



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/4  
17 December 2008

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Transport Statistics

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the E-Rail Traffic Census

**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON THE E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS AT ITS SECOND SESSION**

(11 November 2008)

**CONTENTS**

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ATTENDANCE .....	1	3
II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1).....	2	3
III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2).....	3	3
IV. MANDATE (Agenda item 3) .....	4	3
V. RESULTS OF THE 2005 E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS (Agenda item 4).....	5-10	3
A. Presentation of the results of the 2005 E-Rail Traffic Census (Agenda item 4 (a)).....	5-9	3
B. Country notes to the 2005 E-Rail Traffic Census (Agenda item 4 (b)) .....	10	4

**CONTENTS (continued)**

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
VI. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON 2010 E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS (Agenda item 6) .....	11	4
VII. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS ON THE E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS (“2010 E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS”) (Agenda item 5).....	12	4
VIII. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 7) .....	13-16	4
IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 8).....	17	5

Annex

Draft Resolution No. ... E-Rail Traffic Census in Europe in 2010 (“2010 E-Rail Traffic Census”) .....	6
--	---

## **I. ATTENDANCE**

1. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the E-Rail Traffic Census took place in Geneva on 11 November 2008 under the chairmanship of Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark). Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Slovakia, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Representatives of the European Commission (DG TREN and Eurostat) were also present. A consultant invited by the secretariat participated in the meeting.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)**

2. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/3).

## **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2)**

3. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts elected Mr. Erik Grib (Denmark) as Chairman.

## **IV. MANDATE (Agenda item 3)**

4. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts noted that the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) had decided to establish an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the 2010 E-Rail Traffic Census that should evaluate the results of the 2005 Census, prepare recommendations to Governments on procedures and methodologies for the 2010 Census and draft a resolution for adoption by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee in February 2009 (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/155, paragraph 37).

## **V. RESULTS OF THE 2005 E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS (Agenda item 4)**

### **A. Presentation of the results of the 2005 E-Rail Traffic Census (Agenda item 4 (a))**

Documentation: Informal document No. 1

5. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts was informed that for the 2005 E-Rail Traffic Census, the secretariat had received data from 25 UNECE member countries. Six countries replied that no data were available.

6. The following countries provided data (totally or partially) for the 2005 E-Rail Census: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom (data on traffic were missing for the United Kingdom).

7. The representative of Eurostat presented the results of the census for the EU member States. She noted that many countries which had provided the data by the deadline were obliged to revise the data or provide missing technical descriptions and geographical coordinates. Some

EU countries provided the data when they were reminded to do so by Eurostat and very few took longer than 6 months to provide data or failed to provide the data.

8. The representative of Eurostat underlined some conclusions and lessons learned from the 2005 census. A number of reasons could explain the delays in providing data:

- (a) it was the first time such a data collection was conducted;
- (b) infrastructure managers proved to be a better reference, in particular when the segments were not properly defined in advance; and
- (c) the selection of network segments was left to the countries – a procedure that needs to be improved.

9. A UNECE consultant presented the results of his work on the 2005 E-Rail Census and particular problems encountered (heterogeneity of information, missing data and late transmission of data). He also mentioned the importance of the use of GIS as a tool for transport analysis and planning.

#### **B. Country notes to the 2005 E-Rail Traffic Census (Agenda item 4 (b))**

10. No document was presented under this item.

### **VI. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON 2010 E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS (Agenda item 6)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/3, annex

11. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts considered and approved the draft Resolution on the 2010 E-Rail Traffic Census, as prepared by the secretariat with minor changes. This draft Resolution will be submitted for adoption to the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-first session (24-26 February 2009).

### **VII. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS ON THE E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS IN EUROPE IN 2010 (“2010 E-RAIL TRAFFIC CENSUS”) (Agenda item 5)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2008/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2008/1/Add.1; ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2008/1/Add.2

12. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts considered and approved the draft Recommendations for the 2010 E-Rail Traffic Census (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/2008/1 and Adds.1-2). Some modifications were made to the Draft Recommendations without changing the substance. These draft Recommendations, as agreed by this Ad Hoc Group, are contained in Annex II to the present report. They will be submitted for adoption to the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-first session (24-26 February 2009).

### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 7)**

13. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts discussed the possibilities of producing the 2010 E-Rail Traffic Census results on a CD-ROM, as well as the possibilities for posting a portion of the data on the Transport Division's Internet Home Page.

14. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts requested the secretariat to publish maps and data for 2010 E-Rail Census step by step as soon as received from member States and before publishing the consolidated results. The use of GIS was recommended.

15. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts decided to invite the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) to discuss best practices in collecting data for E-Rail Census and to encourage more countries to participate in the 2010 E-Rail Census. Possible feedback and/or proposals from the Eurostat Working Group on Rail Transport Statistics (April 2009) should be considered at the next WP.6 session.

16. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts discussed the deadline. Mid 2012 was chosen because of the deadline given for the EU countries in the relevant EU Regulation about rail statistics, and a change of that deadline would require a Council Decision. However, the Ad Hoc Group found it appropriate to speed up the dissemination of the Census results. Countries should therefore be urged to transmit the data as soon as possible before the deadline.

17. The secretariat was invited to send out reminders –on July 2012- to member States for the data collection and to prepare documentation on these data and methodology to be submitted for the 2013 session of the WP.6. Official letters should be sent to high level representatives of the countries (ministers or deputy ministers) reminding about this exercise and requesting to consider sending the data as soon as possible.

### **IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 8)**

18. As agreed and in line with the decision of the ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, paragraph 6), the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairman and in consultation with delegates, has prepared this report.

Annex

**Draft Resolution No. ...**

**E-Rail Traffic Census in Europe in 2010  
("2010 E-Rail Traffic Census")**

for adoption by the Inland Transport Committee  
at its seventy-first session (24-26 February 2009)

The Inland Transport Committee,

Recalling its Resolution No. 255 adopted on 19 February 2004 (ECE/TRANS/156, annex 4),

1. *Invites* Governments:

(a) To take a census of traffic on the E-rail lines on their national territory, in accordance with the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) as in force in 2010 and with the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) as in force in 2010, and in line with the Recommendations to Governments for the 2010 E-Rail Traffic Census as set forth in UNECE document ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/4.

(b) To supply the results of the combined E-Rail Traffic Census 2010 to the UNECE secretariat, if possible, before 30 June 2012, in conformity with the Recommendations set forth in UNECE document ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/4.

2. *Recommends* that Governments take a census of traffic on other non-urban rail lines in their national territory, applying where possible, the methods set out in the Recommendations mentioned under paragraph 1(a) above.

3. *Requests* Governments to inform the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) by 30 September 2009 whether they agree to implement the provisions of this resolution.

-----