

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics¹
UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics
Geneva, 27-28 September 2005

Decisions taken at the meeting

The latest session of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics was held on 27 and 28 September 2005 and was hosted by the UNECE at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

14 UNECE member States, 3 inter-governmental organizations and 10 non-governmental organizations and industries attended the meeting.

The meeting considered a large number of issues on the facilitation of intermodal transport in a pan-European context and took the following decisions:

(a) Euro-Asian intermodal transport lines

In line with the plan of action adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers, the meeting decided to establish, at a first step, an observatory on two or three major intermodal transport lines along Euro-Asian transport corridors. The observatory should serve as a centre for information on functioning of these lines, provide a forum for the exchange of views among operators and Governments and propose, if necessary, concrete corrective measures on the basis of best practices. The secretariat, in cooperation with the Ukraine and the two chairmen of the Joint Working Party, will develop the Terms of Reference of such an observatory.

(b) Border crossing facilitation procedures on Euro-Asian land transport lines

The ECMT/UNECE Kiev Seminar had identified the persistent problems at border crossings, particularly in rail transport, as one of the main weaknesses for the effective development of land transport linkages between Europe and Asia. Subsequently, the ECMT Council of Ministers, in its plan of action, has underlined that priority needs to be given to these issues.

In order to address this situation, the Working Party recommended that:

- (i) Negotiation of a unified railway law system, replacing the present artificial separation between COTIF and SMGS regimes, should be initiated as soon as possible in order to ensure direct carriage by rail under a single legal regime from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In the short term, the development of a common CIM/SMGS consignment note as currently pursued by CIT and OSZhD should be completed as soon as

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).

possible and made operational as of September 2006 at least on the following East-West rail lines: (i) Berlin-Moscow (-Nischni-Novgorod) and (ii) Dresden-Kiev.

(ii) Development of a common pan-European rail Customs transit system should be initiated allowing for use of the rail consignment note as a Customs declaration, introduction of international Customs control and guarantee systems and thus establishment of a level playing field with road transport.

As provisional measures, SMGS member States should adopt UNECE WP.30 Resolution No. 50. Furthermore, the UNECE Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage by Rail under cover of SMGS Consignment Notes should enter into force as soon as possible.

(iii) Insertion of an Annex on international rail transport into the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982), similar to the already developed annex on road transport, should be accorded high priority by the UNECE Working Party WP.30.

(c) Programme of work

The meeting adopted the programme of work of the UNECE Working Party for the period 2006-2010.

(d) Next session

The next session of the Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party is scheduled for 29 and 30 March 2006 in Geneva.

The full report of the meeting is available under:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-reports/24reps.html>

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