



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2011

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fifty-fourth session

Geneva, 2–3 November 2011

Item 15 (b) of the provisional agenda

Biennial evaluation, programme of work and terms of reference of the Working Party

Work plan for 2012–2016

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. As requested by the ITC Bureau at its sixth meeting on 20 June 2011, the Working Party should review and approve its traditional 4-year work plan for 2012–2016 in addition to the mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2014 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/7).
2. The secretariat has reproduced below the traditional 4-year work plan as adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/7 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/125, para. 39) and the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-second session (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106 and ECE/TRANS/2010/8 and Corr.1) indicating proposed deletions, modifications and additions, as appropriate.
3. The Working Party may wish to review its work plan for 2012–2016 for adoption and transmission to ITC.

II. Work plan for 2012–2016

Programme activity 02.9: Intermodal transport and logistics¹

Priority: 1

Description: Consideration of technical, legal and policy aspects of intermodal transport and logistics for the preparation of policy advice and the negotiation and administration of multilateral legal instruments with a view to promoting intermodal transport as an integral part of sustainable transport policies and to support the maximum utilization of infrastructure, equipment and terminals used for such transport.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics will pursue the following activities:

Continuing activities

(a) Monitoring, review and updating of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and the Protocol on Inland Waterways with a view to:

- (i) Extending the AGTC network to all UNECE member countries taking into account new developments in transport markets resulting from the globalization of the world economy, including new East-West traffic flows;
- (ii) Monitoring implementation of the technical characteristics of the rail and inland waterway networks as well as its infrastructure standards and performance parameters;
- (iii) Reviewing and, whenever feasible, improving existing infrastructure standards and performance parameters with a view to raising interoperability and establishing benchmarks;
- (iv) Reviewing minimum standards for terminals to optimize transshipment procedures as well as mechanisms for the optimum location, construction and operation of terminals;
- (v) Reviewing performance parameters to increase capacity and efficiency of port hinterland transport services;
- (vi) Raising environmental, energy as well as safety and security standards.

Priority: 1

Output expected: Preparation and adoption of amendment proposals to the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol on Inland Waterways, as required.

(b) Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system whereby goods are moved in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes. This includes also bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level.

Priority: 1

¹ Text struck through refers to text proposed for deletion; text in bold characters indicates newly proposed text.

Output expected: Exchange of experiences and good practices in intermodal transport operations and policies, addressing also infrastructure and border crossing questions and preparation of advice on technical and policy measures.

(c) Monitoring enforcement and review of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by the ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final). Monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport. Consideration of ways to implement a harmonized set of best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping). Priority: 1

Output expected: Reports on national policy measures to promote intermodal transport on an internationally comparable basis. Monitoring the use of and, if necessary, preparation of implementation procedures for the “model” action plans and partnership agreements for the development of intermodal transport prepared by the Working Party and adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers (2005) and the Inland Transport Committee (2006).

(d) Peer reviews on technical, institutional and policy aspects for efficient intermodal transport. Priority: 2

Output expected: Based on peer reports prepared by selected experts, consideration of the results of the peer reviews and its conclusions.

(e) Analysis of the consequences on the organization of intermodal transport in Europe resulting from the development of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia, including the Trans-Siberian railway, and vice versa. Priority: 2

Output expected: Based on the recommendations adopted at the ECMT/UNECE Kiev Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia and the corresponding framework action plan adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers (2005), review of measures to facilitate border crossing procedures and analysis of the coherence between the various rail and intermodal infrastructure parameters and their possible harmonization in the longer term.

(f) Monitoring and exchange of best practices on new concepts, design, weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with Resolution No. 241 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 5 February 1993. This includes consideration of possibilities for standardization of loading units and the compliance with safety regulations. Priority: 1

Output expected: Review of the issues based on reports to be prepared by the UNECE secretariat on latest developments in this field.

(g) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures allowing for cost-effective handling procedures of loading units. Priority: 2

Output expected: Reports to be prepared on the basis of information provided by UNECE member Governments and international organizations allowing for the preparation of benchmarks for the efficient operation of intermodal terminals.

(h) Consideration of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context. Priority: 1

Output expected: Analysis of relevant activities undertaken by international organizations, particularly UNCITRAL and UNCTAD and, if appropriate, preparation of a draft legal instrument for multimodal land transport covering the UNECE region.

(i) 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. Priority: 2

Output expected: Monitoring and review of modern transport chains and logistics affecting intermodal transport based on reports and development of regional implementation tools and measures in line with the role of Governments in this field. This includes best practices in the preparation and implementation of logistics action or master plans.

(j) Monitoring and reports by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party on the following subjects for consideration by the Working Party upon specific request only:

(i) Updating and review of the international glossary of terms used in intermodal transport, including logistical aspects;

(ii) National approval procedures for containers and swap-bodies in the framework of relevant conventions, such as the CSC Convention, with a view to better harmonizing such procedures;

(iii) New services and technologies in intermodal transport, including sea/inland waterways and sea/land interfaces with a view analysing their impact on intermodal policies;

(iv) Analysis of economic and environmental aspects of intermodal transport, including administrative measures and activities of the transport industry, with a view to promoting sustainable transport development.

Priority: 2

Output expected: Report(s) to be prepared by the secretariat as a basis for discussion by the Working Party, as appropriate.

Activities of a limited duration

(k) Review and update of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units Priority: 2

Output expected: Secretariat report to be prepared in cooperation with IMO and ILO for consideration and adoption by the Working Party and the Inland Transport Committee.
