



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.24/104
16 July 2004

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics ^{*/}
(28 and 29 September 2004)

UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics
(29 September 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION

**to be held at the Hotel Russ in Kiev (Ukraine),
starting at 09.00 hours on Wednesday, 29 September 2004** ^{**/}

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|----|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/WP.24/104 |
| 2. | Adoption of decisions taken at the forty-first session | TRANS/WP.24/103 and Corr.1 |

^{*/} As of 2004, the ECMT and the UNECE 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).

^{**/} This session of the Working Party will be held in conjunction with the ECMT/UNECE Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia (Kiev, 27-28 September 2004) and the ECMT Working Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (Kiev, 28 September 2004). For detailed information on the venue, travel and hotel information, please refer to: www.unece.org/trans/wp24/seminar/kievseminar.html.

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 may also be downloaded from the Internet web site: www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

Delegations are requested to complete the attached registration form, also available from the Internet Web site (www.unece.org/trans) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session.

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| 3. | Strategic objectives of the Inland Transport Committee | TRANS/2004/19 TRANS/2004/18 ECE/TRANS/156 |
| 4. | 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) New amendment proposals | TRANS/WP.24/2004/6 TRANS/WP.24/2004/2 TRANS/WP.24/2003/9 and Add.1 TRANS/WP.24/2003/1 |
| | (d) Inventory of AGTC standards and parameters | UNECE Publication ("Yellow Book") |
| 5. | 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 |
| 6. | Development of combined and intermodal Transport at the pan-European level | TRANS/WP.24/2004/5 TRANS/WP.24/2004/3 TRANS/WP.24/2003/6 TRANS/WP.24/2002/4 TRANS/WP.24/2002/3 TRANS/WP.24/2002/1 Informal document No. 3 (2004) Informal document No. 4 (2004) Informal document No. 5 (2003) Informal document No. 3 (2003) |
| 7. | Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport | TRANS/WP.24/2004/4 ECE/TRANS/97 TRANS/SEM.10/3 |
| 8. | Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing intermodal transport | TRANS/WP.24/101 |
| 9. | Date of next sessions | |
| 10. | Summary of decisions taken | |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (TRANS/WP.24/104).

2. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION

The Working Party may wish to consider and adopt the substantive decisions taken at its forty-first session as prepared by the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair (TRANS/WP.24/103 and Corr.1).

3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Working Party may wish to take note of the Strategic Objectives which were adopted by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (TRANS/2004/18). It may also wish to review document TRANS/2004/19 and decide on new activities for inclusion in its programme of work on the basis of the list of major problems for the future which were identified by the ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, paras. 13 and 14).

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

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

As of 1 January 2004, the AGTC Agreement had 26 Contracting Parties^{*/}. The Working Party will be informed of the intentions of UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement and will note progress made in the extension of its geographical scope.

The updated text of the AGTC Agreement in English, French and Russian is contained in document ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.2. Information on the status of the AGTC Agreement as well as of other United Nations treaties developed and/or administered by the UNECE may be obtained from the Internet web site: www.unece.org/trans (Legal instruments) or from the UNECE secretariat (e-mail: WP.24@unece.org).

^{*/} 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.

(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 Depositary on 6 July 2004 (Depositary Notification C.N.724.2004.TREATIES-1). The period for objections will expire on 6 January 2005 (for details refer to: www.unece.org/trans/wp24/depnot.html).

(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 as compiled and consolidated by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.24/2004/6). Before finalizing these amendment proposals, the Working Party may wish to consider the views of the countries directly concerned.

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 to the relevance of the infrastructure and performance standards and parameters contained therein ("Yellow Book").

By 1 July 2004, the following countries have transmitted the requested information: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Hungary; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovenia; Switzerland.

The Working Party will be informed of the status of replies received and decide on further steps to be taken. Further copies of the pre-filled country questionnaires may be obtained from the UNECE secretariat (e-mail: WP.24@unece.org).

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

As of 1 July 2004, the Protocol has seven Contracting Parties ^{*/}. 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 submitted 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 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, Corr.1 (F) and Corr.2 (R). Up-to-date information on the status and the text of the Protocol may be obtained from the Internet web site: www.unece.org/trans (Legal instruments).

Based on the results of a consultation with concerned Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement that has been undertaken by the secretariat at the request of the ITC (ECE/TRANS/156, para. 30), the Working Party may wish to consider ways and means to step up the coming into force of the Protocol.

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

At its forty-first session, the Working Party, , noted 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. Taking note of a legal opinion of the secretariat, contained in Informal Document No.1 (2004), the Working Party expressed caution with regard to the possible inclusion of such “models” into the AGTC Agreement as legal negotiations often tended to reduce specific and demanding requirements to the smallest common denominator. Other alternatives, such as the elaboration of opinions, recommendations or resolutions should be explored as means to publicize and implement such “models”. Finally, the Working Party requested its ad hoc expert group to finalize the substantive provisions of the “models” and to prepare, if possible, alternative publication and implementation procedures for consideration at its forthcoming session (TRANS/WP.24/103, paras. 16-20).

^{*/} Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Switzerland.

In accordance with this mandate, the ad hoc expert group has prepared document TRANS/WP.24/2004/5 containing an analysis of possible ways and means to ensure visibility and the application of good practices and benchmarks in intermodal transport. On this basis, the document proposes amendments to the AGTC Agreement and a draft resolution for adoption by the ITC and endorsement by the Council of Ministers of ECMT.

The Working Party may wish to consider and approve these proposals.

7. 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 UNECE 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 secretariat 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 second global Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport (Geneva, 1-4 September 1992). 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).

The Working Party may wish to be informed of the first results of this consultation and decide on any further steps to be taken in this field.

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

Following a thorough exchange of views on this issue at the fortieth session of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.24/101, paras. 24-28), the Inland Transport Committee recommended that enquiries should be carried out on the appropriateness of civil liability regimes governing European transport operations (ECE/TRANS/156, para. 93).

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat on progress made by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the preparation of an international instrument on maritime transport that would also extend to all contracts of carriage involving a sea leg, including short-sea shipping and port hinterland transport by road, rail or inland water transport.

9. DATE OF NEXT SESSIONS

The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates for its next sessions. The forthcoming forty-third session has been scheduled to be held in Paris, 7 and 8 March 2005, in conjunction with the ECMT Working Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.

Tentative provisions have already been made to hold the autumn 2005 session of the Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group at the Palais des Nations in Geneva during the period 26 to 28 September 2005.

10. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

At the end of the session, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken (TRANS/WP.24/63, para. 54). Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to the Inland Transport Committee.

Conference Registration Form

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Fax No.: +41 22-917 0039

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Title of the Conference

UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)
(Hotel Russ, Kiev (Ukraine))

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Date of Birth

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

| | | | | |
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