

ALBANIA JOINS EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)

On 22 May 2008 Albania acceded to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC), bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to that Agreement to 32¹. The Agreement will enter into force for Albania on 19 August 2008.

The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) is a treaty prepared and administered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to provide a framework for the development of international combined road/rail transport infrastructure and services at the Pan-European level with a view to facilitating international transport of goods.

With growing international trade, international transport of goods and in particular road transport is increasing rapidly, which may in turn cause adverse effects on the environment. By combining different modes of transport, using rail for the main haul and road for collection and distribution only, environmental damages could be reduced and the burden on the European road network alleviated.

The AGTC provides an international legal framework which lays down a coordinated plan for the development of combined transport services and the infrastructure necessary for their operation based on internationally agreed performance parameters and standards. The aim of the framework is to make international combined transport in Europe more efficient and attractive to customers.

The agreement was established in December 1992. Several amendments have updated and consolidated it over the years. Recently the AGTC network has been extended to the Baltic region and to Central Asia. Work is underway to cover the Caucasus region. The AGTC is administered by the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) which is monitoring its national implementation through a web tool providing online access to information on relevant infrastructure and performance standards in the 32 Contracting States to the Agreement. (<http://unece.unog.ch/wp24/agtc.aspx>).

For further information please contact:

Eva Molnar, Director, or
Martin Magold, Chief, Sustainable Transport Section
Palais des Nations CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0) 22 917 2400, 917 3259 or 3258 Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 0039
E-mail: eva.molnar@unece.org
Martin.magold@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>

¹ For a list of all Contracting Parties to the AGTC, see:
http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/AGTC_ContractingParties.html

