



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 August 2019

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-second session

Geneva, 30 October-1 November 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-second session* **

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 30 October 2019

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.
3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations:
 - (a) Status of the Agreement and adopted amendment proposals;
 - (b) Amendment proposals (updating and extending the AGTC network).
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.

* 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). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at the following address:

<https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Ay7wKJ>.

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.

6. Climate change and intermodal transport.
7. Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links.
8. Review of National Transport and Logistics Systems.
9. Intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport.
10. Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.
11. Intermodal transport terminals.
12. Preparing National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics.
13. 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.
14. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
15. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.
16. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
17. Programme of work.
18. Other Business.
19. Date and venue of next session.
20. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) is expected to adopt the agenda for its sixty second session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/144

2. Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sustainable transport connectivity is a major contributor to an inclusive and sustainable development. Sustainable transport connectivity would mean achieving mainly:

- (a) seamless trans-border infrastructure;
- (b) seamless integration across transport modes;
- (c) effective administrative procedures that reduce congestion and delays at borders, or delays on route;
- (d) effective administrative procedures facilitating logistics and supporting delivery of high-quality logistics services;
- (e) effective policies that support the use of greener modes of transport; and
- (f) effective policies that support economic progress of underdeveloped territories.

Mindful of the relation between sustainable transport connectivity and inclusive and sustainable development, as well as of the benefits from the improved transport connectivity between Europe and Asia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eighty-first session (19-22 February 2019, Geneva) requested the ECE secretariat to continue working with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) secretariat to jointly organise consultations in Geneva on sustainable transport connectivity in the most cost-effective way. The ITC Bureau (4 June 2019, Geneva) further requested that an event is held in the framework of WP.24.

In response to this request, ECE and ESCAP secretariats are organising the Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia held as part of the current WP.24 session. The focus of the Forum is given to the main work areas of WP.24 being intermodal transport and logistics, ie. on seamless integration across transport modes and on effective administrative procedures that reduce delays at borders and on route and contribute to facilitating logistics.

The programme for the Forum is contained in Informal document No.1.

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, at the time of preparation of this agenda, had 32 Contracting Parties¹. Detailed information on the AGTC Agreement is available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

The secretariat is expected to present the new consolidated version of the AGTC Agreement (ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.7).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.7

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

At the previous WP.24 session, the Russian Federation submitted Informal document No. 4 (November 2018) proposing the inclusion in the AGTC Agreement of: (i) an important railway line for intermodal transport; (ii) new important terminals; (iii) new border crossing points; and (iv) a gauge interchange station. This document is submitted to the current session as the official document (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2019/1) for consideration and adoption by WP.24.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2019/1

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

(a) Status of the Protocol

The Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement (AGTC Protocol), at the time of preparation of this agenda, had nine Contracting Parties². Detailed information on the AGTC Protocol is available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

(b) Amendment proposals

WP.24 agreed at its previous session to consider differences between the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and the AGTC Protocol regarding European inland waterways and ports included in both instruments. To this end, the secretariat prepared ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2019/2 for the consideration by WP.24.

The secretariat to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) will inform WP.24 on the ongoing review of terminology used in inland waterways and possible impact on terminology of relevance to the combined transport.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2019/2

¹ 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.

² Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia and Switzerland.

5. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units

The secretariat will report on the collection of information on users of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). This information is obtained from the implementation of a registration form for downloading the CTU Code from the UNECE website.

The secretariat will further inform about options to develop a CTU Code mobile application.

The secretariat will also report on the approval process for the establishment of the Group of Experts on the CTU Code by the Inland Transport Committee as well as by the relevant International Labour Office (ILO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) governing bodies. WP.24 will be invited to consider the information provided and decide on the next steps.

6. Climate change and intermodal transport

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the outcomes of work of the Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes (Group of Experts), and in particular about the lessons learned by the Group of Experts and its recommendations aimed at better adaptation of transport networks and nodes to the impacts of climate change.

WP.24 will be invited to consider the Group of Experts' recommendations of relevance to its work.

7. Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links

The Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (agenda item 2) is organized in the framework of WP.24 to discuss the intermodal transport and logistics along Euro-Asian Transport Links.

8. Review of National Transport and Logistics Systems

The secretariat had received funds in the last years in order to prepare studies that evaluate the existing transport and logistics systems of different countries. The secretariat will update WP.24 on the status of studies undertaken in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

9. Intelligent transport systems and technological developments in intermodal transport

In line with the ECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012-2020 (ECE publication "ITS for sustainable mobility", 2012), WP.24 should be informed about, discuss and provide a platform for exchange of information and best practice on how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making intermodal transport systems attractive and "seamless" among different modes of transport. WP.24 may also address the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, especially 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.

Documentation

ECE publication "Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility" (2012)

10. Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

WP.24 had agreed at its previous session to hold its one-day workshop during the current session on “Intermodal transport and logistics’ role in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” At the request of ITC Bureau and decision to replace the agreed workshop with the Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics during the current session (agenda item 2), the workshop is postponed to the sixty-third session in 2020.

11. Intermodal transport terminals

The secretariat will report on its cooperation with International Union of Combined Road/Rail Transport Companies (UIRR) and Europlatforms aimed at preparing a study on mapping and categorizing types of terminals and related facilities in ECE region.

12. Preparing National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics

At its previous session, WP.24 approved the structure suggested for the draft handbook for preparing national master plans on freight transport and logistics and requested the secretariat to develop the first draft of the handbook. To this end, the secretariat will present Informal document No 2.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

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

(a) Trends and performance in the industry

WP.24 is invited to review recent developments in intermodal transport and logistics in ECE member States.

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

The European Commission (DG MOVE) is invited to inform WP.24 about its recent activities on intermodal transport and logistics.

(c) Pan-European developments in policies

WP.24 is invited to review recent developments in pan-European policies for intermodal transport and logistics.

(d) Intermodal transport statistics

The secretariat will inform about latest developments in transport statistics of relevance to WP.24.

14. National policy measures to promote intermodal transport

In accordance with a decision of ITC, WP.24 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 ECE 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 at its sixty-first session that the questionnaire be resent to member States in 2019.

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the circulation of the questionnaire and information collected.

15. Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the latest developments within the TIR Executive Board on the use of the TIR procedure for intermodal transport and possible approaches for the future.

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

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the main decisions of the eighty-first session of the Inland Transport Committee (19-22 February 2019, Geneva) on issues of its interest.

17. Programme of work

WP.24 is invited to take note of the decision of the Inland Transport Committee, who at its eighty-first session, requested the secretariat to discontinue the preparation of programmatic documents with a biennial coverage previously adopted by the Committee, including on the evaluation and monitoring, since they will no longer be relevant for the new programmatic cycle.

At the same time, WP.24 may wish to discuss whether and in which form it wishes to maintain the biennial programme of work and the five-year plan. The secretariat will provide a proposal to this end.

18. Other Business

At the time of drafting this provisional agenda, there were no proposals under this item.

19. Date and venue of next session

The sixty-third session of WP.24 is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 28 to 30 October 2020.

20. Summary of decisions

In line with established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary at the end of the session on the decisions taken by WP.24. 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 2020).

III. Tentative timetable

Wednesday 30 October	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 1-2
Thursday 31 October	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 3-5
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 6-11
Friday 1 November	9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Items 13-15
	2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Items 16-20
