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Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks

Sixth session
Geneva, 26 March 2013

Report of the Expert Group on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks on its sixth session

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I. Attendance

1. The Expert Group (hereafter called the Group) on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks held its sixth session on 26 March 2013. The meeting was chaired by Mr. André Leuxe (France) Vice-Chair of the Group. Representatives of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States participated: Belgium, France, Russia Federation and Slovenia.

2. Representatives of the following United Nations organizations and specialized agencies attended the meeting: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

3. Representatives of the following bodies attended the meeting at the invitation of the secretariat: Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education, Democritus University of Thrace, East Japan Railway Company, University of the Aegean.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

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4. The Group adopted the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/11).

III. Report of the Group of Experts (agenda item 2)

5. The Group took note, considered and discussed the information provided by the secretariat on comments, remarks and observations received from different Governments, organizations and experts concerning the draft report. Based on this information and after discussions, the Group decided to amend the draft report when needed and accordingly.

6. The Group further reviewed the structure of the report to improve the flow of information, enhance focus on the substance of its work and efficiently present the Group's results. The new structure of the report that the Group decided on is:

(a) Introduction;

(b) Chapter 1: Climate Change: The Physical Basis;

(c) Chapter 2: Climate Change Implications for Transport;

(d) Chapter 3: Survey Analysis;

(e) Chapter 4: Specific Country experiences and Practices;

(f) Chapter 5: Conclusions and Policy Recommendations;

(g) Annexes:

(i) Annex I: Information on Selected Studies on Climate Change Impacts in Transport;

(ii) Annex II: International Conference on Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change and Expert Opinion;

(iii) Annex III: Questionnaire;

(iv) Annex IV: Detailed Survey Analysis;

(v) Annex V: Select Literature of Relevance for the Further Study of Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks.

7. The secretariat requested participating countries and international organizations to provide, whenever possible, photos with permission for republishing that illustrate climate change impacts or adaptation measures to international transport networks. These photos will be used by the secretariat in the final publication of the Group's report.

8. The Group noted the report prepared by the secretariat and the external consultant, as amended during the meeting. The experts agreed that this final report fulfils the objectives and the expected accomplishments of this Group as described in its programme of work and terms of reference (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/2011/1) and requested the secretariat to submit this final report to the next session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) on 10 September 2013.

9. The Vice-Chair of the Group, Mr. André Leuxe (France), expressed his appreciation to all experts for the work done and the results achieved; thanked Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski, Chair of the Group for his valuable guidance and excellent coordination of the Group's tasks; thanked the external consultant of the group, Professor Adonis Velegrakis where despite the modest funding he managed to deliver a report of high quality and standards. The Chair, in agreement with the opinion of all experts and since the expected accomplishments of the group were successfully met, announced the closure of this Group of Experts.

IV. Partners and Contributions (agenda item 3)

10. The Group appreciated the work done and the support and inputs provided by the experts from different international organizations and academia, namely the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, Eurasian Economic Community, the European Commission, the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies, the International Road Federation, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways, the Attica Toll way Operations Authority, the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education and the University of Birmingham, the Democritus University of Thrace, the East Japan Railway Company, the Federal Highway Research Institute "BASt" of Germany, the IZT Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment, the National Technical University of Athens, the Network Rail UK, the SNCF, the Swiss Re Europe S.A. and the University of the Aegean.

V. Other business (agenda item 4)

11. There were no items.

VI. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 5)

12. The Group fulfilled its expected accomplishments during its six sessions based on its terms of reference and work plan, therefore, the group decided on the closure of this Group of Experts.

VII. Adoption of the report

13. The Group adopted the list of main decisions of its sixth session and requested the secretariat and the Chair to prepare the full and complete report for circulation to the members of the group for comments on items other that those contained in the list of main decisions.