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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fifty-eighth session

Geneva, 30 November – 1 December 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 30 November 2015

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Workshop – Intermodality leads to Sustainability.
3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC):
 - (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals;
 - (b) Amendment proposals (updating and extending the AGTC network);

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (wp.24@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=DxICyO. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (+41 22 917 4030) or by e-mail (wp.24@unece.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

- (c) Amendment proposals (Minimum infrastructure and performance standards).
- 4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement:
 - (a) Status of the Protocol;
 - (b) Amendment proposals.
- 5. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code).
- 6. Climate change and intermodal transport:
 - (a) Mitigation;
 - (b) Adaptation;
 - (c) Diesel Engines.
- 7. Intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport.
- 8. Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics:
 - (a) Follow-up to the 2013 workshop on weights and dimensions of Intermodal Transport Units (ITU);
 - (b) Follow-up to the 2014 Theme: Role of freight forwarders and logistics in intermodal transport chains;
 - (c) 2015 theme: Intermodality leads to Sustainability;
 - (d) Selection of a theme for substantive discussions in 2016.
- 9. Intermodal transport terminals.
- 10. Preparing National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics.
- 11. New developments and best practices in intermodal transport and logistics:
 - (a) Trends and performance in the industry;
 - (b) Activities of the European Commission;
 - (c) Pan-European developments in policies;
 - (d) Intermodal transport statistics.
- 12. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
- 13. Programme of work, biennial evaluation and draft work plan.
 - (a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017;
 - (b) Draft work plan for 2016–2020.
- 14. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
- 15. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.
- 16. Date and venue of next session.
- 17. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/136

2. Workshop – Intermodality leads to Sustainability

As decided by the Working Party at its last session the theme for its session in 2015 is “Intermodality leads to Sustainability”. The presentations for the workshop will be available on the homepage of the Working Party after the session.

Documentation

Informal documents

3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals

The AGTC Agreement has currently 32 Contracting Parties.³ Detailed information on the AGTC Agreement, including the consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.6), a map on the AGTC network, an inventory of compliance with AGTC standards as well as relevant Depository Notifications are available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

In 2011, the Working Party adopted amendment proposals to Annex I of the AGTC Agreement modifying names of cities and border crossing points in Kazakhstan (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/129, paras. 34–35 and annex). These proposals were transmitted to the depositary of the AGTC Agreement and notification was published on 5 May 2015. In the event that no objections are received, the Working Party is asked to ratify the changes in order to proceed with an update to the consolidated text mentioned above.

Documentation

C.N.270.2015.TREATIES-XI.E.2

(b) Amendment proposals (updating and extending the AGTC network)

The Working Party will be informed about the status of amendment proposals considered at previous sessions of the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/1

³ Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

(c) **Amendment proposals (Minimum infrastructure and performance standards)**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session it had postponed a decision on amendment proposals to the AGTC agreement based on official document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1 prepared by the secretariat and the European Railway Agency and to await the decision of the Working Party on Rail Transport for the same amendments. In addition, the Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare and send letters with the proposed amendments to the Contracting Parties to the agreement asking for their consideration and approval. The Working Party may wish to be informed about progress in this area.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2012/5,
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2010/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2010/3

4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement

The Protocol aims to make container and ro-ro transport on inland waterways and coastal routes in Europe more efficient and attractive to customers. The Protocol establishes a legal framework for a coordinated plan to develop intermodal transport services on pan-European inland waterways and coastal routes. The development is on the basis of specific internationally agreed parameters and standards in line with the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN Agreement).

The Protocol identifies 14,700 km of E waterways and transshipment terminals that are important for regular and international intermodal transport in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine. It also stipulates technical and operational minimum requirements for inland waterways and terminals in ports that are required for competitive container and ro-ro transport services.

In 2012, the secretariat published the second revised edition of the so-called “Blue Book” which contains an inventory of the European E waterway and ports network (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.2). The revised “Blue Book” as well as the latest UNECE map of European inland waterways will be available at the session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.2

(a) **Status of the Protocol**

The Working Party may wish to recall that the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement had come into force on 29 October 2009 and had been signed by 15 countries. So far, 9 countries have ratified the Protocol.⁴ See ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1 and 2 for the text of the Protocol.⁵

⁴ Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland.

⁵ It should be noted that only the text kept in custody by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as depositary of the AGTC Agreement, constitutes the authoritative text of the Agreement.

Detailed information, including the text of the Protocol and relevant Depository Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.⁶

The Working Party may recall that the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) had encouraged concerned Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement to accede to the Protocol as soon as possible.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1 and 2

(b) Amendment proposals

The Working Party may recall that ITC had requested the Working Party to consider and decide on amendment proposals to the Protocol that had previously been submitted (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 93; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paras. 46–50).

It may also recall that this issue was discussed further at the fifty-seventh session of WP.24 where the Working Party agreed to wait for responses from countries in relation to the letters sent in July 2014 on the amendments. In the intervening period the secretariat has followed up the letters with additional contacts.

The Government of Romania responded by sending proposed amendments to the Protocol (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/7). The Working Party may wish to discuss these changes and decide whether to send the changes to the depository in New York. Only one other member State has responded reaffirming its position of 2009. The Working Party may wish to consider whether it is appropriate to proceed with these amendments as discussed at the fifty-seventh session.

Following consideration of secretariat note ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2012/4 at its fifty-sixth session and subsequent discussions at its fifty-seventh session, the secretariats of WP.24 and SC.3 discussed how best to align annexes I and II of the Protocol with the revised AGN Agreement. The secretariat has, accordingly, prepared ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2015/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/12 setting out the differences between the Protocol and the AGN Agreement which was initially discussed at the WP.3/SC.3 session in June 2015 and then at SC.3 in November 2015. Having identified the main differences between the two, the Working Party may wish to decide whether or not to modify the Protocol to reflect the most recent version of the AGN.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2012/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2010/6, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/7, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2015/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/12

5. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)

The Working Party will be informed that since the last meeting of WP.24, ILO has also adopted the CTU Code. The Code is now also available in French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. All language versions can now be downloaded from the UNECE website.

The Working Party will also be informed about the application of the Code across the UNECE region and beyond.

⁶ www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

6. Climate change and intermodal transport

(a) Mitigation

The Working Party will be informed about developments in the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project during 2014–2015. The Working Party may wish to discuss and consider implementation of ForFITS in Intermodal Terminals/nodes.

(b) Adaptation

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the continuation of the work of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for transport networks and nodes and especially about the work which is relevant to intermodal transport.

Documentation

UNECE Publication on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for International Transport Networks

(c) Diesel Engines

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the continuation of secretariat's work on diesel engines and the update of the discussion paper.

The Working Party may wish to consider the discussion paper and provide guidance on how it could possibly be updated with intermodal transport issues.

Documentation

UNECE Publication “Diesel engine exhausts: Myths and realities”

7. Intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport

The Working Party may wish to discuss developments in intelligent transport systems or other technological developments related to intermodal transport.

8. Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

(a) Follow-up to the 2013 workshop on weights and dimensions of Intermodal Transport Units (ITU)

The Working party may recall that after the 2013 workshop, a follow-up workshop was held in Paris in February 2014 hosted by the International Union of Railways. The Working Party received a summary of this workshop at its fifty-seventh session. Further discussions may be held at the current session.

Documentation

Informal documents

(b) Follow up to the 2014 Theme: Role of freight forwarders and logistics in intermodal transport chains

As decided by the Working Party at its fifty-sixth session and in line with its road map on future work and operation (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/131, paras. 35–36; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/125, paras. 18–22 and 40–41), the theme for substantive discussion in 2014 was “Role of freight forwarders and logistics in intermodal transport chains”. The

discussions were prepared at a workshop, hosted by the Government of Belgium (Brussels, 12 and 13 June 2014).

At its last session, the Working Party decided, based on the outputs of this workshop, that a study should be prepared by the secretariat on the status of freight forwarders in different countries. This study should be based on a questionnaire which will address all relevant issues. The Working Party may wish to review this questionnaire (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/1) and decide on next steps.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/1

(c) 2015 Theme: Intermodality leads to Sustainability

The Working Party may wish to discuss the results and a follow-up to the workshop.

(d) Selection of a theme for substantive discussions in 2016

The Working Party may wish to decide on a theme for its session in 2016.

9. Intermodal transport terminals

The Working Party may wish to recall that during its thirty-seventh session (18–19 April 2002) it had established a Group of Experts to consider measures to increase the efficiency of combined transport terminal operations. On the basis of its findings (TRANS/WP.24/2002/4) the Working Party recommended that provisions on terminals contained in the AGTC should be reviewed and new provisions should be included.

During its fifty-fourth session (2–3 November 2011), “The Role of terminals and logistics centres for intermodal transport” was discussed as the theme for substantive discussion. For its fifty-seventh session, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/5 was prepared by the secretariat on intermodal transport terminals. At this session, the Working Party decided that a concrete study should be prepared by the secretariat on mapping and categorising the types of terminals that exist in the UNECE region and on the available facilities. For the current session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to draft a formal document on how to structure such a study (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/2). The Working Party may wish to review this document and decide on next steps.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/2 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5

10. Preparing National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics

The Working Party may wish to recall that during its fifty-first session (19–20 March 2009), it had addressed the topic of modern transport chains, national logistics master plans and the role of governments on the design and management of freight and intermodal transport. The secretariat, in cooperation with a virtual expert group on transport chains and logistics (Informal documents WP.24 Nos. 5 and 6 (2008)), had prepared a study on the design and management of freight and intermodal transport and the role of governments (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/4).

At its fifty-seventh session the Working Party agreed that further action was necessary and that a formal document should be developed on guidelines for this subject

(ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5). The Working Party may wish to consider this document prepared by the secretariat and discuss possible next steps.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5

11. New developments and best practices in intermodal transport and logistics

(a) Trends and performance in the industry

The Working Party may wish to exchange views on past and future trends and developments in intermodal transport and logistics in UNECE member countries.

(b) Activities of the European Commission

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for future work of the European Commission (DG MOVE) on intermodal transport and logistics.

(c) Pan-European developments in policies

The delegations may wish to present recent developments in their countries, new Government policies or business measures affecting intermodal transport.

Audio-visual aids and short written documentation would be welcome and could be distributed by the secretariat, if received in time before the session. Delegations wishing to make presentations should inform the secretariat, at least, a few days before the session.

(d) Intermodal transport statistics

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the latest developments in the Task Force on Intermodal Transport Statistics to develop a system allowing the calculation of traffic data for international intermodal transport flows. The Task Force consists of Eurostat, Eurostat member States, private sector experts, and was mandated by Eurostat's Coordination Group for Statistics Transport and has been extended to the end of 2015.

On the basis of an informal document outlining the present status of work in this field, the Working Party may have an exchange of views on the possibilities of collecting data at the pan-European level.

12. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

Participation of non-ECE countries, Contracting Parties to UNECE conventions, in the activities of ITC and its subsidiary bodies

The Working Party will be informed about the main decisions of the seventy-seventh session of ITC (24–26 February 2015) on issues of interest to the Working Party.

At the session, a closed session (for government delegates only) of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ITC was organized. The session discussed the participation of non-ECE countries that are also Contracting Parties to the UNECE transport conventions and agreements in the Working Parties and other intergovernmental bodies of UNECE.

13. Programme of work, biennial evaluation and draft work plan

(a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017

In accordance with the decision of ITC to review its programme of work every two years (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party is invited to review and adopt its programme of work for 2016–2017 as well as the relevant parameters allowing for its biennial evaluation. The draft programme of work for 2016–2017 and the expected accomplishment are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/8.

The terms of reference of the Working Party adopted at its session on 3 November 2011 and approved by ITC on 1 March 2012 are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/9.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/8, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/9

(b) Draft work plan for 2016–2020

As requested by the ITC Bureau on 20 June 2011, the Working Party should review and approve its traditional 4-year work plan for 2016–2020, in addition to the mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017.

Document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/9 reproduces the draft work plan adopted by the Working Party on 3 November 2011 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/129, para. 69) and approved the ITC on 1 March 2012 (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 94). Proposed deletions, modifications and additions have been indicated.

The Working Party may wish to review its draft work plan for 2016–2020 for transmission and adoption to ITC.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/9

14. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport

In accordance with a decision of ITC, the Working Party continues work from the former European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) in (a) monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport and (b) monitoring enforcement and review of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport (ECE/TRANS/192, para. 90).

Comparable information for 16 UNECE member countries is currently available in English, French and Russian (<http://apps.unece.org/NatPolWP24/>).

The Working Party decided at its fifty-sixth session to continue ensuring that the information was kept up-to-date and requested that the questionnaire be re-sent to member States in 2015. The responses received by the secretariat are ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/3 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/4. The Working Party may wish to consider these responses before they are uploaded to the website to update the information available. The Working Party may also want to encourage other member States to complete the questionnaire and forward it to the secretariat.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/192, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/4

15. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention

The Working Party will be informed about the current work that is with the TIR Convention and the initial findings of the TIR Executive Board on the use of the TIR procedure for intermodal transport and possible approaches for the future.

16. Date and venue of next session

The Working Party may wish to decide on the appropriate length of the session in 2016 given that the workshop is held immediately before the Working Party meeting thus limiting the time available.

The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the fifty-ninth session for 30 October–1 November 2016 at the Palais des Nations (Geneva).

17. Summary of decisions

In line with established practice (TRANS/WP.24/63, para. 54) and in accordance with the decision of the ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, para. 6), the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken at the end of the session. Following the session, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC at its next session (February 2016).

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 30 November	10.00 a.m. – 13:00 p.m.	Item 1: Adoption of agenda Item 2: Workshop: “Intermodality leads to Sustainability”
	15.00 p.m. – 18.00 p.m.	Items 3–6
Tuesday, 1 December	10.00 a.m. – 13.00 p.m.	Items 7–11
	15.00 p.m. – 18.00 p.m.	Items 12–17
