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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics¹
(7 and 8 March 2005)

UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics
(8 March 2005)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY²**

**to be held at OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris,
starting at 09.30 hours on Tuesday, 8 March 2005**

1. Adoption of the agenda [TRANS/WP.24/106](#)³
2. Election of officers

¹ The UNECE and ECMT have adopted cooperative arrangements in establishing the “Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics” consisting of separate ECMT and UNECE segments, the UNECE segment consisting of its Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

² For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE secretariat (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: WP.24@unece.org). Documents are also available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>. Delegations are requested to complete the attached registration form (also available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/info.delegates.html>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest, two weeks prior to the session.

³ Document references are hyperlinked, allowing on-line access (in PDF format); just click on reference number.

3. ECMT/UNECE Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia (Kiev, 27-28 September 2004) [TRANS/WP.24/2005/1](#)
[TRANS/SC.2/2004/3](#)
[TRANS/WP.5/2004/3](#)
[TRANS/WP.5/2004/3/Add.1](#)
[TRANS/WP.5/2004/4](#)
4. Outcome of the forty-second session of the Working Party [TRANS/WP.24/105](#)
5. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)
 - (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement [ECE/TRANS/88/Rev. 2](#)
 - (b) Status of amendment proposals adopted by the Working Party [TRANS/WP.24/103/Corr.1](#)
[C.N.724.2004.TREATIES-1](#)
 - (c) New amendment proposals [TRANS/WP.24/2005/2](#)
[TRANS/WP.24/2004/6](#)
 - (d) Inventory of existing AGTC standards and parameters UNECE Publication [TRANS/WP.24/2005/5](#)
("Yellow Book")
6. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) [ECE/TRANS/122 and Corr.1 and 2](#)
7. Development of combined and intermodal transport at the pan-European level [TRANS/WP.24/2005/3](#)
[TRANS/WP.24/2004/5](#)
[TRANS/WP.24/2004/3](#)
[TRANS/WP.24/2003/6](#)
8. Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport [TRANS/WP.24/2005/4](#)
[TRANS/WP.24/2004/4](#)
[ECE/TRANS/97](#)
[TRANS/SEM.10/3](#)

9. Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing intermodal transport [TRANS/WP.24/2002/6](#)
10. Date of next sessions
11. Summary of decisions taken

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda ([TRANS/WP.24/106](#)).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chairperson and possibly a Vice-chairperson for its sessions to be held in 2005.

3. ECMT/UNECE SEMINAR ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA (KIEV, 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2004)⁴

The Working Party may wish to consider and review the conclusions of the Kiev Seminar ([TRANS/WP.24/2005/1](#)). In this context, it may also wish to consider the latest developments along the four important Euro-Asian land transport corridors based on documentation prepared by the UNECE secretariat ([TRANS/SC.2/2004/3](#); [TRANS/WP.5/2004/3/Add.1](#)) and the Governments of Poland and Turkey ([TRANS/WP.5/2004/3](#) and [TRANS/WP.5/2004/4](#))⁵.

4. OUTCOME OF THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

The report of the forty-second session of the Working Party, prepared by the UNECE secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman, is contained in document [TRANS/WP.24/105](#) for information and review by the Working Party. It has been submitted to the [sixty-seventh session](#) of the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE (15-17 February 2005).

5. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

As of 1 January 2005, the AGTC Agreement has 26 Contracting Parties⁶. The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement.

⁴ Consideration of this item as well as discussions on possible follow-up activities to the Kiev Seminar are planned to be held during the ECMT segment of the Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group, possibly on 7 March 2005.

⁵ Further information on the joint UNECE-UNESCAP Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages is available at <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/eatl/intro.html>.

⁶ Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Luxembourg; Kazakhstan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey.

The updated text of the AGTC Agreement (in English, French and Russian) is contained in document [ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.2](#). Hard copies may be obtained from the UNECE secretariat (e-mail: WP.24@unece.org).

(b) Status of amendment proposals adopted by the Working Party

The Working Party may wish to note that the amendment proposals proposed by the Russian Federation and adopted by the Working Party at its forty-first session ([TRANS/WP.24/103/Corr.1](#)) have been circulated by the Depository on 6 July 2004 (Depository Notification [C.N.724.2004.TREATIES-1](#)). The period for objections will expire on 6 January 2005.

(c) New amendment proposals

With a view to updating the AGTC Agreement and to extending its geographical scope, including important Euro-Asian transport links, the Working Party may wish to consider amendment proposals to Annexes I and II of the AGTC Agreement compiled and consolidated by the UNECE secretariat ([TRANS/WP.24/2005/2](#)). Most of these proposals have already been considered and endorsed preliminarily at the forty-second session of the Working Party on the basis of secretariat document [TRANS/WP.24/2004/6](#).

In accordance with article 15 of the AGTC Agreement, the Working Party may wish to formally adopt these proposals for transmission to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section for necessary depositary action.

(d) Inventory of AGTC standards and parameters

In accordance with the request of the Working Party, the secretariat has transmitted pre-filled questionnaires to all Contracting Parties for the collection of 2002 data relating to the AGTC Agreement and on the relevance of the existing infrastructure and performance standards contained therein (“[Yellow Book](#)”). The Working Party will be informed of progress made in the analysis of the data received that are planned to be published under the “[Yellow Book](#)” series.

The Working Party may wish to consider document [TRANS/WP.24/2005/5](#) providing a summary of the questionnaire replies on the relevance of the existing infrastructure and performance standards contained in the AGTC Agreement. In this context, the Working Party may also wish to discuss how to ensure coherence between the technical infrastructure parameters of the AGTC and the AGC Agreements, the Trans-European and Pan-European transport networks and the infrastructure standards of access to national rail networks (European Directive 2001/14/CE).

6. PROTOCOL ON COMBINED TRANSPORT ON INLAND WATERWAYS TO THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)

As of 1 January 2005 the Protocol has seven Contracting Parties⁷. It will come into force following ratification by at least five States, of which three States are linked, in a continuous manner, by the waterways identified in the Protocol. Amendment proposals transmitted to the Working Party at its twenty-ninth session by France, Hungary and Romania (Informal document No. 1 (1998); TRANS/WP.24/79, para. 20) as well as amendment proposals transmitted to the secretariat by the Government of Bulgaria may be considered by the Working Party as soon as the Protocol enters into force. The text of the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement is contained in document [ECE/TRANS/122 and Corr.1 \(F\) and Corr.2 \(R\)](#).

The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made in the ratification of the Protocol following transmission of a communication by the secretariat to concerned Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF COMBINED AND INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AT THE PAN-EUROPEAN LEVEL

The Working Party may wish to recall that the objective of its work on “model” action plans and partnership agreements was to identify good practices and establish benchmarks to assist Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement, and all actors involved in international intermodal transport services, to cooperate with each other at the policy as well as at technical and commercial levels, with a view to improving the competitiveness of international intermodal transport services in the region.

At its forty-second session, the Working Party considered document [TRANS/WP.24/2004/5](#) containing such “models” prepared by its group of experts. The document also contained proposals to ensure visibility and effective application of these models and benchmarks. Finally, the document contained a large number of amendment proposals to the AGTC Agreement as well as provisions of a draft resolution for adoption by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and endorsement by the Council of Ministers of ECMT. Not being able to take a final position on these proposals, the Working Party decided to opt, at that stage, for the preparation of a recommendation or resolution in this field ([TRANS/WP.24/105, paras. 17-19](#)).

In line with the request of the Working Party the secretariat has prepared document [TRANS/WP.24/2005/3](#) for consideration and adoption.

⁷ Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Switzerland.

Background documentation: [TRANS/WP.24/2004/3](#); [TRANS/WP.24/2003/6](#).

8. MONITORING OF WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS OF LOADING UNITS IN INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

At its forty-first session, the Working Party considered the outcome of the plenary session of ISO Technical Committee TC 104 that had considered the possible standardization of 45 ft containers and had requested to clarify the applicability of Inland Transport Committee (ITC) resolution No. 241 of 5 February 1993 on “Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units in Combined Transport” ([TRANS/WP.24/103](#), paras. 21-23). On the basis of document [TRANS/WP.24/2004/4](#), the Working Party considered the text of resolution No. 241 as well as related information on a similar resolution adopted at the Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport (Geneva, 1-4 September 1992) (ECE/TRANS/97;TRANS/SEM.10/3)⁸. Noting that in most European countries the length of the ISO-considered 45 ft container would come in conflict with national road transport regulations that were not likely to be modified to accommodate the transport of such loading units on a regular basis, the Working Party requested the secretariat to consult with UNECE member States with a view to obtaining a representative opinion on the ISO proposals to standardize maritime containers with the following dimensions: 45’ x 8’ x 9’6” (Length x Width x Height).

On the basis of secretariat document [TRANS/WP.24/2005/4](#), the Working Party may wish to consider the results of this consultation and decide on further steps to be taken, including a possible communication to ISO TC 104.

9. RECONCILIATION AND HARMONIZATION OF CIVIL LIABILITY REGIMES GOVERNING INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

At its fortieth session, the Working Party considered the work undertaken by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the preparation of a draft instrument on the carriage of goods wholly or partly by sea. This instrument, originally only conceived as covering maritime port-to-port transport, would in its present version also extend to door-to-door transport as long as a sea leg was involved and would thus be applicable to European intermodal port hinterland transport and European short-sea shipping services. Its provisions based on maritime law might, therefore, come in conflict with existing European land transport law, particularly with the CMR Convention (for road) or COTIF/CIM for rail. The new instrument might also affect the efforts of the Working Party to promote a uniform and transparent European liability regime for intermodal transport operations, including short-sea shipping, that ensures a level playing field among all the modes used in European intermodal

⁸ These documents are not accessible on-line, but could be provided by the UNECE secretariat upon request.

transport, based on European benchmarks, such as those enshrined in the CMR ([TRANS/WP.24/101](#), paras. 24-28).

The Working Party may wish to be informed of the latest activities in this field by experts of the [UNCITRAL Working Group III](#) (Transport Law). It may also wish to take note of activities undertaken by the European Commission on the concept of “freight integrators” whose work would be facilitated by establishing a single legal framework defining liability rules and appropriate transport documents.

Background documentation: [TRANS/WP.24/2002/6](#).

10. DATE OF NEXT SESSIONS

The autumn session of the joint Working Party/Group has already been scheduled to be held from 26 to 28 September 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It will be hosted by the UNECE. The ECMT segment is planned to be held on 26 September 2005 and the UNECE segment on 27 and 28 September 2005.

11. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

At the end of the session, a brief summary of the decisions will be made by the Chairperson ([TRANS/WP.24/63](#), para. 54⁹). Following the session, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairperson, will establish a short report on the outcome of the session for formal adoption at the autumn session of the Working Party.

⁹ This document is not accessible on-line, but could be provided by the UNECE secretariat upon request.

Conference Registration Form

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Title of the Conference

UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)
(OECD Headquarters, 2, rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris (France))

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Date of Birth

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

Head of Delegation Members <input type="checkbox"/>	Observer Organisation <input type="checkbox"/>	Participating From / Until
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