



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics****Sixty-third session**

Geneva, 28–30 October 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-third session* ****

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 October 2020

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Session's workshop: Intermodal transport and logistics' role in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations:
 - (a) Status of the Agreement;
 - (b) Amendment proposals;
 - (c) Implementation of the Agreement.
4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement:
 - (a) Status of the Protocol;
 - (b) Amendment proposals;

* 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 ECE 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=ZXZhk4>
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.

- (c) Implementation of the Protocol.
- 5. Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport:
 - (a) Measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport and bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level;
 - (b) National policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
- 6. Emerging issues in freight transport and logistics:
 - (a) Issues, trends and performance in the industry;
 - (b) National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics;
 - (c) Pan-European developments in policies;
 - (d) Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.
- 7. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units.
- 8. Activities of the ECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
- 9. Programme of work.
- 10. Election of Officers for 2021–2022.
- 11. Other Business.
- 12. Date and venue of next session.
- 13. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/146

2. Session's workshop: Intermodal transport and logistics' role in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

At its last session, WP.24 reiterated its earlier decision to hold in the framework of the current session a workshop on Intermodal transport and logistics' role in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Informal document No.1 elaborates the concept for the workshop and includes its programme.

Documentation

Informal document No.1

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

(a) Status of the Agreement

The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (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 number of Contracting Parties remains unchanged for more than ten years. To this end, WP.24 may wish to consider ways for promoting the accession to the AGTC Agreement.

WP.24 initiated a process at its last session to clarify issues and inconsistencies identified by the secretariat in preparation of a new consolidated version of the AGTC Agreement (inconsistencies between adopted amendment proposals and the consolidated text and inconsistencies arising from the adopted amendment proposals). In this process, the secretariat was requested to establish communication with the Contracting Parties concerned and clarify the issues. To this end, the secretariat will inform WP.24 on its communication and present Informal document No.2 which contains the update on issues clarified in the consolidated version of the AGTC Agreement.

Documentation

Informal document No.2

(b) Amendment proposals

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the status of amendment proposals adopted by WP.24 at its sixty-second session on 31 October 2019 as contained in Annex I of ECE/TRANS/WP.24/145.

WP.24 will be then invited to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/9 which contain amendment proposals to Annex I and/or Annex II of the AGTC Agreement submitted by its Contracting Parties.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/1

(c) Implementation of the Agreement

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States had developed and adopted the AGTC Agreement convinced of the fact that combined transport which will be efficient and attractive to customers requires a co-ordinated development plan for it laid down in the legal framework.

In accordance with the Article 2 of the AGTC Agreement, Contracting Parties to the Agreement undertake to develop and operate the international combined transport network within the framework of national programmes.

Contracting Parties may wish to inform each other about successful national programmes and development and operation of the networks on their territories conforming with the co-ordinated development plan laid down in the AGTC Agreement.

WP.24 may wish to consider elaboration of a mechanism for information exchange on the implementation of the co-ordinated development plan laid down in the AGTC Agreement. Usage of the ECE Geographical Information System (GIS) could be discussed in this regard.

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.

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. The number of Contracting Parties remains unchanged for more than ten years. To this end, WP.24 may wish to consider ways for promoting the accession to the Protocol.

(b) Amendment proposals

WP.24 took note at its previous session of additional differences between the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN Agreement) and the AGTC Protocol regarding European inland waterways and ports included in both instruments. WP.24 further invited Contracting Parties to the AGTC Protocol to consider submission of an official amendment proposal to aligning the text of the AGTC Protocol to the AGN Agreement. At the time of preparation of this agenda, the secretariat has not received any amendment proposals.

(c) Implementation of the Protocol

ECE member States had developed and adopted the AGTC Protocol convinced of the fact that combined transport on inland waterways and on certain coastal routes which will be efficient and attractive to customers requires a co-ordinated development plan for it laid down in the legal framework.

In accordance with Article 2 of the AGTC Protocol, Contracting Parties to the Protocol undertake to develop and operate the international inland waterway network for combined transport within the framework of national programmes.

Contracting Parties may wish to inform each other about successful national programmes and development and operation of the inland waterway networks for combined transport on their territories conforming with the co-ordinated development plan laid down in the AGTC Protocol.

Similarly to item 3 (c) of the agenda, WP.24 may wish to consider elaboration of a mechanism for information exchange on the implementation of the co-ordinated development plan laid down in the AGTC Protocol. Usage of the ECE GIS could be also discussed in this regard.

5. Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport

(a) Measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport and bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level

Within this item, WP.24 may wish to continue its deliberations concerning issues such as (i) Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL), (ii) Intelligent transport systems and technological developments, (iii) Intermodal transport terminals and (iv) Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.

(i) Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links:

In the framework of its sixty-second session, WP.24 held a Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia. The outcomes of the Forum have been shared, among others, with the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), who had been mandated by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eight-first session in 2019 to

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

continue its work on the operationalization of the Euro-Asian Transport Corridors, and who had wished to consult WP.24 on ideas on how the corridor operationalisation could be further developed following the completion of the EATL phase III project. The input shared with WP.5 is contained in Informal document No.3. WP.5 is expected to consider this input at its thirty-third session to be held in Geneva on 7 to 9 September 2020.

The secretariat will inform WP.24 on the outcomes of the WP.5 discussion and proposed ways for the operationalization of the Euro-Asian Transport Corridors. WP.24 will be then invited to consider these outcomes so that in accordance with the ITC decision of the eighty-second session, contained in ECE/TRANS/294 para 52, common proposals from both Working Parties be elaborated for presentation through ITC Bureau to ITC at its eighty-third session in 2021. WP.24 may wish in particular to formulate proposals to prioritize measures for promoting efficiency of intermodal transport, addressing bottlenecks in intermodal transport services and promoting the implementation of the AGTC Agreement (agenda item 3 (c)).

Under this item, WP.24 may also consider outcomes from the ongoing United Nations Development Account's project on developing a set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN).

(ii) Intelligent transport systems and technological developments:

WP.24 discussed and exchanged information and best practice at its previous sessions on how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making intermodal transport systems attractive and "seamless" among different modes of transport. To continue these deliberations, and further to the ITC decision at the eighty-second session, contained in ECE/TRANS/294 para 32 requesting an update of the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Road Map, WP.24 may wish to provide inputs to the process aimed at updating the ITS Road Map. In doing so, WP.24 may take into account ITS actions and policy measures included in the ECE handbook for national master plans for freight transport and logistics (agenda item 6(b)).

WP.24 may then wish to continue its discussion on the digitalization of documents in intermodal transport and consider collaboration and synergies with ECE Trade Division, the UN/CEFACT Programme. In this context, the secretariat will report on the opportunities for synergies.

(iii) Intermodal transport terminals:

At its previous session, WP.24 considered Rail Facility Portal (<https://railfacilitiesportal.eu/>) presented by the International Union of Combined Road/Rail Transport Companies (UIRR). WP.24 also requested secretariat to disseminate among non-EU ECE member States the questionnaire for Intermodal Transport Terminals and Freight Villages, as reviewed at the sixty-first session, and to collect data from these countries similar to the information available in the Rail Facility Portal. The secretariat was further requested to work with UIRR on exploring possibilities for providing access to information on terminals for the entire ECE region in a way which would be welcome by all countries.

By the time of preparing this agenda, the secretariat has not received any questionnaires completed by the non-EU ECE member States whose information would not be included in the Rail Facility Portal. In view of this, WP.24 may consider its role in facilitating access to information on intermodal transport terminals. When doing so, WP.24 should take into account the decisions made under item 3 (c).

(iv) Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention:

At its previous session, WP.24 expressed interests in the case studies on the intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention and requested to discuss them as part of the agenda of the sixty-third session in 2020. Further to this request, Informal document No.4 introduces the case studies.

WP.24 will be invited to discuss the case studies and agree on possible ways forward.

Documentation

Informal document No.3, Informal document No.4

(b) 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; and (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 was available in English, French and Russian at the beginning of 2020 (<http://apps.unece.org/NatPolWP24/>).

WP.24 had 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 to collect updated information. Six completed questionnaires were received before the sixty-second session. One additional completed questionnaire was received as a response to a reminder sent at the request of WP.24 after the sixty-second session on 3 March 2020.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/3 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/4 present the up-to-date information on measures collected through the questionnaire. This information has been also included in the electronic platform.

In accordance with its mandate, WP.24 may wish to discuss the national measures for promoting intermodal transport. WP.24 may also wish to review ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/4

6. Emerging issues in freight transport and logistics**(a) Issues, trends and performance in the industry**

The current year has been marked by the COVID-19 pandemics. It has caused not only an immense pressure on health systems and production lines but, due to mobility restrictions and border closures, it also has disrupted the international transport of essential supplies among ECE member countries, in particular in the first phase of response to the pandemics. The Chair of WP.24 supported by the secretariat organized an informal virtual meeting of the Friends of the Chair on 26 June 2020 to discuss the COVID-19 impacts on intermodal transport and logistics and the WP.24 role in the aftermath to the pandemics. ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/5 summarizes the discussions held and introduces possible ways forward for WP.24 consideration.

WP.24 will be invited to continue the discussion started at the Friends of the Chair meeting. In particular, WP.24 will be encouraged to reflect on ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/5 and agree on possible ways forward and/or follow-up actions.

WP.24 will be also invited to consider any recent activities on intermodal transport and logistics if such are brought to its attention by stakeholders such as the European Commission, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Finally, the secretariat will inform about recent developments in transport statistics of relevance to WP.24.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/5

(b) National Master Plans on freight transport and logistics

At its previous session, WP.24 reviewed and welcomed the draft handbook for preparing national master plans on freight transport and logistics. WP.24 also requested additional inputs to the handbook, in particular to populate it with specific policy measures in support of the implementation of the national master plans.

At the current session, WP.24 will be invited to review ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/6, and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/7 and endorse them for issuing in a publication,

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/6 deliberates on the importance of the logistics sector for the national economies, discusses the role of the governments in freight transport and logistics as well as informs of good practices from ECE member countries in preparing freight transport and logistics master plans.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/7 contains the proposal for the guidelines for the development of national master plans for freight transport and logistics and policy measures in support of the implementation of the national master plans.

Informal document No.5 presents the draft handbook.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/6, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/7, Informal document No.5

(c) Pan-European developments in policies.

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

(d) Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

WP.24 is invited to consider ideas for a theme on which a workshop could be organized in the framework of its sixty-fourth session in 2021. Informal document No.6 contains several ideas for consideration.

Documentation

Informal document No.6

7. 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 ECE website.

WP.24 will be then invited to advise on a pre-work to the Group of Experts on the CTU Code further to its decision of the previous session. The pre-work had to result in an assessment of the sections of CTU Code which should have been prioritised in the updates and in solutions for a possible CTU Code's text usage in a mobile application.

A meeting to deliver on the pre-work was scheduled to take place on 27 and 28 May 2020 with a possible follow-up. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemics the meeting needed to be postponed. At the time of the preparation of the agenda, it appeared unlikely that the meeting could be organised before the sixty-third session.

In view of the emerged situation, WP.24 in advising on the pre-work may wish to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/8 which was prepared by the Russian Federation and lists sections of the CTU Code proposed for updating.

Finally, WP.24 may wish to consider information on the progress in establishing the Group of Experts on the CTU Code. Updated information will be provided by the secretariat, the International Labour Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation, as appropriate.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2020/8

8. Activities of the ECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the main decisions of the eighty-second session of ITC and the 2020 ITC Bureau meetings on issues of its interests, in particular decisions related to the implementation of the ITC Strategy. Informal document No.7 presents the status of work in implementing the ITC Strategy of relevance to WP.24. It further formulates next steps to advance implementation for contemplation by WP.24. Among the next steps of relevance to WP.24, there is one which suggests an establishment of a Group of Experts on Intermodal Passenger Transport to report partially/fully to WP.24.

WP.24 will be invited to reflect on Informal document No.7 and offer its views for further consideration by the ITC.

The secretariat will also inform about the adoption by ITC of its revised Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference. WP.24 should consider this information as well as availability of its own Rules of Procedure.

The secretariat will further inform about activities of ITC subsidiary bodies whose work has not been covered under other items of this agenda, among them, on the work of a newly established Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

Documentation

Informal document No.7

9. Programme of work

At its previous session, WP.24 initially agreed on the four main clusters for its long-term work programme (2020-2030) as well as specific activities and expected accomplishments under each cluster for its biennial 2020-2021 programme of work. WP.24 further agreed that the Russian Federation may provide comments to the initially agreed programmes of work at the current session.

WP.24 may wish to consider further adjustments to its long-term and biennial programmes of work in view of the steps that have been proposed to advance implementation of the ITC Strategy (agenda item 8). WP.24 may also wish to assess its Terms of Reference against the long-term programme of work and decide if it would like to start a process to review its Terms of Reference.

10. Election of Officers for 2021–2022

WP.24 is invited to elect a Chair and possibly a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2021 and 2022.

11. Other Business

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

12. Date and venue of next session

The sixty-fourth session of WP.24 is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 20 to 22 October 2021.

13. Summary of decisions

WP.24 will be invited to review and adopt the decisions taken at the sixty-third session.

III. Tentative timetable

Wednesday, 28 October	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 1-2
	3-6 p.m.	Item 2
Thursday, 29 October	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 3-4
	3-6 p.m.	Items 5
Friday, 30 October	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Items 6-7
	2.30-5.30 p.m.	Items 8-13
