



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/4
23 July 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 1-2 October 2007
Item 14 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2012 AND BIENNIAL EVALUATION

Note by the secretariat

I. PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. At its forty-sixth session in October 2006, the Working Party has adopted its programme of work for 2006 to 2010 incorporating therein four additional work items that had earlier been undertaken by the joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, paragraphs 36-41 and annex). The Committee on Inland Transport, at its sixty-ninth session in February 2007, adopted this programme of work and agreed to increase the allotment of annual meeting days for the activities of the Working Party by one day, i.e. to four meeting days per year (ECE/TRANS/192). Subsequently the UNECE Executive Committee approved these proposals.

2. The Working Party may wish to review its programme of work for 2008 to 2012 prepared by the secretariat as contained in the annex to the present document and propose modifications to it, if appropriate.

II. BIENNIAL EVALUATION

(a) Objective

3. 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.
4. 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 Committee on Inland Transport, 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).
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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

8. The mandated biennial evaluations will be carried out for the first time in the 2008-2009 biennium. In February 2008, the Committee on Inland Transport will review and endorse, for each cluster of activities, an "expected accomplishment" together with related "indicators of achievement" and measurement methodologies.
9. To this end, the Working Party will have to prepare in 2007, in cooperation with the secretariat, a draft "expected accomplishment" related to its work together with "indicators of achievement" and measurement methodologies. These proposals will be reviewed by the Bureau of the Committee in November 2007. In 2010, the Committee will then review accomplishment accounts prepared by the secretariat for each expected accomplishment, discuss lessons learned and take programmatic measures, if appropriate.

(c) Secretariat proposal

10. In line with the guide for biennial evaluations of subprogramme performance by UNECE Sectoral Committees that has been prepared by the UNECE secretariat (Informal document No. 6 (2007)), the secretariat has drafted the following “expected accomplishment” and the following “indicators of achievement” relating to the programme of work of the Working Party:

“Proposal for the biennial evaluation (2008-2009)

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 Amendment and its Protocol).

Indicators of achievement

- Number of countries, IGOs and NGOs participating in the two annual meetings of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).
- Number of amendments as well as updated and amended lines in the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol.
- Number of new Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol.”

11. The Working Party may wish to review and adopt these proposals for transmission to the Bureau of the Committee on Inland Transport.

Annex

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2012

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.9: INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS¹

Promotion of [combined and] intermodal transport

Priority: 1

Description: Consideration of legal, administrative, documentary, technical, economic and environmental aspects of [combined and] intermodal transport with a view to the development of measures to promote [combined and] intermodal transport as well as the maximum utilization of equipment, infrastructure 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) 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. 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. 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: **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 [(Moscow, 24-25 May)(2005) and the Inland Transport Committee [in] (2006).

- (b) **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;

¹ Text in square brackets [...] refers to text proposed for deletion; text in **bold** characters indicates newly proposed text.

- 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;
- Implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters;
- Raising environmental, energy as well as safety and security standards. Priority: 1

Output expected: 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 [combined] **intermodal** transport lines.

- (c) Monitoring 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 [one annual] reports to be prepared by the UNECE secretariat on latest developments in this field.

- (d) 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: Review of technical and legal issues and development of regional implementation tools and measures based on considerations [and analyses made by the ECMT] **on the role of Governments in this field.**

- (e) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal and transshipment 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: Report 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.

- (f) 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 of the 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 [combined and] intermodal transport, including sea/inland waterways and sea/land interfaces, and the use of bimodal road/rail vehicles with a view analysing the potential of intermodal 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

- (g) Analysis of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations.

Priority: 1

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

- (h) 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 (Moscow, 24-25 May 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.
