

Distr.: Restricted  
16 September 2019

English only

---

**Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics**

**Sixty-second session**

Geneva, 30 October-1 November 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia  
in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics**

**Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between  
Europe and Asia in the framework of the UNECE Working  
Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)**

**Submitted by the secretariat**

# Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia in the framework of the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)

Date 30 October 2019

## Background

Sustainable transport connectivity is a major contributor to an inclusive and sustainable development.

Sustainable transport connectivity would mean achieving mainly:

- (a) seamless trans-border infrastructure,
- (b) seamless integration across transport modes,
- (c) effective administrative procedures that reduce congestion and delays at borders, or delays on route,
- (d) effective administrative procedures facilitating logistics and supporting delivery of high-quality logistics services,
- (e) effective policies that support the use of greener modes of transport, and
- (f) effective policies that support economic progress of underdeveloped territories

Mindful of the relation between sustainable transport connectivity and inclusive and sustainable development, as well as of the benefits from the improved transport connectivity between Europe and Asia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its 81<sup>st</sup> session (Geneva, 19-22 February 2019) requested the UNECE secretariat to continue working with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNECSAP) secretariat to jointly organise consultations in Geneva on sustainable transport connectivity in the most cost-effective way. The ITC Bureau (Geneva, 4 June 2019) further requested that an event held in the framework of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

In response to this request, UNECE and UNESCAP are organising this Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia held during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of WP.24. The focus of the Forum is given to the main work areas of WP.24 being intermodal transport and logistics, ie. on seamless integration across transport modes and on effective administrative procedures that reduce delays at borders and on route and contribute to facilitating logistics.

## Objective

The Forum's objective is to discuss sustainable transport connectivity in the context of intermodal transport and logistics. Infrastructure connectivity for integrated intermodal transport and logistics, operational

connectivity for integrated intermodal transport and logistics and safety, security and environmental concerns of integrated intermodal transport and logistics are to be discussed.

## **Target audience**

The Forum will bring together government officials engaged in the work on intermodal transport and logistics and private sector practitioners, as well as experts from academia from UNECE and UNESCAP regions.

## **Programme**

### **I. Opening by Section Chief of UNECE Sustainable Transport Division and Section Chief of UNESCAP Transport Division**

### **II. Infrastructure connectivity for integrated intermodal transport and logistics**

*Selected topics:*

- ***Regional legal frameworks for enhancing infrastructure connectivity:***
  - Regional agreements: AGR, AGC, AGTC, AH, TAR, DPs
- ***Success stories and challenges from countries on improving infrastructure connectivity:***
  - Road and railway new infrastructure developments to remove missing links/missing links
  - Ro-ro ferries on the Caspian or Black Seas
  - New intermodal terminals, logistics centres/villages/dry ports to serve Euro-Asian inland corridors

### **III. Operational connectivity for integrated intermodal transport and logistics**

*Selected topics:*

- ***UN legal instruments for enhancing operational connectivity***
  - UN Conventions and arrangements: CMR and e-CMR, TIR and e-TIR, Custom Convention on Containers, Customs Convention on Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, Vienna Conventions (facilitation elements), International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, Green Card, and other conventions on railway, inland waterways and intermodal transport in brief
  - New Convention: URL
  - ESCAP regional frameworks for operationalization of AH, TAR and DPs
- ***Success stories and challenges from countries on improving operational connectivity:***

- Digitalization, including logistics information systems
- Standardization
- Regularity of services
- Novel procedures for logistics (e.g. for effective operation of freight villages, for flexible routing, for drivers and train drivers to cross borders, etc.)

#### **IV. Safety, security and environmental concerns of integrated intermodal transport and logistics**

*Selected topics:*

- ***UN legal instruments for addressing safety, security and environmental concerns of intermodal transport and logistics***

- UN legal instruments: Vienna Conventions (safety elements), vehicle regulations (safety and emissions), ADR (safety and environment), AETR, ATP
- New: CTU Code and CTU app, automated driving
- New: Annex on road safety to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

- ***Success stories and challenges from countries in addressing safety, security and environmental concerns of intermodal transport and logistics***

- Novel procedures (e.g. compensation payment scheme for freight operations shifting from road to rail or waterway, support measures for combined transport)
- Automation for safety
- Security developments

#### **V. Closing by representative of UNECE and UNESCAP**

---