Working Party on National Environmental Policy
Working Group on Transport

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

7-8 November 2000

Ms. Nadia Caïd; Tel: +33 1 45 24 8175; Fax: +33 1 45 24 78 76;
Email: nadia.caïd@oecd.org

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

7 – 8 NOVEMBER 2000

Co-chaired by Robert THALER and Mona WESTERGAARD

The purpose of the meeting was to review progress on the Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) project, notably finalisation of the report on Phase 3 (policy instruments and strategies for EST), the step of Phase 4 (review of guidelines for the attainment of EST), and to discuss the results of the EST milestone conference in Vienna and its follow up. The other relevant points for discussion were the priorities and future orientation of the work programme of the Working Group on Transport and its mandate. Another objective was to review on-going horizontal projects in the OECD, in particular the Environmental Outlook and Strategy (EOS) of the Environment Directorate, the OECD’s sustainable development initiative as well as relevant work of other international organisations, the ECMT, IEA, UNECE, WHO and UNEP.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Introduction and Overview of Meeting Agenda

The provisional meeting agenda was presented and approved by the Group. The chairman suggested that Item 9 be advanced to Item 7 in order to discuss first the content of the Transport and Air Chapters of the OECD Environmental Outlook and Strategy Project and then the draft chapter on transport of the OECD project on Sustainable Development. The suggestion was approved by the Group.

The chairman recalled the objectives of the meeting and the challenges ahead for the implementation of the EST guidelines as endorsed by the EST conference in Vienna.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Election of Chairpersons and Bureau members

The Secretariat asked delegates to elect the bureau of the Working Group on Transport. Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria) was unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Ms. Mona Westegaard (Denmark) as vice chairs, Ms. Mona Westegaard agreed to co-chair the meeting.

Ms. Kathleen Nadeau (Canada, to be confirmed), Mr. Alain Morcheoine (France), Ms. Hedwig Verron (Germany), Mr. Akio Takemoto (Japan), Ms. Zsuzsa Bibock (Hungary) and Mr. Stefan Andersson (Sweden) will constitute the bureau.

The chairman thanked the leaving co-chairs, Ms. Keiko Segawa (Japan) and Ms Dominique Dron (France) for their great support. He also welcomed the new Norwegian Delegate Ms. Brita Jorde and thanked Ms. Eli-Marie Asen for their great support and commitment to the EST project.
AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of the Summary Record of the last meeting

The German delegate (Ms. Hedwig Verron) asked the Secretariat to amend paragraph 3 on page 4 to read as follows:

“The Delegate from Germany responded by pointing out that a study had been undertaken which showed that car ownership was the driving factor of total distances travelled, especially for leisure time activities, and that financial instruments should be supplemented by land use and transportation planning to support non-motorised traffic and public transport.”. The Secretariat was instructed to issue a revised version.

The Group approved the Summary record of the last meeting without further amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EPOC restructuring and implications on transport work

Mr. Kenneth Ruffing, Deputy Director of the Environment Directorate, introduced himself to the Working Group on Transport. He explained his duties and responsibilities, as he would act as both Deputy Director and Head of Division of the Pollution Prevention and Control ad-interim until a new Head of Division was appointed.

He underlined the success of the Vienna Conference and the importance of focusing on the implementation of the endorsed guidelines. He also introduced the restructuring of EPOC subsidiary bodies [see document ENV/EPOC(2000)15]. The paper responds to the request of EPOC, at its meeting in April 2000, for a Secretariat paper describing the practical arrangements needed to ensure a smooth transition between the existing and new committee structures, with two new Working Parties: the “Working Party on National Environmental Policy” (WPNEP) and the “Working Party on Global and Structural Policy” (WPGSP). The work of the Working Group on Transport will be supervised by the WPNEP.


- Work Programme Priorities and Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Transport

The Group discussed the mandate, suggested a few minor amendments and agreed to submit it to the WPPPC with a recommendation for renewal for another two years.

Mr. Peter Wiederkehr, from the Secretariat, introduced the document and highlighted priority areas of work for the Working Group on Transport in 2000-2001: the implementation of guidelines for moving toward EST (regional workshops); the study of environmental problems and life-cycle impacts of high growth transport modes such as aviation, leisure travel/tourism, and freight (road, maritime); the examination of alternative transport scenarios and their role in decoupling economic growth from transport demand; outreach assistance for the development of EST strategies and case studies for the implementation of EST in non-member countries, and the contribution and support for the international action programmes, notably, follow-up to the UNEP Regional Conference on Transport and Environment and the WHO Charter on Transport, Environment and Health.
The vice-chair (Ms. Mona Westergaard) stressed the need to emphasise the environmental effects of infrastructure and the importance of advertising in order to change life styles and personal behaviour. She suggested to amend the terms of references accordingly.

Mr. Kenneth Ruffing, in his response to the delegate of Denmark (Ms. Mona Westergaard) underlined the importance for a mandate to be as general as possible so as to encompass a suitably broad field of work.

The delegate of Japan announced a possibility for organising a regional workshop on EST in 2002.

The delegate from the Netherlands (Mr. Martin Kroon) indicated his support for the programme of work but expressed the wish that the work be focused on political and supply-side barriers.

The new delegate of Finland (Mr. Risto Saari) introduced himself to the Group and expressed the wish that the future work on EST be extended to eco-efficiency, waste, biodiversity and land use criteria as well as water pollution.

The group agreed on the priorities of the work programme, and that they should be submitted for approval to the supervising body.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Project on Environmentally Sustainable Transport**

- **Report on phase 3: Policy instruments and strategies for EST; final review**  
  **ENV/EPOC/PPC/T(1999)6/REV2**

  Mr. Peter Wiederkehr presented the document indicating the changes and amendments on this final draft. Some amendments could be incorporated with a view to finalising the document. He invited the delegates to provide their comments to the Secretariat by 30 November 2000. The individual case studies would be added as separate annexes to the report.

  The Secretariat was asked to add an additional section on the way forward to overcome the barriers for EST.

  The delegates agreed on this deadline for final comments to finalise the report.

- **Phase 4 work: Outcome of OECD Milestone Conference on EST Futures, Strategies and Best Practice**  
  **ENV/EPOC/PPC/T(2000)10**

  Mr. Peter Wiederkehr presented the outcome of the est! Best Practice competition and its winners. This competition, presented at the Vienna Conference, had been organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management along with the OECD Environment Directorate. It provided promising examples of the different features of EST.

  Forty-three candidates responded to the call to provide examples of EST in the following categories: Communication and Awareness raising, Mobility Management for Passenger and Freight Transport, Technology and Infrastructure, Youth and Education, Culture and the Arts. The eighteen projects selected illustrated a broad range of practices and promising initiatives that demonstrated creativity, innovation and commitment for moving towards environmentally sustainable transport.
These Best Practice Finalists represented a good cross-section of the various countries and they are listed in Part 2 of the Synthesis Report. The full report is also available on the ENV web site.

The Chairman reported that the Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management will send an official letter to the OECD asking that the EST guidelines be submitted for endorsement by ministers in May 2001 and incorporated into the future orientation of the work on transport undertaken in various OECD bodies.

- **Follow-up to the EST Guidelines endorsed at the Vienna Conference**

  The Chairman highlighted the fact that the guidelines, which were endorsed at the Vienna Conference, reflected the views of all participants, panellists and delegates. He also stressed the importance of the guidelines and the role that they must play in the other meetings such as the EPOC Ministerial Meeting of May 2001.

  Mr. Peter Wiederkehr explained that there are two potential options for the document, a) transform it into an OECD Council Act, or b) have it adopted at the EPOC Ministerial Meeting of May 2001.

  The delegate from Denmark (Ms. Mona Westergaard) supported the second option which would imply including the document on the guidelines in the agenda of the Environmental Ministerial for endorsement. The delegate from Austria (Ms. Sabine Fashing) also supported the second option and pointed out the need to link the document on the guidelines to the Sustainable Development initiative.

  The delegate from Japan (Mr. Akio Takemoto) asked the Secretariat to shorten the “guidelines” document to 1 or 2 pages and to prepare it as a background paper for the EPOC Ministerial Meeting of May 2001.

  The Chairman underlined the need expressed by the Group that the Guidelines document be shorter in order to be endorsed at the Environmental Ministerial. He invited the group to consider whether the entire document should be presented to the Environmental Ministerial, or whether the guidelines would suffice.

  The delegate from Italy (Ms. Gloria Visconti) suggested that only the guidelines be presented for endorsement at the Environmental Ministerial and that in a second step the Ministers take note of the whole document.

  The chairman stressed the need to report back the conclusions of this meeting to the 20-21 November 2000 meeting of the WPPPC. He underlined the importance that guidelines be reflected both in the Environmental Outlook and Strategy and in the OECD horizontal programme on Sustainable Development. He invited the Group to express their wishes to their EPOC Delegates that the document be endorsed at the Environmental Ministerial in May 2001.

  The Group agreed to present the Guidelines as a three-page document to the EPOC meeting with a request to consider it for endorsement at the Environmental Ministerial in May 2001.
AGENDA ITEM 6: Joint Austrian/UNEP/OECD study in CEI countries

The industry expert from UNEP (Mr. John Manoochehri) presented a proposal for a series of workshops to debate and exchange ideas on noise effects, land-use planning and pollution resulting from the growth of transport infrastructure in the CEI countries.

The delegate from Denmark (Ms. Mona Westergaard) supported the proposal and informed the Group that Denmark will contribute to the work.

The delegate from the Slovak Republic (Mr. Jan Janiga) highlighted the importance of studying the impacts of transport on land use.

The delegate from Austria (Ms. Sabine Fashing) welcomed the proposal of work and informed the Group that Austria would support the regional workshop.

The chairman welcomed the co-operation with UNEP in the area of work described above and invited UNEP to present a more detailed proposal at the next WGT meeting. He invited the Group to the CEI meeting and Workshop on Financing Sustainable Transport in the CEE region, to be held on 25-26 January 2001 in Vienna.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OECD Environmental Outlook and Strategy Project


The Secretariat briefly introduced the Air and Transport Chapters of the Environmental Outlook and Strategy Project as well as the transport section of the strategy document and invited the delegates to comment.

The delegate from the Netherlands (Mr. Martin Kroon) noted that the chapters did not contain a message of urgency concerning the negative impacts of transport on the environment. He also noted that the chapter did not address the importance of the potential role of travel behaviour in changing current trends.

The delegates from Italy (Ms. Gloria Visconti), Norway (Ms. Brita Jorde) and Finland (Mr. Risto Saari) suggested removing the reference “legally binding” [in page 10 of document ENV/EPOC(2000)13].

The delegate from Sweden (Mr. Stefan Andersson) proposed to include the EST definition in the chapter on transport.

The group agreed to provide their comments by 21 November 2000.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OECD Sustainable Development Initiative: Chapter on Sustainable Transport

DSTI/DOT/RTR/S(2000)8

A consultant of the Secretariat from the Directorate of Science, Technology and Industry (Mr. John White) introduced the chapter on Sustainable Transport. He recalled the concept of Sustainable Development as presented by the Brundland Commission Views and the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and presented ten transport policy options. One of the major conclusions was that a significant challenge for sustainable transport on a global scale was to strengthen co-operation between OECD and non-OECD countries.
The Group agreed on the need for better co-operation between DSTI and the Working Group on Transport in further revisions of the document in order to incorporate the findings for the EST project. The Group urged that consideration be given to including the EST guidelines into the transport chapter. The deadline for comments is 30 November 2000, in order produce a new draft during December and final review in January.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Case study on tourism and travel

The Secretariat (Mr. Philippe Crist) presented the final report on household tourism travel patterns. He described the environmental impacts from tourism travel, the external factors impacting tourism travel and proposed solutions for reducing tourism travel impacts. One of the major conclusions was that travel is the greatest source of many environmental impacts from tourism including climate change. The importance of these impacts was linked primarily to travel by air and, to a lesser extent, ground travel in urban areas and to ecologically sensitive tourism destinations.

The Group was invited to provide comments by 15 December.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Round Table presentations on recent development towards environmentally sustainable transport

Several delegates (from Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway and the Netherlands) provided brief statements on recent developments. More details were provided by written statements for the following countries.

The delegate from Germany (Ms. Hedwig Verron) presented the programme on climate protection established by the German Federal Government. On 18 October 2000, the German Federal Government decided on policy measures to achieve reductions in CO₂ emissions of 25% by 2005 compared to 1990. The German Federal Government will also appoint a Council for National Sustainability, which is intended to facilitate communication between government and the general public.

The delegate from Finland (Mr. Risto Saari) described recent developments towards EST in Finland. Following the adoption of Environmental Guidelines for the transport sector in July 1999, operational policy targets in the transport sector have been set which will be continuously monitored and assessed. The operational targets of the programme cover the following areas: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing emissions produced by traffic, preventing pollution of soil and water, reducing exposure to noise, improving land use and promoting ecological sustainability.

The delegate from Belgium (Mr. François André) presented the priorities of the Belgian government concerning sustainable transport. The federal Government adopted at the end of July a report entitled “A vision for 2020 – actions in 2000-2005”. The main challenge described in this report is to analyse the projected increase of passenger and freight road transport, the potential impacts on the environment and the possible solutions involving both the public and private sectors.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Co-operation with other bodies

ECMT: Ms. Mary Crass presented a progress report on the ECMT programme of work 2000, in particular the sustainable urban transport project. She also informed the Group on the proceedings of the workshop on Managing Car Use in Urban Areas which was held on 1-2 December 1999 in Dublin and the outcome of the ECMT Council meeting at Ministerial level which was held in Prague on 30-31 May 2000.
She invited the Group to participate at the workshop on Institutional Issues, which will be held in Madrid on 13-14 December 2000.

**IEA: Mr. Lewis Fulton** presented a study on policies and measures to save oil and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Preliminary conclusions from the study indicate that no individual policy appears likely to provide more than a few percentage points reduction in fuel use and CO\textsubscript{2} emissions. However, well-designed packages of policies may provide significant reductions, and fuel savings are typically significant enough to potentially pay back even fairly costly policies over time.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Other business**

As usual, the Self-Evaluation Questionnaire was given to the Delegates of the Working Group to be filled in.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: Date of next meeting**

The original dates in February and in September 2001 were not retained and agreed upon for the next two meetings of the Group (these dates have been changed to 19-20 March and 29-30 October).