

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

Sixty-first session

Geneva, 21–23 March 2011

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Submitted by International Union of Railways (UIC)

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Strategic Objective

In the short term to bring together safety specialists from the road and rail so as to better understand the issues at this intermodal interface. Longer term, through a multi-disciplined strategic plan, foster a contribution to the reduction of the level of operating risks to rail from errors and omissions by third parties whilst supporting the overall objective of reducing the instances of fatality to road users and pedestrians.

Role

The role of this multidisciplinary group is to provide guidance, advice and direction through the UN-ECE Working Party 1 to the UN-ECE Member States on national policy and initiatives that will reduce the level of operating risks to rail from errors and omissions by third parties at places where there is a level interface between road and rail including foot paths.

The group will incorporate the following broad principles:

- Adopt a “Safe System” approach gathering the 5 key elements typically used in level crossing safety of Engagement, Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Economics leading to safer road use, safer vehicles, safer roads and road sides, safer speeds and finally safe behaviour, Railway level crossings can be considered within the same system by the recognition of these elements at the interface between road and rail.
- Engage with industry, government, enforcement agencies, road and railway stakeholders and system users.

Functions

To fulfil its Role the Group will:

1. Develop policy recommendations and provide guidance and advice through the UN-ECE Working Party 1 to the Member states.
2. Develop a road/rail interface strategy and supporting action plan that contributes to achieving the goals of the Transport plan in the Members states and the objectives of the rail sector.
3. Monitor and report to the UN-ECE WP1 on the effectiveness of initiatives deployed under the strategy, including recommending corrective actions.
4. Assess potential projects to ensure that priority is given to system wide safety initiatives that address high risk.
5. Develop a framework to support a consistent national implementation of initiatives.
6. Identify future strategic and operational research needs and mechanisms for delivery using, where possible, existing resources.
7. Monitor international initiatives at the road/rail interface.
8. Develop and maintain networks and engage with and share knowledge with key stakeholders

Membership

Membership should include at least one representative from:

- The UN-ECE Working Party 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- The ELCF (European Level Crossing Forum), its Chairman and Secretariat. Some ELCF members representing from both railway and road safety.
- The rail sector
- Road and Rail Safety authorities
- Enforcement agencies
- Road vehicle manufacturers,
- GPS manufacturers,
- Organisations representative of Road drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians, driving instructors
- Insurance companies

The Chair may invite others to participate as observers or to support specific initiatives.

Qualifications of Members

Members should possess the skills, experience and authority to represent and commit their respective organisations appropriately in this forum and to contribute actively and constructively to the wide range of safety issues at a road/rail interface from a national level.

Chair and Secretariat

Governance should be composed of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman nominated by a UN-ECE member state and appointed by a majority of members for a period of 24 months. This mandate may be renewed for one additional two-year-period, or as otherwise determined by WP1.

The Chair will attend WP1 meetings as the nominated representative of this group.

The Secretariat will be ensured by the WP1 Secretary and is responsible for the coordination of Secretariat services.

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings should be held quarterly until the appropriate activity level has been identified after which the frequency can be adjusted. Scheduled meetings will take place at UN-ECE in Geneva on an agreed and voluntary basis (no time or travel expenses can be taken in charge).

Relationships

The Group recognises the need for high level interaction with other bodies that will assist in influencing or achieving its Strategic Objectives. In acknowledging those relationships it will ensure no overlap of initiatives and will seek to progress complementary actions. Existing relationships with other groups are listed in the following table.

Group	Liase	Advise	Report
UN-ECE WP1			
UN-ECE SC1			
UN-ECE SC2			
ELCF			

Deliverables

Recommendations, guidelines, workshops aimed at supporting the core objectives to be developed in the strategic plan of action.