



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/124
20 July 2009

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fifty-second session
Geneva, 12-13 October 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 14.30 hours on Monday, 12 October 2009^{1, 2}

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-first session.
3. New developments and best practices in intermodal transport and logistics.

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>>.

4. Monitoring of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
5. Peer review on intermodal transport: Turkey.
6. Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport.
7. IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo in intermodal transport units.
8. Future work and operation of the Working Party.
9. European Commission.
10. UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
11. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations:
 - (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement;
 - (b) Status of adopted amendment proposals;
 - (c) New amendment proposals (updating and extension of the AGTC network);
 - (d) New amendment proposals (minimum infrastructure and performance standards).
12. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement:
 - (a) Status of the Protocol;
 - (b) New amendment proposals.
13. Biennial evaluations and new programme of work (2010-2014).
14. Themes for substantive discussion in 2010.
15. Election of officers.
16. Date of next session.
17. Summary of decisions.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/124

1. The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/124).

Item 2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-first session

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123

2. The Working Party may wish to formally adopt the report of its fifty-first session prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123).

Item 3. New developments and best practices in intermodal transport and logistics

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/6, Informal documentation (available at the session)

3. 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 based on information provided by the International Union of Combined Road/Rail Transport Companies (UIRR). In addition to a review of the latest data and information about the performance of intermodal transport and logistics services in the UNECE region during the first half of 2009 and an outlook for 2010, the Working Party may wish to consider a note on the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on intermodal transport prepared by a virtual group of experts (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/6).

4. Furthermore, the Working Party will be informed about the results of the 2007 report on intermodal rail/road transport in Europe undertaken by the International Union of Railways (UIC) in the framework of the Developing Infrastructure and Operating Models for Intermodal Shift (DIOMIS) project providing a comprehensive picture of more than 100 intermodal transport companies in 31 European countries.

5. 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/or written documentation would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat, if received in time before the session. Delegations wishing to make presentations should inform the secretariat a few days before the session.

Item 4. Monitoring of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/5 and Addenda, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/121, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5

6. At its sixty-ninth session, the Inland transport Committee (ITC) had decided that the Working Party should continue the work carried out by the former European Conference of Ministers of Transport (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 pre-filled questionnaires 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).

7. 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 earlier in secretariat document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5.

Item 5. National Peer Review on intermodal transport: Turkey

Documentation: OECD-ITF publication: Intermodal Transport-National Peer Review: Turkey (available at the session)

8. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party had already considered the concept of “peer reviews” as the systematic examination and assessment of the performance of a State by another State in a specific field. The objective is to assist the reviewed State to improve its policymaking, adopt best practices and support compliance with established standards and principles. Such peer reviews are carried out upon the specific request of a Government and, in principle, are free of charge for the requesting Government. Following agreement on modalities and procedures, the secretariat, in cooperation with the requesting country, identifies a team of experts and coordinates their work. Assisted by the requesting Government, the team of experts will visit the country concerned and will prepare a report for review by this Government. Following acceptance of the report, the report may be transmitted to a concerned inter-governmental meeting and might be published if it is of general interest.

9. 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. At the same time, such reviews would also allow countries to learn from each other. As the exercise in Turkey was the first peer review on intermodal transport, the secretariat was invited to inform the Working Party of the results of this peer review, if appropriate (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 16-18).

10. The Working Party may wish to be informed of the result of the national peer review on intermodal transport in Turkey available at the session (English only) and consider possible future activities in this field on the basis of an agreed procedure yet to be established.

Item 6. Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/121, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/5, Informal document No. 1 (2006), TRANS/WP.24/2000/3, TRANS/WP.24/2000/2 and TRANS/WP.24/2000/2/Corr.1

11. Recalling the information provided by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Multimodal Transport Association (IMMTA) and the European Commission at its last session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraphs 36-43) as well as a summary of earlier deliberations on this subject (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/3), the Working Party may wish to consider once more the possible impact and value-added for European intermodal transport of the new Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea. This Convention, to be called “the Rotterdam Rules” will be opened for signature at a ceremony to be held in Rotterdam on 23 September 2009.

12. The Working Party will be informed by renowned experts of the results of the signing ceremony and a colloquium on this subject held on 21 September 2009 under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Comité Maritime International. It may wish to review the divergent opinions on the importance and value of the

Rotterdam rules expressed by different industry stakeholders (shippers, freight forwarders, carriers, insurers, etc.).

13. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party had also invited UNECE member States and professional organizations to examine how, under the present circumstances, an appropriate civil liability system, covering also short sea shipping, could be devised addressing the concerns of European intermodal transport operators and their clients (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraph 43).

14. Detailed information on this subject is contained in the documents given above. References to background material prepared for and by the Working Party during the past years are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/3 and may be downloaded from the website of the Working Party at <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>.

Item 7. IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo in intermodal transport units

Documentation: Informal document No. 1 (2009) (IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines - English only), TRANS/WP.24/R.83 and TRANS/WP.24/R.83/Add.1

15. The Working Party may wish to recall that in 1996 it had finalized, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Office (ILO), international guidelines for the safe packing of cargo in freight containers and vehicles covering the requirements of all land transport modes (TRANS/WP.24/R.83 and Add.1). In 1997, the ITC had approved these guidelines and had expressed its hope that these guidelines would contribute to reducing personnel injury in the handling of containers and would minimize physical hazard to which cargoes were exposed in intermodal transport operations (ECE/TRANS/119, paragraphs 124-126).

16. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party, noting that IMO and ILO had decided to review and update the guidelines that are used extensively by the transport industry to secure cargo in containers and other intermodal transport units, agreed to contribute to this review and update (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraphs 45-47).

17. Depending on progress made by IMO and ILO, the Working Party may wish to establish an ad hoc expert group to contribute to this work and to report on its results at the next session of the Working Party.

Item 8. Future work and operation of the Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/5

18. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party, reviewing its role and functions, decided to ask a virtual group of experts to prepare a guide or road map on the future work and operation of the Working Party. This road map should be considered at its forthcoming October 2009 session together with its programme of work for 2010-2014 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraph 5).

19. The Working Party may wish to consider and approve the conclusions of the virtual group of experts addressing the role of the Working Party, its key areas of work, the organization of work and its biannual sessions and the possibilities to increase participation of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EACCA) countries at its sessions (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/5). These conclusions will also pertain to the biennial evaluation of

the activities of the Working Party as well as to its programme of work (2010-2014) that will be considered under agenda item 13 below.

Item 9. European Commission

Documentation: Informal documentation (available at the session)

20. 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 10. UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/206, ECE/TRANS/2009/6, ECE/TRANS/2009/7, ECE/TRANS/2009/8

21. The Working Party may wish to be informed of the results and ensuing work of the seventy-first session of the ITC (24-26 February 2009) and subsequent decisions of its Bureau. In particular, the Working Party may wish to consider documentation prepared by the secretariat on gender issues in transport (ECE/TRANS/2009/6-8) providing information to allow for gender mainstreaming into relevant work areas of the ITC (ECE/TRANS/206, paragraph 13).

22. The Working Party will also be informed about the continuing work the UNECE Expert Groups on Hinterland Connections of Seaports and Euro-Asian Transport Links.

Item 11. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.5

23. At present, the AGTC Agreement has 32 Contracting Parties.³ In line with the priorities of the UNECE reform, the Executive Secretary of UNECE, in May 2009, has addressed letters to Ministers of Transport of those UNECE member States that had not yet become Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement.⁴ The Working Party may wish to be informed of the responses received and the intentions of UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement.

24. Detailed information on the AGTC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.5), a map on the AGTC network, an inventory of standards stipulated in the Agreements as well as all relevant Depositary Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party at <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>.⁵

³ Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

⁴ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

⁵ 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.

(b) Status of adopted amendment proposals

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119

25. The Working Party may wish to note that amendment proposals to annexes I and II to the AGTC Agreement, adopted at its forty-ninth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 40-45 and annex), that update and extend the geographical scope of the AGTC network have come into force on 23 May 2009 as indicated in Depositary Notification C.N.76.2009.TREATIES-1 of 23 February 2009. A map reflecting these changes of the AGTC network is available on the above-mentioned website of the Working Party.

26. In accordance with Depositary Notification C.N.623.2008.TREATIES-4 of 3 September 2008, the objection period for amendment proposals to articles 14, 15 and 16 of the AGTC Agreement, also adopted by the Working Party at its forty-ninth session, would expire on 3 September 2009. Provided there were no objections, these amendments would enter into force on 3 December 2009.

(c) New amendment proposals (updating and extension of the AGTC network)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1/Add.1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1/Add.2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115

27. The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its forty-ninth session, it 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 required consultation process had not yet been concluded (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, paragraphs 40-44). At its fifty-first session, considering these remaining amendment proposals contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/1, the Working Party noted that Austria had withdrawn the amendment proposal pertaining to line C-E 63 and Turkey had agreed to the proposal relating to line C-E 70 (Turkmenistan). The secretariat was requested to contact once more the Contracting Parties directly concerned on the remaining amendment proposals in order to conclude the required consultation process (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraphs 55-57). The Working Party will be informed of progress made in this matter.

28. The Working Party may also wish to consider other amendment proposals pertaining to both the AGTC and AGC Agreements due to a realignment of rail and combined transport links between Denmark, Germany and Sweden (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/4). Following the conclusion of the required consultation process, the Contracting Parties present and voting may wish to adopt these proposals for transmission to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs for the required depositary action.

(d) New amendment proposals (minimum infrastructure and performance standards)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/2

29. The Working Party recalled that, as indicated in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/2, several of the 15 countries that had responded to a secretariat survey on the relevance of the minimum infrastructure and performance standards and parameters in Annexes III and IV to the

AGTC Agreement had felt that some of them might need to be updated. In order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the proposed size and ranges of the standards and parameters for existing and new international combined transport lines as well as related installations contained not only in the AGTC, but also in the AGC Agreement, the secretariat, as requested, has solicited the views of rail infrastructure managers, terminal operators and railway undertakings (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraphs 58-60).

30. The Working Party will be informed of progress made in this matter.

Item 12. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement

(a) Status of the Protocol

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/122, ECE/TRANS/122/Corr.1 and ECE/TRANS/122/Corr.2

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.⁶ 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 at <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>.

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.

(b) New amendment proposals

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/9, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, ECE/TRANS/200, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, TRANS/WP.24/97

33. The Working Party may recall that the ITC had 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).

34. 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).

35. Due to lack of time, the Working Party, at its fifty-first session did not consider and decide on these proposals. If appropriate, the Working Party may do so at its present session with a view to their formal adoption in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Protocol, once the Protocol has come into force (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/9).

⁶ Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Switzerland.

Item 13. Biennial evaluations and new programme of work (2010-2014)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/7, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/4

36. The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its forty-eighth session in October 2007, it had approved expected accomplishments related to its area of work together with three indicators of achievements as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/4 for its activities in 2008 and 2009. The Working Party may wish to evaluate its accomplishments and indicators of achievement during this period and review whether they are still appropriate to be used for 2010-2011.

37. In this context and taking account of its considerations on the future work and role of the Working Party (see agenda item 8), the Working Party may also wish to review its programme of work for the period 2010 to 2014 and transmit its proposals to the ITC for decision at its forthcoming session (23-25 February 2010).

38. To facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a document that describes the mandated evaluation process and offers proposals and mechanisms to allow for an effective evaluation of its activities in 2010 and 2011 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/7). The document also contains proposals for updating the present programme of work of the Working Party in line with earlier considerations, particularly on transports chains and logistics (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraph 34).

Item 14. Themes for substantive discussions in 2010

39. Depending on the decisions taken on the proposals made by the virtual group of experts on the future work and operation of the Working Party under agenda item 8 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/5), the Working Party may wish to decide on the themes for substantive discussions at its forthcoming session(s) in 2010.

Item 15. Election of officers

40. The Working Party may wish to elect a Chairperson and (a) Vice-chairperson(s) for its sessions in 2010.

Item 16. Date of next session

41. The spring session of the UNECE Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 16 and 17 March 2010.

Item 17. Summary of decisions

Documentation: TRANS/WP.24/63; ECE/TRANS/156

42. 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 UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairman, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to the ITC at its next session (23-25 February 2010).

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Preliminary timetable		
Monday, 12 October	14.30 – 17.30	Items 1 – 5
Tuesday, 13 October	09.30 – 12.30	Items 6 – 8
	14.30 – 17.30	Items 9 - 17
