



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

Geneva, 18–20 October 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session* ****

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 in the Salle VII

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Session's workshops: Ways to create demand for intermodal transport and for analysing potential for modal shift.
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.
 - (d) Core networks.
4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations.
 - (a) Status of the Protocol.
 - (b) Amendment proposals.

* 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: <https://unece.org/transport/events/wp24-working-party-intermodal-transport-and-logistics-66th-session>.

** Participation is possible in-person only. Delegates are requested to register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1002247/>. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Pavillon located at Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix), open on weekdays from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (+41 22 917 2432) or by email (WP.24@un.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, please visit <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>.

- (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.
 - (i) Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links;
 - (ii) Intelligent transport systems and technological developments;
 - (iii) Information and document digitalization;
 - (iv) Handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics;
 - (v) Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.
 - (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) Pan-European developments in policies.
 - (c) 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. Other Business.
- 11. Date and venue of next session.
- 12. 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-sixth session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/152

2. Session's workshops: Ways to create demand for intermodal transport and for analysing potential for modal shift

At its last session, WP.24 agreed to hold two half-day workshops during its sixty-sixth session at which experience, and good practice be shared in: (i) promoting intermodal transport and in creating demand for it; and (ii) analysing the potential for modal shift from road to railway and inland waterways. Informal document No. 1 contains background information and programme for the workshops.

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), at the time of preparation of this agenda, had 33 Contracting Parties.¹ Detailed information on the AGTC is available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html. With reference to the Inland Transport Committee's (ITC) adopted resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport, which among others invites further accession to the AGTC, WP.24 may wish to consider ways for promoting these further accessions.

WP.24 agreed at its previous session to publish a new consolidated text of the AGTC reflecting accepted amendment proposal. This publication, Revision 7, is now available at <https://unece.org/transport/publications/european-agreement-important-international-combined-transport-lines-and>.

WP.24 also requested the secretariat to continue working with the Contracting Parties on clarifying outstanding inconsistencies which could not have been addressed in the process of the preparation of the Revision 7. To this end, the secretariat will inform WP.24 on progress made in clarifying the remaining issues.

(b) Amendment proposals

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the status of amendment proposals adopted by WP.24 at its sixty-fifth session on 20 October 2022 as contained in annex 1 of ECE/TRANS/WP.24/151.

WP.24 will be then invited to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/2 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/3 which contain amendment proposals submitted to the annex I and/or annex II of the AGTC.

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, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

(c) **Implementation of the Agreement**

WP.24 had agreed at its sixty-fourth session to establish a monitoring mechanism for the AGTC lines and related installation vis-à-vis their technical parameters by creating the AGTC inventory in Geographic Information System (GIS) environment. It had further agreed that the mechanism should possibly be fully established before the sixty-sixth session in 2023 during which time data should be pooled into the GIS environment from other existing databases or submitted directly and validated by the Contracting Parties. The secretariat will report on the progress achieved in the establishment of the monitoring mechanism.

WP.24 also reviewed at its sixty-fifth session the availability of data in the Contracting Parties for measuring the performance targets referred to in the AGTC. WP.24 agreed to re-disseminate the survey to collect answers from more Contracting Parties. The secretariat will present ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/4, which reproduces the responses provided in 2022 together with additional responses.

WP.24 should then consider experience of various entities in collecting data on transport performance.

(d) **Core networks**

WP.24 requested the secretariat at the last session on the issue of the core networks/lines and special procedures to contact Contracting Parties to the AGTC in order to request them to provide their views on special procedures for cross-border communication in case of emergencies. The secretariat will report on the views received.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/4

4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations

(a) **Status of the Protocol**

The Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC (AGTC Protocol), at the time of preparation of this agenda, had nine Contracting Parties.² Detailed information on the AGTC Protocol is available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

(b) **Amendment proposals**

WP.24 had taken note at its sixty-second session of additional 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. WP.24 further invited Contracting Parties to the AGTC Protocol to consider submission of an official amendment proposal to align the text of the AGTC Protocol to the AGN. At the time of a preparation of this provisional agenda no submission was received by the secretariat.

(c) **Implementation of the Protocol**

WP.24 welcomed at its last meeting the preparation of the ITC's resolution on facilitating the development of container transport on inland waterways. This resolution was adopted by ITC at its eighty-fifth session (Geneva, 21–24 February 2023). At the current session, WP.24 is invited to consider means to implement this resolution.

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

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; (ii) Intelligent transport systems and technological developments; (iii) Information and document digitalization; (iv) Handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics; and (v) Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.

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

At its sixty-fifth session, WP.24 was briefed by the secretary to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) on progress in implementing by the Governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and Ukraine a Corridor Coordination Management Mechanism and a Corridor Performance Review Mechanism for the Trans-Caspian corridor. In this context, the WP.5 secretary will brief WP.24 on further progress achieved in this work.

Under this item, the WP.5 secretary will also inform WP.24 about further progress made under the United Nations Development Account's project on developing a set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators and International Transport Infrastructure Observatory.

(ii) *Intelligent transport systems and technological developments*

Further to the adoption by ITC of a Road Map until 2025 on Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and its action 12 on enhancing the modal integrator's role of ITS, WP.24 may wish to discuss its work in support of the ITS development for modal integration and request its Chair and the secretariat to report it to ITC.

(iii) *Information and document digitalization*

WP.24 requested its secretariat in collaboration with Germany to prepare for the current session a draft framework on information and document digitalization. This framework should list and discuss topics relevant to information and document digitalization for consideration by WP.24. As one of the topics to be covered by the framework, digitalization of documents accompanying road or rail consignment notes should be addressed. ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/5 contains a draft framework for WP.24 consideration.

(iv) *Handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics*

At its last session, WP.24 agreed to start a process for elaborating a handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics sector. It requested the secretariat and interested country representatives to elaborate an annotated outline for the handbook for consideration at the current session. ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/6 contains such an outline.

(v) *Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention*

The TIR secretariat will be invited to inform about further developments on the application of TIR system to intermodal transport.

(b) National policy measures to promote intermodal transport

In accordance with a decision of ITC, WP.24 continues work of 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, paragraph 90).

Comparable information for 19 ECE member States is currently available in English, French and Russian (<http://apps.unece.org/NatPolWP24/>).

At its previous session, WP.24 agreed to a simple solution for reporting on national policy measures for promoting intermodal transport. Such solution should comprise a survey issued in MS Forms for completion by countries. WP.24 also agreed that the current survey should be examined and possibly redesigned to: (i) refocus it with the view to avoid duplication of information collection; and (ii) alter it in a way to allow for automatic identification of measures which WP.24 should give more attention to.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/7 contains a proposal for redesign of the survey for consideration by WP.24.

Given a consent on the content of the new survey, WP.24 may also decide on requesting the secretariat to initiate new round of reporting for collection of information from WP.24 countries between the current and the sixty-seventh session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/5, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/6, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/7

6. Emerging issues in freight transport and logistics

(a) Issues, trends and performance in the industry

The ITC-adopted resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport calls upon WP.24 to undertake various actions. In addition to the actions already referred under items 3 and 4 related to the AGTC Agreement and the AGTC Protocol, and item 5 (a) (ii) with regard to automation, document digitalization and data interoperability, the resolution requests WP.24 to work on: (i) appropriate targets for the market share of intermodal transport in freight sector and a plan for achieving the targets; and (ii) support to collaborative networks for flexible transport planning processes and integration of modes and for strengthening the voice of the intermodal industry.

In this context, for setting the appropriate targets for intermodal transport, WP.24 requested the secretariat to prepare a document with information on rail unitization and rail modal share for ECE countries. ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/8 provides this information.

On collaborative networks, WP.24 agreed at its last session that it is providing a platform for strengthening the voice of the intermodal industry. In this regard, countries may wish to exchange latest developments in this field.

WP.24 also decided to support self-learning and development of e-courses for integration in LearnITC. WP.24 may therefore wish to explore ideas and ways for e-course development.

WP.24 should also consider new developments in International Contingency Management System for road, rail and waterway on a specific corridor, to which end, WP.5 secretariat will report on work started in this field.

WP.24 will be then invited to consider any recent issues and trends 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.

(b) Pan-European developments in policies

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

WP.24 should also consider the role that intermodal terminals could play for providing charging infrastructure for electric light- and heavy-duty vehicles and exchange possible developments in their countries in this regard.

(c) 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-seventh session in 2024. Informal document No. 2 lists specific proposals for WP.24's consideration.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/8, Informal document No. 2

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 UNECE website.

WP.24 will be then invited to consider the results of the pre-work to the Group of Experts on the CTU Code. This pre-work was continued during 2023 in accordance with WP.24 decision at its previous session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/151, paragraph 97) and further to the absence of the consideration towards the establishment of the Group of Experts by the Sectoral Advisory Bodies of the International Labour Organisation at their seating on 18–20 January 2023.

WP.24 will be invited in particular to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/9 which contains the reports of the informal meetings held in 2023. This document also contains information on updated proposals for prioritization of specific modification to the CTU Code further to: (i) comments received after the WP.24 sixty-fifth session; and (ii) elaboration of proposals on outstanding issues.

WP.24 should then discuss the preparation to its special session on CTU Code on 5–7 December 2023, as mandated by ITC, during which the proposed modifications to CTU Code be reviewed and, if and as appropriate, adopted.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/9

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-fifth session of ITC and the 2023 ITC Bureau meeting on issues of interest to WP.24, in particular ITC decisions related to the WP.24 areas of work.

Information will be also provided on the letters received by WP.24 Chair from the ITC Chair and the Sustainable Transport Division's Director: (i) of 9 May 2023 inviting the working parties support to the development of the ITC Strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport (strategy); and (ii) of 18 May 2023 inviting working parties support and contribution to key decisions related to alignment process to ITC governance framework and to fourth cycle of reviews of working parties' mandates.

Informal documents No.3 will be presented to facilitate WP.24 discussion on the contribution requested regarding the strategy.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/10 contains the information on the work undertaken by WP.24 for aligning to ITC governance framework and input to WP.24 review of its mandate.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/10, Informal document No. 3

9. Programme of work

WP.24 should evaluate its biennial 2022–2023 programme of work and agree on a new biennial 2024–2025 programme of work. To this end, WP.24 is invited to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/11 which contains a review of 2022–2023 accomplishments and a proposal for specific activities and expected accomplishments for the 2024–2025 biennium.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/11

10. Other Business

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

11. Date and venue of next session

The sixty-seventh session of WP.24 is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 16 to 18 October 2024.

12. Summary of decisions

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

III. Tentative timetable

Wednesday 18 October	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 1–2
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 2 (cont'd)
Thursday 19 October	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 3–4
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 5
Friday 20 October	9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Item 6–7
	2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Items 8–12
