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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fifty-ninth session

Geneva, 31 October–1 November 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

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

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 31 October 2016

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Workshop – Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovative solutions.
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 Sustainable 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=l8hcA_. 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.
- 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) 2016 theme: Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovative solutions;
 - (e) Selection of a theme for substantive discussions in 2017.
- 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 and other United Nations entities;
 - (c) Pan-European developments in policies;
 - (d) Intermodal transport statistics.
- 12. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies.
- 13. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
- 14. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.
- 15. Election of officers for 2017–2018.
- 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.24/138

2. Workshop – Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovative solutions

As decided by the Working Party at its last session the theme for its session in 2016 is “Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovative solutions”. 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 Depositary Notifications are available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

In 2015, the Working Party adopted amendment proposals to Annex I of the AGTC Agreement submitted by the Government of Poland (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137, paras. 19–20). These proposals were transmitted to the depositary of the AGTC Agreement and notification was published on 23 March 2016 (C.N.86.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2). 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.86.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2, ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.6

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

At its fifty-eighth session, the Working Party was informed that no objections had been received to the amendment proposals notified by the Government of Kazakhstan (C.N.599.2015.TREATIES-XI.E.2) and these amendments were thus ratified.

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.

At the last session, the Administrative Committee asked the secretariat to provide a list of all the amendments to the AGTC outstanding from those submitted in 2009 in the report of the fifty-eighth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137) in order to discuss ways to move forward on these amendments at this session even if no further information is provided. The Administrative Committee is asked to consider approving these modifications as no further objections and/or modifications have been received by the secretariat.

In 2016, the Government of Kazakhstan submitted proposed amendments to Annex I and II of the AGTC. These proposals have been included in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2. The Administrative Committee may wish to discuss these changes and decide whether to send the changes to the depository in New York.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/1, C.N.599.2015.TREATIES-XI.E.2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2, Informal document WP.24 (2016) No. 1

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its fifty-eighth session it had agreed to the amendment proposals to the AGTC agreement based on official document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1 following agreement of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), to these modifications. The Working Party will be informed about progress in relation to the depository notifications.

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).

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, nine countries have ratified the Protocol.⁴ See ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1 and 2 for the text of the Protocol.⁵ Detailed information, including the text of the Protocol and relevant Depositary 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 the 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 and fifty-eighth sessions 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 but no further responses have been received other than the confirmation from the delegation of Germany of its previous position.

At the last session, the Administrative Committee asked the secretariat to provide a list of all the amendments to the AGTC outstanding from those submitted in 2009 in the report of the fifty-eighth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137) in order to discuss ways to move forward on these amendments at this session even if no further information is provided. The Administrative Committee is asked to consider approving these modifications as no further objections and/or modifications have been received by the secretariat.

The Government of Romania submitted proposed amendments to the Protocol in 2015 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/7). In 2015, the Working Party adopted these amendment proposals (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137, para. 34). These proposals were transmitted to the depositary of the Protocol of the AGTC and notification was published on 23 March 2016 (C.N.100.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2.a). 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.

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 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

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.

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

November 2015. At its fifty-eighth session, the Administrative Committee of the Protocol to the AGTC agreed to approve the updating of the Protocol of AGTC to ensure that it remains in line with AGN. Furthermore, it asked the secretariat to transmit these amendments to the depository in New York. These proposals were also transmitted to the depository of the Protocol of the AGTC and notification was published on 23 March 2016 (C.N.100.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2.a). 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.

The Working Party may wish to discuss further areas that require harmonization within the Protocol of the AGTC.

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, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137, C.N.100.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2.a

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

The Working Party may wish to discuss the next steps in relation to the elaboration of the CTU Code in particular in relation to the provision of training on the Code and the gathering of statistics in relation to its use.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/1

6. Climate change and intermodal transport

The Working Party will be informed of developments in the work of the Expert Group on Climate Change adaptation and the role of intermodal transport.

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 (12–13 June 2014, Brussels).

At its last session, the Working Party decided, based on the outputs of this workshop and the decision to prepare a study on the subject, a questionnaire should be sent to UNECE member States on the status and role of freight forwarders in individual countries. The amended questionnaire was agreed on at the last session and the questionnaire was sent to UNECE member States in April 2016. The Working Party may wish to review the information provided in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/5 containing the results of the survey and decide on next steps.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/5

(c) 2015 Theme: Intermodality leads to Sustainability

As a follow-up to the 2015 workshop the secretariat has prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/4 on Green Logistics setting out how intermodal transport contributes to Environmental sustainability, the Strategic Development Agenda and its related Goals.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/4

(d) 2016 Theme: Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovative solutions

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

(e) Selection of a theme for substantive discussions in 2017

The Working Party may wish to decide on a theme for its sixtieth session in 2017.

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 categorizing the types of terminals that exist in the ECE region and on the available facilities.

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its fifty-eighth session the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5 setting out the structure of the proposed study and asked the secretariat to review other similar studies before proceeding with the intermodal study. The secretariat has reviewed the studies it has identified and has prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2 summarising the work included in other studies. The Working Party may wish to review this document and decide on next steps.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2

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). At its fifty-eighth session The Working Party took note of the detailed guidelines document prepared by the secretariat and asked that the secretariat submit an updated version of this document to the ITC for review and comment. The Working Party asked that more detailed guidelines be prepared based on document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5 with the use of external support and incorporating comments received from member States and relevant intergovernmental institutions. The Working Party may wish to discuss possible next steps in relation to finding external support for the more detailed document.

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 States.

(b) Activities of the European Commission and other United Nations entities

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 as well as the work being undertaken by other United Nations entities.

(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, European Union member States, private sector experts, and was mandated by Eurostat's Coordination Group for Statistics Transport. The Task Force was 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 (ITC) 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-eighth session of ITC (23–25 February 2016) on issues of interest to the Working Party.

13. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport

In accordance with a decision of the 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 States 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 were discussed at the previous session and the updated information was placed on the website. The online database now contains information on 17 member States. The Working Party may also want to encourage other member States to complete the questionnaire and forward it to the secretariat. The Working Party may wish to consider ways of further improving the database to increase its usefulness.

Documentation

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

14. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention

The Working Party will be informed about the ongoing work within the TIR Executive Board on the use of the TIR procedure for intermodal transport and possible approaches for the future.

15. Election of officers for 2017–2018

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chair and possibly a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2017 and 2018.

16. Date and venue of next session

The Working Party may wish to decide on the date for its session in 2017.

The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the sixtieth session for 30 November–1 December 2017 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 the ITC at its next session (February 2017).

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 31 October	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 1: Adoption of agenda Item 2: Workshop: “Intermodality leads to Sustainability”
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 3–6
Tuesday, 1 November	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 7–11
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 12–17
