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Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

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BIENNIAL EVALUATIONS AND NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK (2010-2014)

Note by the secretariat

I. MANDATE

1. As mandated by the Commission in 2004 and strengthened by the 2005 UNECE reform, Sectoral Committees are requested to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1). Also the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) has decided to review its programme of work every two years as should be the case for its subsidiary bodies, the next time being in February 2010 (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraph 119). This document serves as a basis for discussion and for proposals to be made by the Working Party for transmission to the ITC at its sixty-second session (23-25 February 2010).

II. BIENNIAL EVALUATIONS

A. Objective

2. Evaluation is an integral part of effective results-based management, together with planning, budgeting and monitoring. It provides a source of crucial information to support the right management choices.

3. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member countries, being committed to the transparency and effectiveness of programme management, agreed at their annual session in 2004 to place more emphasis on evaluation as a tool in managing the Commission's work. The Sectoral Committees, such as the Inland Transport Committee, were therefore requested by the Commission to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes and to take into account the results of these evaluations in determining their work programmes. The 2005 UNECE reform further strengthened this approach (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1).

4. The biennial evaluations by the Sectoral Committees will give the opportunity for UNECE member countries to join forces with the secretariat in reviewing and reaffirming, on a continuous basis, the relevance of the activities and their clusters in view of the subprogrammes' objectives. The results of these evaluations should contribute to an effective programme management at all levels by showing evidence of achieving expected accomplishments, defining future priority areas for action, and providing opportunities for making incremental and timely adjustments. They are also intended to assist in measuring more precisely the impact of activities.

5. Furthermore, these evaluations will bring more information on the effectiveness of different activities or their clusters in obtaining results contributing to the objectives and expected accomplishments of a given subprogramme. It is expected that these evaluations may also lead to conclusions concerning the efficiency of outputs, activities and their clusters and subsequently to recommendations for maximizing benefits by improving the use of existing resources.

6. Finally, the results of the evaluations are expected to constitute, in the future, the necessary arguments in the subsequent phases of programme management, such as defining subprogramme priorities and the related redistribution of resources.

B. Procedure

7. The mandated biennial evaluations have been carried out for the first time in the 2008-2009 biennium. In February 2008, the ITC reviewed and endorsed so-called accomplishment accounts, i.e. for each cluster of activities, an "expected accomplishment" together with related "indicators of achievement" and "performance measures" and noted that in 2010 it would review these accounts and discuss lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraphs 117-119).

8. In accordance with this decision, the Working Party should review its accomplishment accounts for the biennium 2008-2009 and discuss lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate. It should also decide whether these accounts are still appropriate for the period 2010-2011 or would need to be modified due to new priorities or modifications of its programme of work. The proposals of the Working Party would be considered by the forthcoming session of the ITC Bureau (30 November – 1 December 2009) and will be transmitted for approval by the ITC at its sixty-second session (23-25 February 2010).

C. Review of the 2008-2009 accomplishment account and proposals for 2010-2011

9. The expected accomplishment endorsed by the ITC for the Working Party during the period 2008-2009 (ITC Informal document No. 11 dated 14 January 2007) is given below. For consideration by the Working Party, the secretariat has inserted therein also the actual indicators of achievement for 2008-2009 (on the basis of meetings held prior to the present session of the Working Party) as well as newly proposed targets for 2010-2011.

“Cluster of activity: Intermodal transport and logistics

Expected accomplishment

Better understanding of sustainable intermodal transport and logistics operations and policies in the region and enhanced cooperation of UNECE member countries in addressing these issues through the exchange of experiences and good practices. This includes infrastructure and border crossing questions as well as the monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments (AGTC Agreement and its Protocol on Inland Waterways).

Indicators of achievement

- (a) Number of countries, inter-Governmental organizations (IGO) and non-Governmental organizations (NGO) participating in the two annual meetings of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)

Performance measures:	Actual performance 2008-2009
Target: 2008-2009: 35	39 ¹
Proposed target: 2010-2011: 35	

- (b) Number of amendments as well as updated and amended lines in the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol²

Performance measures:	Actual performance 2008-2009
Target: 2008-2009: 1	1
Proposed target: 2010-2011: 2	

- (c) Number of new Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol

Performance measures:	Actual performance 2008-2009
Target: 2008-2009: 5	2
Proposed target: 2010-2011: 3”	

¹ This number includes 21 UNECE member countries, European Commission, 3 IGOs and 14 NGOs.

² As adopted by Contracting Parties at the sessions of the Working Party.

10. The Working Party may wish to approve its expected accomplishment, the indicators of achievements and its performance measures for 2010-2011 or may wish to modify them, as appropriate.

III. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010-2014

11. At its forty-eighth session, the Working Party adopted its programme of work for 2008 to 2012 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraph 59, annex). At its fiftieth session, the Working Party reviewed its main achievements and activities during the past nearly 30 years (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/6) and felt that a number of new activities might need to be taken up as part of its five-year work programme (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/121, paragraphs 7-10). At its fifty-first session, the Working Party approved a study on the design and management of freight and intermodal transport (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/4) and identified a number of new activities in the field of transport chains and logistics to be included into its future work programme (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paragraphs 25-35 and annex).

12. The Working Party may wish to review and adopt its draft programme of work for 2010-2014 prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the above decisions as given below:

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.9: INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS³

~~Promotion of intermodal transport~~

Priority: 1

Description: Consideration of ~~technical, legal, administrative, documentary,~~ **technical, legal, economic and environmental and policy** aspects of intermodal transport **and logistics for the preparation of policy advise and the negotiation and administration of multilateral legal instruments** with a view to **promoting the development of measures to promote intermodal transport as an integral part of sustainable transport policies and to support** ~~as well as~~ 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:
- Extending the AGTC network to all UNECE member countries concerned ~~taking account of the work already undertaken by UNESCAP and OSJD~~ taking into account new developments in transport markets ~~(demands and requirements)~~ also as a result of globalization of the world economy, including new East-West traffic flows;

³ Text struck through refers to text proposed for deletion; text in bold characters indicates newly proposed text.

- **Monitoring implementation of the technical characteristics of the rail and inland waterway networks as well as its infrastructure standards and performance parameters;**
- **Reviewing and, whenever feasible, improving existing infrastructure standards and performance parameters with a view to raising interoperability and establishing benchmarks;**
- ~~– Implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters;~~
- **Reviewing minimum standards for terminals to optimize transshipment procedures as well as mechanisms for the optimum location, construction and operation of terminals;**
- **Reviewing performance parameters to increase capacity and efficiency of port hinterland transport services;**
- 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.** ~~Adoption of an extended AGTC network covering all UNECE member countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Inclusion into the AGTC Agreement of new East-West intermodal transport lines.~~

- (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

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** ~~Analysis~~ 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.** ~~Exchange of experiences and good practices in intermodal transport operations and policies, addressing also infrastructure and border crossing questions.~~ 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 ITC (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, ~~in close cooperation with ECMT, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, EC, OSJD, etc.~~

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, of 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, ~~and transshipment~~ **and logistical** procedures allowing for ~~more~~ cost-effective handling procedures of loading units. ~~Analysis of possibilities to improve efficiency and quality of terminal operations in intermodal transport.~~

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 ~~Analysis~~ of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context.**

Priority: 1

Output expected: ~~Analysis Review~~ 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.** ~~Review of technical and legal issues and development of regional implementation tools and measures based on considerations on the role of Governments in this field.~~

- (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:

- ~~– Translation and~~ **Updating and review of the international glossary of terms used in intermodal transport, including logistical aspects** ~~intermodal transport terminology into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish in order to contribute to the dissemination of the joint ECMT, EC and UNECE glossary of terms used in this field;~~
- ~~– Intermodal transport techniques and operations (including inland waterways and coastal shipping techniques) as a basis for a possible international compendium of measures for the safe handling and temporary storage of dangerous goods;~~
- 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;
- New services and technologies in intermodal transport, including sea/inland waterways and sea/land interfaces, ~~and the use of bimodal road/rail vehicles~~ with a view analysing **their impact on the potential of intermodal policies transport;**
- ~~– Data requirements for transshipment and handling operations, of marking, coding and identification systems for means of transport and loading units in intermodal transport, including electronic data processing;~~
- 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.
