Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-sixth session
Geneva, 18–20 October 2023
Agenda item 6 (c)
Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Theme for the 2024 workshop

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1.   The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) has been holding annual workshops to explore and discuss different issues relevant to intermodal transport and logistics over the past few years. These workshops serve as a platform for exchanging good practices and gather knowledge around issues on which WP.24 can support further work aimed at developing the intermodal sector further or helping WP.24 member States to do so. The topics covered in the past five years include:

2023: Ways to create demand for intermodal transport and for analysing potential for modal shift,

2022: National experience and challenges faced with intermodal transport document digitalisation; and Automation in freight transport and logistics,

2021: Recent actions and projects in support of the sustainable development of intermodal transport and logistics,

2020: Intermodal transport and logistics' role in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

2019: Sustainable transport connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of WP.24.

II. Proposed theme for 2024

2.   Given the WP.24 work on the framework on information and document digitalisation as well as the availability of the draft framework, as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/5, WP.24 may wish to consider devoting its workshop in 2024 to discussing the information and document digitalization, as reflected in the draft framework, with the representatives of rail and intermodal carriers.

3.   In this workshop, the rail and intermodal carriers could share their views taking into account the data and information flow as reflected in Figure 1 of ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2023/5 on:

- Ways for efficient, secure and binding (valid in disputes before courts) digital exchange of information on the particulars required in transport unimodal regulations,

- Ways for workable exchanges with border or other inspection authorities,

- Application of systems: central system (one system for all, managed centrally) versus decentralized systems (systems owned by each stakeholder separately and exchanging information with other stakeholders' systems),

- Possible ways for making one system of a carrier fit for purpose for digital exchanges with all relevant or necessary stakeholders during intermodal transport operations,

- Usage of technology and ways of guaranteeing interoperability,

- Application of the same information and data for tracking and tracing, timetable and slot management, etc.

- Missing regulations or standards to make the digital exchanges possible, if any,

- Possible role of UNECE and WP.24 as well as other intergovernmental bodies in addressing regulatory/standards gaps.

4.   The exchange of the views could help WP.24 to better identify the vision for digital information and data exchange within the intermodal sector, which WP.24 could then actively promote. Moreover, WP.24 should be able to consider its potential role and how it could support making the vision a reality and identify the issues that would need to be addressed for this to happen.

5.   In this way, the workshop could help WP.24 to further refine its framework on information and document digitalization.

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