



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/120
7 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fiftieth session

Geneva, 6-7 October 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTIETH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 15.00 hours on Monday, 6 October 2008^{1, 2}

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/120³

¹ 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 UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (wp.24@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>>. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail (carole.marilley@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). 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 (ext. 740 30 or 734 57). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>>.

³ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>

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| 2. | Adoption of the report of the forty-ninth session | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119 |
| 3. | UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/200
ECE/TRANS/WP.6/155
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/44
Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 4. | Fiftieth session of the Working Party:
Looking back and peering forward | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/6 |
| 5. | European Commission (DG TREN) | Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 6. | Transport and Security | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/7
ECE/TRANS/200
TRANS/WP.24/109
TRANS/WP.24/103 |
| 7. | New developments in intermodal transport and logistics | Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 8. | Monitoring and analysis of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/5 and Addenda
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5
ECE/TRANS/192
CEMT/CM(2002)3/Final |
| 9. | Peer review on intermodal transport policy in Turkey | Informal documentation
(available at the session)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| 10. | Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia | Informal documentation
(available at the session)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117
Informal document No. 9 (2007)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/1 |
| 11. | Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport

Impact of “mega-trucks” on European roads and intermodal transport | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/8
Informal document No. 3 (2008)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |

12. Modern transport chains and logistics
Freight transport logistics and intermodal transport **ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/4**
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/1
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/3
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117
13. Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/5
14. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)⁴ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>
- (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.4
- (b) Status of adopted amendment proposals ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119
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ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/3,
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15. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>
- (a) Status of the Protocol ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1-2
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16. Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2009
17. Date of next session
18. Summary of decisions TRANS/WP.24/63
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⁴ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>; <<http://unece.unog.ch/wp24/agtc.aspx>>

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/120).

Item 2. Adoption of the report of the forty-ninth session

2. The Working Party may wish to formally adopt the report of its forty-ninth session prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119).

Item 3. UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies

3. The Working Party may wish to be informed of recent activities undertaken in the framework of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/200) and, in particular, the results of its following subsidiary bodies:

- (a) Working Party on Transport Statistics (28-30 May 2008), including the 2005 E-Road and E-Rail Census programme (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/155);
- (b) Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (9-10 September 2008) (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/44), including the UNECE Conference on Hinterland Connections of Sea Ports (Piraeus, 17-18 September 2008).⁵

Item 4. Fiftieth session of the Working Party: Looking back and peering forward

4. On the occasion of its fiftieth session, the Working Party may wish to briefly reflect on its role and work undertaken since its creation in September 1979 under the name of "Group of Experts on Combined Transport" and the chairmanship of Mr. M. Beazley (United Kingdom). The broader history of the Group goes back to July 1951 when the UNECE Inland Transport Committee decided to set up a "Working Party on Containers". A short document prepared by the secretariat traces some of the achievements of the Working Party and its predecessors during the past 57 years (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/6).

5. In addition to looking back, the Working Party may also wish to have a brief exchange of views on its future role and activities that could provide first ideas and elements for a review of its programme of work to be undertaken in 2009.

Item 5. European Commission (DG TREN)

6. The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for future work of the European Commission (DG TREN) relating to intermodal transport and logistics.

Item 6. Transport and security

7. The Working Party may wish to recall that the ITC had requested its subsidiary bodies to act expeditiously upon recommendations prepared by a Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security. These included *inter alia* a review of all UNECE international legal instruments in transport and, as appropriate, the inclusion of security provisions therein (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraph 36). In March 2004 and September 2005, the Working Party had already considered security issues and had referred to the 2004 ECMT study on container

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge1_SPC.html>

transport security across modes (TRANS/WP.24/103, paragraph 24; TRANS/WP.24/109, paragraphs 44-45). As decided at its last session, the Working Party may wish to revert to this request of the ITC on the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat summarizing the recommendations of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/7).

8. The Working Party may wish to review these recommendations allowing its chairman to inform the multidisciplinary expert group and the ITC on the position of the Working Party.

Item 7. New developments in intermodal transport and logistics

9. The Working Party may wish to have an exchange of views on recent developments and trends in intermodal transport and logistics in UNECE member countries. In addition to a review of the latest data and information about the performance of intermodal transport in 2007 and 2008 and an outlook for 2009 in the UNECE region, it is planned to discuss in particular issues such as the resolution of infrastructure and interoperability bottlenecks on important intermodal road/rail transport corridors and networks in Europe (DIOMIS and CREAM projects) and container hinterland traffic between sea ports, inland terminals and freight villages. More information on the topics covered will be provided later.

10. Delegations are also invited to report on recent operating experiences, new and planned technologies, procedures, research and policies enacted in their countries or organizations. Short audio-visual aids and written documentation would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat, if received well in time before the session.

Item 8. Monitoring and analysis of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport

11. At its sixty-ninth session, the ITC had decided that the Working Party should continue the work carried out by 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 (CEMT/CM(2002)3/Final) (ECE/TRANS/192, paragraph 90). In accordance with the decisions of the Working Party, the secretariat has circulated a pre-filled questionnaire to UNECE member States with a view to obtaining an update of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport in a consistent and comparable way (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 21-24).

12. The Working Party may wish to review the replies received as reproduced in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/5 and its Addenda and provide guidance of any follow-up activities taking account of the proposals made in secretariat document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5.

Item 9. Peer review on intermodal transport policy in Turkey

13. The Working Party will be informed of progress made on the peer review on intermodal transport policy in Turkey undertaken by ECMT with the assistance of the UNECE secretariat.

14. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party had felt that such peer reviews could be a useful tool to assist countries in the effective implementation of intermodal and other policies in

the field of transport and would allow countries to learn from each other (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 16-18).

Item 10. Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia

15. As mandated, the Working Party will be informed by the intermodal transport observatory in Ukraine on new developments and experiences made, particularly in investment plans and intermodal transport services along the two specified intermodal transport lines transiting Ukraine and forming part of the Euro-Asian transport corridors, i.e. Dresden-Kiev and Helsinki-Istanbul/Alexandroupolis (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, paragraph 10; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 19-23, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 26-30; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 35-37).

16. The Working Party may wish to recall that the observatory in Ukraine has been designated in 2006 to serve as an information centre for intermodal transport operations between Europe and Asia, to provide a forum for the exchange of views among operators and Governments along the two designated lines and to allow, if necessary, for the introduction of corrective measures on the basis of best practices as well as of the model Action Plans and Public-Private Partnership Agreements prepared by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, paragraphs 5-6 and annex 1; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/1).

Item 11. Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport

Impact of “mega-trucks” on European roads and intermodal transport

17. Recalling the detailed considerations at its last three sessions on the impact of “mega-trucks” with a maximum length of 25.5 m and weights of up to 60 tonnes on the European road network and on intermodal transport (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 36-38, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 38-46; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 22-24), the Working Party may wish to be informed of the latest developments in this field in UNECE member States.

18. The secretariat has prepared a short note providing a summary of the latest studies on and trials undertaken with such “mega-trucks” in UNECE member countries (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/8). As a follow-up to the discussions at the last session of the Working Party, Informal document No. 3 (2008) contains the summary of a report on the experiences with the European Modular System (EMS) made in Sweden and in Finland.

Item 12. Modern transport chains and logistics

Freight transport logistics and intermodal transport

19. The Working Party may wish to recall that its programme of work contains the following work element: “Analysis of modern transport chains and logistics that allow for an integration of production and distribution systems providing a rational basis for Governmental decisions on transport demand, modal choice as well as on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures and taking into account transport safety and security requirements” (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, annex). As the importance of efficient logistics and transport systems for the competitiveness of European economies was increasingly recognized, the

Working Party had already felt that inter-governmental organizations should participate in the exchange of best practices and possibly in the coordination of well-focused activities in this field (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 39-43).

20. At its forty-ninth session, the Working Party had reviewed in detail, the current knowledge about logistics and supply chain management as well as the possible roles of Governments in this field (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/3). It had felt that it might be able to play a supportive role in this area through an exchange of information and best practices among countries in the UNECE region, by assisting in the development of concepts and indicators to measure logistical developments and by providing expertise in regulatory or capacity building policies and measures that require an inter-governmental, pan-European approach (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 26-34).

21 Following consideration of the conceptual aspects of modern transport chains and logistics at its last session, the Working Party may wish to review document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/4, prepared by the secretariat and a virtual group of volunteer experts. This document reviews a number of Governmental initiatives in logistics and analyzes the responsibilities and instruments at the disposal of Governments to influence developments in the field of freight transport logistics and intermodal transport. Finally the document identifies elements for possible future activities of the Working Party in this field in line within its mandate and area of competence.

22. The Working Party may wish to evaluate these proposals and identify inter-governmental activities in the field of freight transport logistics that could possibly be pursued or newly taken up by the Working Party.

Item 13. Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport

23. Recalling the discussions at its forty-sixth and forty-eighth sessions (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, paragraphs 17-21; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 48-51), the Working Party will be informed of the current status of work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group III (Transport Law) in preparation of a Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea. As this draft convention may also apply to other carriages linked to sea transport, the possibility of conflict with other transport laws (such as CMR or COTIF) may exist in practice, even though the draft convention contains provisions clarifying that international conventions in the field of road, rail and air transport prevail.

24. The Working Party may wish to exchange views on the concept and practicability of the newly proposed Convention and may wish to consider its impact on the efficiency of intermodal transport in the UNECE region.

Item 14. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

25. At present, the AGTC Agreement has 32 Contracting Parties.⁶ The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of other UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement.

26. Detailed information on the AGTC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.4), a map on the AGTC network, an inventory of standards stipulated in the Agreements as well as all relevant Depositary Notifications are available at the website of the Working Party.^{7, 8}

(b) Status of adopted amendment proposals

27. At its forty-ninth session, the Working Party had adopted, in accordance with articles 14 and 15 of the AGTC Agreement, a large package of amendment proposals updating and extending the geographical scope of the AGTC network (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 40-45 and annex). As requested by the Working Party and following translation into French and Russian, the secretariat will transmit these proposals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his capacity as depositary of the AGTC Agreement for issuance of the required depositary notification.

28. The Working Party will be informed of the status of these amendment proposals.

(c) New amendment proposals

29. At its forty-ninth session, the Working Party had adopted the amendment proposals contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/3, Add.1 and Add.2, with the exception of amendment proposals contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/3/Add.1 pertaining to (15) Austria, (19) Hungary, (35) Armenia, (37) Georgia and (39) Turkmenistan for which the consultation process had not yet been concluded (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 40-44).

30. In case the required consultation process among countries directly concerned has been concluded, representatives of Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement present at the session of the Working Party may wish to formally adopt these remaining proposals in accordance with article 15 of the AGTC Agreement. The secretariat would then transmit these proposals to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section for depositary action.

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

⁷ It should be noted that only the text kept in custody by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as depositary of the AGTC Agreement, constitutes the authoritative text of the Agreement.

⁸ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>

Item 15. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement

(a) Status of the Protocol

31. The Protocol to the AGTC Agreement has been signed by 15 countries and ratified so far by eight countries, but is not yet in force.⁹ Its text is contained in document ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1-2. Detailed information on the Protocol, including all relevant Depository Notifications, is available on the website of the Working Party.¹⁰

(b) New Amendment Proposals

32. The Working Party may recall that the ITC had encouraged concerned Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement to accede to the Protocol as soon as possible. It had also requested the Working Party to consider and decide on amendment proposals to the Protocol that had already been submitted (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraph 93; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 46-50).

33. In accordance with this decision, the secretariat has prepared consolidated amendment proposals submitted earlier by Austria, Bulgaria, France, Hungary and Romania (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraph 58; TRANS/WP.24/97, paragraph 23). These proposals also take account of the results of a survey undertaken by the secretariat on the existing infrastructure standards contained in the Protocol (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, paragraphs 31-33).

34. The Working Party may wish to consider and decide on these proposals with a view to their formal adoption in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Protocol, once the Protocol had come into force (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/9).

Item 16. Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2009

35. The Working Party may wish to elect a Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons for the sessions of the Working Party in 2009.

Item 17. Date of next session

36. The spring session of the UNECE Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 19 and 20 March 2009.

Item 18. Summary of decisions

37. In line with established practice (TRANS/WP.24/63, paragraph 54) and in accordance with the decision of the ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, paragraph 6), at the end of the session the Chairman will make a brief summary of the decisions taken. Following the session, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairman, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to the ITC (24-26 February 2009).

⁹ Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Hungary; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Switzerland.

¹⁰ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>