The purpose of this note is to provide a brief summary of the main areas of work carried out by the OECD Environment Directorate under the auspices of the Working Group on Transport of the Working Party on National Environmental Policies. An updated survey of activities of the OECD, IEA and ECMT on transport and the environment has been issued in 2002; it includes a list of publications and on-line reports (web-site referenced on bottom of page).

1. Implementation of the EST Guidelines, as part of the OECD Environmental Strategy

The overall objectives of the project were to provide an understanding of EST, its implications and requirements, and to develop methods and guidelines towards its realisation using a backcasting methodology. The core of the EST approach was to develop long-term scenarios based on a set of long-term health and environmental criteria, and identify instruments and strategies capable of achieving them. OECD Guidelines towards EST presented have been endorsed by OECD Environment Ministers in May 2001, as part of the OECD Environmental Strategy. Follow-up work focuses on implementation issues and how to overcome the barriers to EST by using workshops to address regional priorities. Issues addressed include rail transport and its contribution to EST (Eskilstuna, Sweden, 2001); the role of soft measures to communicate EST (Berlin workshop, 2002); EST in the Asian region (Nagoya conference, 2003). Outcomes and further planned workshops are listed on our website.

Product: Conference proceeding and policy recommendations. Date: 4th quarter 2003

2. Decoupling transport impacts and economic growth

The project examines the potential for decoupling with particular attention to policy instruments to promote sustainable transport patterns focusing on non-technical and demand management approaches. It includes a review of key economic growth factors and those influencing transport demand; and examination of appropriate instruments and measures; analysis of case studies provided by countries in the area of dematerialisation, territorialisation of production and consumption, and optimisation of transport organisation; and the identification of policy instruments and options (notably use- and performance-related economic instruments) to influence transport demand, while ensuring economic growth and regional development.

Product: Scoping study and project outline; report on first stage Date: spring, 2002; Fall 2003

3. Extension of global emission projections for motor vehicles and impacts from advanced technology

Global emission projections for motor vehicles (MOVE II project) are developed to estimate local, regional and global environmental effects, notably air quality trends. Emphasis will be given to life-cycle impacts of various transport, costs and benefits of advanced control options. A comparative analysis of different modes and the long-term environmental impacts and fuel use implications of advanced emission control technologies, hybrid and zero emission vehicles will be carried out to show the various options and solutions including costs and benefits of advanced vehicle technologies.

Product: Report on global motor vehicle emission projections Date: 2nd quarter 2004

4. Joint UNEP/OECD Project “EST goes EAST” for CEI Countries

This outreach to non-Member countries through the joint UNEP/OECD initiative "EST goes EAST” focuses on capacity building for the development of EST strategies and promotion of pilot projects and EST best practices in Central and European countries. Work includes a study on assessing current and projected external costs of transport and the benefits and investment opportunities of EST with a view to identifying policy instruments for internalising externalities.

Product: Brochures, summaries and reports Date: 4th quarter 2002; spring 2003

4. Links and co-operation with other bodies and projects

- Joint Session of ECMT and OECD working groups on transport and the environment to identify issue of common interest and seek ways to address them in a coordinated manner; e.g. joint statements and policy messages.
- The OECD Road Transport Research Programme’s work on environmental issues: The Environment Directorate contributed to various activities including integrated safety and environmental strategies and low emission vehicles strategies.
- The UNECE/WHO Pan-European Programme on Transport, Environment and Health (THE PEP): the Environment Directorate provides input to this activity using the results from its transport work, especially the EST Guidelines and the outreach activity to the CEI.

The OECD Environment Directorate provides input to a number of other international meetings and activities, in particular the EU, where long-term, global environmental implications from transport were addressed.
Selected Publications


Programme-related Publications


