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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixtieth session

Geneva, 23-24 November 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixtieth session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 23 November 2017

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Workshop — Railways, intermodal transport and the digitalisation of transport documents.
3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations:
 - (a) Status of the Agreement and adopted amendment proposals;

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:
<https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=DHphwj>. 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 2432) 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.

- (b) Amendment proposals (updating and extending the AGTC network);
 - (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.
 6. Climate change and intermodal transport.
 7. Intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport.
 8. Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.
 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. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
 13. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.
 14. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
 15. Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2018-2019 and Work Plan for 2018-2022.
 - (a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2018-2019;
 - (b) Draft work plan for 2018-2022.
 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.24/140

2. Workshop — Railways, intermodal transport and the digitalisation of transport documents

As decided by the Working Party at its last session the theme for its session in 2017 is “Railways, intermodal transport and the digitalisation of transport documents. The program of the workshop can be found in informal document No 1. The presentations for the workshop will be available on the homepage of the Working Party after the session.

Documentation

Informal document No 1

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

(a) Status of the Agreement and adopted amendment proposals

The AGTC Agreement has currently 32 Contracting Parties.³ Detailed information on the AGTC Agreement, 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.

Documentation

C.N.86.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2, ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.6

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

At its last session, the Administrative Committee agreed not to send the outstanding amendments included in ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/4 and to wait for updated amendment proposals from the Government of Germany in relation to this document, to be submitted for approval at the sixtieth session of the Working Party. The Administrative Committee may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/1, which includes the updated amendment proposals from the Government of Germany, discuss and decide whether to send these amendments to the depositary in New York.

In 2016, the Government of Kazakhstan also submitted proposed amendments to Annexes I and II of the AGTC. These proposals were included in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2. Given the uncertainty in the different language versions of the amendment proposals submitted by the Government of Kazakhstan, the Administrative Committee of the AGTC asked the secretariat to confirm the correct text of the amendment with Kazakhstan and agreed to discuss these amendments again at the sixtieth session of the Working Party. The Administrative Committee may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/2, which includes the amendment proposals submitted by the Government of Kazakhstan, discuss and decide whether to send these amendments to the depositary in New York.

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.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/4,
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2

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

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that at its fifty-eighth session, it had been informed by the secretariat that the secretariats of SC.2, WP.24 and the European Railway Agency (ERA) had prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1 containing amendment proposals of possible new minimum infrastructure, performance standards as well as parameters for inclusion into Annexes III and IV of the AGTC Agreement. The Committee had approved that these amendments be sent to the depositary in New York. At its last session, the Administrative Committee took note that the modifications to minimum infrastructure and performance standards of the AGTC had been notified to the depositary in New York, notification had been published on 23 March 2016, and that no objections had been received during the period. The Working Party asked the secretariat to provide it with the text that will be included in the consolidated version of the AGTC prior to this consolidation and to see how to make the information available in the annexes more accessible in digital form.

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 based on specific internationally agreed parameters and standards that are in line with the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN).

The Protocol identifies 14,700 km of E waterways and transhipment 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 2017, the secretariat published the third revised edition of the so-called “Blue Book” which contains an inventory of the E waterway and ports network (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.3). A new package of amendments to AGN, based on the third revision of Blue Book, will be considered at the sixty-first session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (4-6 October 2017 in Geneva).

Documentation

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

(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 Administrative Committee may wish to recall at the November 2015 session of WP.24 and the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) the approval of document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2015/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/12 setting out the differences between the Protocol and the AGN. The secretariat notified these changes to the Depository on 23 March 2016 (C.N.100.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2.a). No objections had been received to these amendment proposals. However, the Administrative Committee asked the secretariat to provide text that will be included in the consolidated version of the Protocol of the AGTC in relation to this item and to see how to make the information available in the annexes more accessible in digital form..

Furthermore, the Administrative Committee of the Protocol to the AGTC requested the secretariat to complete the work on aligning the ports, terminals and other aspects of the Protocol of the AGTC with the AGN and to present a joint document for initial review at the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation, and then for final review at SC.3 and WP.24 in 2017.

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

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2015/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/12,
C.N.100.2016.TREATIES-XI.E.2.a

5. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units

The Working Party at its last session took note of the work undertaken by the secretariat in relation to training for the CTU Code and asked the secretariat, in collaboration with International Labour Organization and International Maritime Organization, to explore how to collect statistics on CTU handling related incidents with the aim of understanding where the CTU Code should best be deployed. The Working Party also asked the secretariat to

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.

post on its website news, where this information was available, on the use of the CTU Code. The Working Party may wish to discuss further this topic and provide guidance in relation to the provision of training on the Code and the gathering of statistics in relation to its use.

6. Climate change and intermodal transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about work undertaken by the Sustainable Transport Division on climate change adaptation and mitigation that is relevant to intermodal transport.

7. Intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport

In line with the UNECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012-2020 (UNECE publication, ITS for sustainable mobility, 2012), the Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making intermodal transport systems attractive and “seamless” among different modes of transport. The Working Party may also address the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders focusing on the role of Governments and regulatory authorities in providing the necessary framework conditions for discriminatory-free access to information by all parties in intermodal transport chains.

The Working Party may wish to consider activities, on monitoring of ITS and other technological applications developments in intermodal transport and to provide a platform for the exchange of information and best practices.

Documentation

UNECE publication, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility (2012)

8. Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

The Working Party may wish to be informed about follow-up activities to the different workshops organized in recent years and provide guidance on concrete steps forward:

- 2013 theme: Weights and dimensions of Intermodal Transport Units (ITU);
- 2014 Theme: Role of freight forwarders and logistics in intermodal transport chains;
- 2015 Theme: Intermodality leads to Sustainability;
- 2016 Theme: Promoting sustainable intermodal transport through innovative solutions.

The Working Party may wish to decide on a theme for its sixty-first session in 2018.

9. Intermodal transport terminals

During its fifty-seventh 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. During its fifty-eighth session, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5 that sets out the structure of the proposed study. The Working Party asked the secretariat to review other similar studies before

proceeding with the intermodal study. During its last session the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2016/2 that summarized the work in other studies.

The Working Party agreed that it would be important for a pilot study to be undertaken in a member State to identify whether the information that is required for the study is available in those member States that were not in the scope of the European Commission or of UNESCAP studies. The Government of Turkey volunteered to perform a pilot project in the country looking at terminals on their territory.

The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP24/2017/4 which includes the results of this pilot project in Turkey and provide guidance on further steps on this topic.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/3

10. Preparing National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics

The Working Party at its fifty-eighth session asked that more detailed guidelines on how to prepare national master plans on freight transport and logistics should be prepared the basis of document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2015/5, with external support and incorporating comments received from member States and relevant intergovernmental institutions. At its last session, the Working Party acknowledged the progress of the work on National Master Plans and asked the secretariat to continue assessing options on how best to take this work forward to a full study.

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 of 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. 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; (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 resent to member States in 2015. The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments on this topic and also consider ways of further improving the database in order to increase its usefulness.

13. 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.

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

The Working Party will be informed about the main decisions of the seventy-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee (21-24 February 2017) on issues of interest to the Working Party.

The Committee at its seventy-eighth session had recognised the need to adapt to new realities and dynamics in the strategic environment within which the Committee operates. It had decided that the secretariat should draft a strategy paper on the priorities and the main directions in consultation with the Bureau, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the Administrative Committees of transport conventions under the purview of the Committee. The Committee had the opportunity to review the advance version of the Executive Summary of the Strategy Paper (ECE/TRANS/2017/R.1) which included the main findings and recommendations, in order to consider ways to enhance the role and impact of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies *vis-à-vis* emerging challenges and opportunities globally.

The Committee welcomed the discussion on increasing the Committee's role at the meeting of the Chairs of its working bodies on a rapidly changing global environment. Considered ways to increase the influence of the Committee and its working bodies in addressing current challenges and opportunities in a global context, in accordance with the resolution of ministers of the seventy-ninth Committee session of 21 February 2017, including by inclusion in the terms of reference of the Working Parties of issues in implementing transport-oriented Sustainable Development Goals. The Working Parties should consider preparing contributions to the draft strategy of the Inland Transport Committee that will be considered by the Committee at its session in 2018, and, if necessary, also road maps for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, it decided to share the advance version of the Executive Summary of the Strategy Paper (ECE/TRANS/2017/R.1) with all the Working Parties, and invited them to submit their comments and recommendations. When preparing a strategy paper or road maps, Working Parties should also bear in mind the limited availability of resources and recognize that new activities should be matched by a reduction or discontinuation of one or more activities, unless extra budgetary funding is made available.

15. Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2018-2019 and Work Plan for 2018-2022

(a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2018-2019

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its fifty-eighth session on 30 November and 1 December 2015, it had approved indicators of achievement for measuring its expected accomplishments in 2016 and 2017 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/137, para. 94). In accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being in 2018, the Working Party may wish to review and adopt its programme of work for 2018-2019 as well as the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation. The draft programme of work for 2018-2019 and the expected accomplishment indicators are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/5.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2017/4

(b) Draft work plan for 2018-2022

The Committee during its seventy-eighth session (Geneva, 23-26 February 2016) noted (ECE/TRANS/254, para. 159) that the four year work plan has proven very useful in the past in providing mandates for the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies in even years, acting as a "bridge" that covers the months between the end of a programme biennium and the approval by the Committee of the Programme of Work for the next biennium. However, following changes in the format of the programme of work that took place in 2015, that contribution of the four-year work plan may no longer be performed. In light of this development, the Committee decided to discontinue this document in the future.

16. Date and venue of next session

The Working Party may wish to decide on the date for its session in 2018.

The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the sixty first session for 28-30 November 2018 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 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 2018).

III. Tentative timetable

Thursday, 23 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 1: Adoption of agenda Item 2: Workshop: “Railways, intermodal transport and digitalization of documents”
	3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Items 3-6
Friday, 24 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 7-11
	3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Items 12-17

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