Working Party adopted this draft fifth edition, noting the possibility for further changes based upon final member State and organisation comments.

9. The Working Party was informed about plans to produce further glossary chapters on passenger mobility and the environmental impact of transport.

10. The Working Party invited all member States to provide their final glossary comments in writing by 24 August 2018.

Agenda item 4 (b)

Classification system for transport statistics

11. The Working Party took note of the use of the NST 2007 as a classification system for the transport of goods.

12. Delegates were invited to inform the Working Party of their experiences on the use of NST 2007 at the next session. They are welcome to submit to the secretariat any questions, requests or comments concerning the classification.

Agenda item 4 (c)

Common questionnaire

13. The Working Party took note of the availability of data collected through the Common Questionnaire for transport statistics. The outreach activities of the secretariat

which have led to a noticeable improvement in data completeness and quality were welcomed by the Working Party, and the Working Party requested that this be continued.

14. The Working Party reaffirmed the importance of providing data for the Common Questionnaire, and encouraged non-reporting countries to at least provide top-level data.

Agenda item 4 (d)

Road traffic accident statistics and rail traffic accidents

15. The Working Party took note of the ongoing work in relation to road traffic accident statistics, and was informed about the release of the Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America publication. The Working Party took note of developments in the European Commission on the CARE road traffic accident database, in particular developments concerning the collection of injury data based on the MAIS3+ rating.

16. The Working Party was informed about the dissemination of the rail accident statistics dataset.

17. The Working Party was informed about the results of the level crossing safety pilot questionnaire that was disseminated by the secretariat in 2017. It was decided to continue this as a pilot questionnaire for another year, and that the results should be disseminated.

Agenda item 4 (e)

Pilot questionnaire on road traffic performance

18. The Working Party took note of a presentation from Eurostat on the road traffic performance pilot questionnaire and their efforts to improve the dataset. The pilot questionnaire will continue for another cycle.

Agenda item 4 (f)

Pilot questionnaire on bus and coach statistics

19. The Working Party was informed about the dissemination of the bus and coach statistics, and the importance of these data for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 11. The comparability of these data remains a challenge due to no agreed common terms, for example on what constitutes an urban journey. The Working Party decided to make this data collection permanent pending further consultations with Eurostat (on excluding the previously-suppressed indicators), and to explore ways to improve comparability across countries.

Agenda item 4 (g)

Intermodal transport statistics

20. The Working Party received a presentation on intermodal transport from the Russian Federation. It decided to keep this item on the agenda.

Agenda item 5

2015 E-Road traffic census /2015 E-Rail traffic census and recommendations for the 2020 censuses

21. The Working Party was informed on the 21 responses received so far for the 2015 E-Road Traffic census, the deadline for which was 30 November 2016. The Working Party encouraged all member States to actively participate in this round and future rounds of the road census, in particular by providing Shapefiles of their results.

22. The Working Party welcomed the dissemination of the interactive map of the Annual Average Daily Traffic results by the secretariat, and encouraged the secretariat to explore future applications of this tool.

23. The Working Party was informed about the 10 responses so far received for the 2015 E-rail census, the deadline for which was 30 June 2017. The Working Party noted the attempt by the secretariat to map these results, and encouraged countries to either send Shapefiles if possible, or at least to provide coordinates of the start and end points of their rail segments.

24. The Working party took note of the draft recommendations for the 2020 E-Road census, noting that recommendations were largely unchanged since the 2015 census. The recommendations now ask for the length of 2+1 E-Roads as a memo item in tables 1 and 2, and instead of asking for a printed paper map now ask for the geospatial results to be provided in a Shapefile.

25. The Working Party took note of the draft recommendations for the 2020 E-Rail census, noting that recommendations were largely unchanged since the 2015 census.

26. The secretariat invited member States to provide further comments on the E-road and E-rail census recommendations by 30 September 2018. The Working Party endorsed the 2020 E-Road and E-rail census recommendations, subject to any further changes based on comments from member States.

Agenda item 6

Development of a global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals

27. The Working Party took note of the activities of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) to measure the SDGs, information on which was provided by the UNECE statistics division. Delegates were also informed of the plan to include Sustainable Development Goal indicator 9.1.2 in the second UNECE Data Flow Pilot Project, which aims to analyse how data produced by National Statistical Offices flow to the SDG database via custodian agencies. The Working Party stressed the importance of official statistics in measuring the transport-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and encouraged member States to participate in the pilot questionnaire on Data Flows for indicator 9.1.2.

29. The Working Party welcomed the capacity building activities undertaken in the last year by the secretariat concerning the transport-related Sustainable Development Goals, noting the improved data that has already been disseminated as a result of these activities.

Agenda item 7
Dissemination of transport statistics by the secretariat

30. The Working Party took note of the work on the UNECE transport statistics database and the status of the publications: Statistics for Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS) and “UNECE Transport Statistics for Europe and North America” and the timescales for their publication. It welcomed the secretariat’s project for producing short summary papers on the data produced relevant to the transport-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Agenda item 8
Statistical activities of member States of interest to the Working Party

31. The Working Party (during various other agenda items, and separately) received presentations from Canada, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom. These all provided useful updates on country statistical practices and provoked further discussion.

Agenda item 9
Capacity-building activities

32. The Working Party took note of the workshops on transport statistics attended in Montenegro (October 2017), Kazakhstan (November 2017), Slovenia (November 2017), Georgia (February 2018) and Greece (May 2018). It welcomed these workshops (with their varying agendas and goals) as concrete ways to improve transport statistics data quality and completeness, in addition to improving awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Agenda item 10
Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG)

33. The Working Party took note of the IWG activities during the past year, principally concerning the update procedure around the Glossary for Transport Statistics.

Agenda item 11
Statistical activities of international organization of interest to the Working Party

34. The Working Party took note of information provided by CCNR, DC, European Commission (DG MOVE and EUROSTAT), ITF, and UIC.

Agenda Item 12
Election of Officers

35. In accordance with the Commission’s rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party elected Mr. Peter Smeets (Netherlands) as Chair and Ms. Apolonija Obak Flander (Slovenia) as Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2019-2020.

Agenda Item 13

Other Business

a. Date of next session

36. The Working Party agreed to hold its next session 12–14 June 2019. The first half-day will be dedicated to a workshop on a specific item of interest to be decided based on proposals from delegates as discussed under agenda item 2.

b. Cycling statistics

38. The Working Party was informed of the final draft of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme's (THE PEP) Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, in particular its recommendations number 8 concerning statistics related to cycling and the potential to engage the Working Party in this venture. The Working Party noted that some cycling data on road traffic accidents and vehicle-km are already collected under existing instruments of the Working Party. The Working Party decided to keep this on the agenda for future sessions.

Agenda item 14

Report and decisions

39. The draft list of decisions (as amended) was agreed by the Working Party. The report of the session will be prepared and sent to delegates for comments.