
Introduction Session

Roberto Aguerrebere, Head of the Mexican Transportation Institute and first delegate of PIARC Mexico welcomed the working group and looked forward to the participation of the group in the seminar on Monday and Tuesday of next week and the following Logistics Exhibition. He gave an overview of Mexican transport including the growing rail share, manufactured goods to North America, in fact as far as Canada, also double stacked containers from ports. Road transport still remains very important with many challenges. Whilst the private logistics operators dominate most activity but the government role is still important.

Serious accidents involving double articulated trucks still occasionally happen which attract much public comment. Government consideration of the subject is high and calls to ban such vehicles have some support. This is unlikely to happen but there is an intention for introduce additional safety measures and a special driving license. Industry is still supporting additional routing into non-main roads (classified as B) to allow access for these long vehicles to reach the desired origins and destinations. Damage to bridges by these vehicles have been discussed but is hard to demonstrate.

Urban freight transport is seen as impairing passenger mobility and polluting with restrictions on time limits suggested. Participation with a Living Lab in Holland strategies for allowing more efficient access to convenience stores, into cooperative transport arrangements, parking, and new technology is being researched.

A question of the maximum of double trailer vehicles was raised, Trials have taken place with vehicles up to 75 tonnes MGW. This is a very active issue with industry supporting greater flexibility and the general public view is of concern about safety.

Working Group 4.1 (National policies for multi-modal freight transport and logistics) Progress Report

Tiffany Julien provided a verbal overview on the working programme schedule of deliverables, the working group activities including a summary of the January 11, 2017 WEBEX meeting and the progress achieved so far.

Ms. Julien also provided a brief overview on the total number of survey questionnaire responses received so far from nine member countries. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the survey questionnaire would be re-released allowing additional time in the hopes of receiving additional responses from a greater number of member countries. The survey responses will be shared via the B.4 freight PIARC workspace with other technical working groups. (Note – this was sent to Russell Hoelzl on 27 March 2017 and sent to Freight Task Force Members on the same day).

Ms. Julien indicated that the main objective of the working group session will be to discuss the preliminary findings of the survey questionnaire responses, to discuss the five examples of table of contents received from the working group members, work towards completing the final report's table of content structure, and continuing the brainstorming session regarding the literature review process.

Working Group Discussion

Tiffany Julien and Hinko van Geelen led a discussion on the preliminary findings from the survey questionnaire responses. This information was presented to the working group via an Excel spreadsheet delineating the questions and the corresponding responses and countries. In an effort to fully engage the working group members; each member that was present was asked to provide additional information regarding the governance structure question on the survey questionnaire.

The working group decided to extend the survey questionnaire due date to May 2017 in an effort to gather information from additional member countries. It was also discussed and determined that the working group will target specific member countries to obtain a broader geographical coverage of responses.

The working group continued their discussion of the final report's table of content. After reviewing and discussing five examples provided by the working group members, a final draft format and structure was agreed upon by the group. This final draft table of content will be submitted to all the working group members for review and final comment/consensus.

The working group also continued their brainstorming discussion on the literature review process and information that will be gathered and incorporated into the final report. It was decided that each member of the B4.1 working group will conduct a search and identify and review at least two pieces of literature.

Working Group 4. 2 (Truck traffic on highways/good practices on energy efficient freight transport)

Progress report

Eiichi Taniguchi reported on the progress. 12 surveys have responded including Australia (Note - input from Queensland, New Zealand and Victoria), Austria, Canada, Czech, Finland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, and USA. Other responses awaiting. A review of the headline findings of good practices for managing truck traffic on highways and schedule for a final technical report of WG2 were presented. A series of deliverables are in hand, including articles for routes and roads.

Working Group Discussion

Eiichi Taniguchi reported on the working group activities, reporting a discussion and agreement on the detail of the final report structure to accommodate the large volume of answers to the survey. It includes: (1) Introduction, (2) Issues of road freight transport and objectives of policies, (3) Truck management on highways and motorways, (4) Energy efficient and environment friendly freight transport, (5) Conclusions and recommendations.

The group has begun the process of grouping the problems identified. Each element of the table of contents have been allocated to individuals in the group. More detailed information is required on many of the best practices identified and work will be conducted to contact specific experts. These will be distributed to all B4 members.

Next meeting - Rome 11-13 October 2017

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