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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

Twenty-fourth session

Geneva, 9 and 10 March 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday,
9 March 2023, Room XXV, Palais des Nations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport.
3. Climate change and transport assets data.
4. National and sub-national projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs.
5. Database on adaptation measures.
6. Guidelines for integrating climate change considerations in planning and operational processes.
7. Other business.
8. Date and place of next meeting.
9. Summary of main decisions.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org).

Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002029/>. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat two weeks prior to the session by e-mail (maria.mostovets@un.org). Delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines (Avenue de la Paix 13, 1211 Genève 10) (see the map on our website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm or at registration page).



II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport (GE.3) is invited to adopt its agenda as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/47.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/47

2. Initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport

GE.3 is expected to continue its discussion on initiatives in climate change impact assessment and adaptation for inland transport with a view to understand if any new approaches, tools and/or methodologies exists or are being developed that could be integrated by GE.3 in its work. In particular, GE.3 may wish to hear about progress made since March 2022 in the development of guidelines for climate risk assessment in European Union taxonomy and in the project of the International Union of Railways (UIC) on Resilient Railways facing Climate Change: Heavy Rains (ReRa-Rain).

European Commission is invited to provide an insight into the technical guidance on the climate proofing on infrastructure.

World Meteorological Organisation is requested to discuss the 2021 State of the Climate in Europe Report.

World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) is invited to present its technical note on business cases for adaptation.

United Kingdom Parliament Joint Committee is requested to provide insight in its report on “Readiness for storms ahead? Critical national infrastructure in an age of climate change”

University of Aegean is invited to inform of any updates to the state of knowledge on the evolution of the potential hazards for inland transportation under Climate Variability and Change.

In response to the GE.3 request at the last session concerning the final report, the Chair and Vice-chairs with the support of the secretariat prepared Informal document No.1 which contains the annotated outline for the final report. GE.3 is invited to consider this outline.

3. Climate change and transport assets data

GE.3 agreed to start elaboration of maps presenting projections depicting the future changes for the following indices by using the same methods as in ECE/TRANS/283:

- High temperatures: annual count of days when daily maximum temperature is greater than 25, 32 and 43°C.
- Heavy precipitation: annual count of days with daily precipitation greater than 50, 100 and 150mm and annual count of days with 3-day precipitation greater than 50, 100 and 150mm.
- Wind gust: annual count of days with a wind gust exceeding 17m/s

Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS) will speak about progress achieved in making projections and developing maps. Upon availability of first maps, GE.3 will be invited to start discussing them.

Should then the map analysis suggest thresholds of weather phenomena are changing due to changing climate, in such a case, GE.3 may wish to pursue its discussion about elaboration

of a guide or a note on how the changes in thresholds influence existing infrastructure construction standards and/or policies.

Interested experts are invited to update GE.3 on their further work related to wind direction impact evaluation, the combined impact of wind with other climate events, like droughts or heavy snowfall, and the development of a catalogue of windstorms impacts to check the relevance of the chosen thresholds.

4. National and sub-national projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs

Experts are invited to inform about their national or sub-national concluded, ongoing or planned projects on climate change impact assessment and transport asset adaptation needs.

5. Database on adaptation measures

World Road Association (PIARC) is invited to present its final report with the review of case studies on road adaptation measures and guidance for road managers on methods for comparison and selection of adaptation measures.

At the previous session, GE.3 requested a group of volunteers to engage in the intersessional work to elaborate draft guidance on adaptation pathways in the transport sector. Informal document No.2 contains such a draft.

6. Guidelines for integrating climate change considerations in planning and operational processes

GE.3 encourages holding workshops with the aim to raise awareness on the importance of adaptation of transport systems to climate change. These workshops should help collect information on the needs of transport professionals for guidance, as appropriate, to assist them in better integrating climate change adaptation considerations in transport planning and operational processes.

In this regard, France and the secretariat will inform GE.3 about the preparation of a Conference for the Mediterranean region to take place in Marseille in the second quarter of 2023.

GE.3 is then invited to continue discussion on the framework for transport system stress test to climate change hazard. Informal document No.3 contains the draft framework as prepared by the intersessional group of volunteers.

GE.3 will be apprised on the dissemination of surveys on impacts of climate/weather related events on transport infrastructure (road and rail), through which information on losses due to extreme weather events can be established so that possible business cases for adaptation could be elaborated.

Finally, further to its conclusion at the previous session to develop a guide for assessing transport asset criticality, GE.3 is invited to consider Informal document No.4 which contains an annotated outline for the guide.

7. Other business

At the time of preparing the agenda no issues have been raised under this item.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The secretariat will inform GE.3 about the date and place for the twenty-fifth session.

9. Summary of main decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, will prepare the final report.
