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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 1-2 October 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Monday, 1 October 2007 *

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/116 ¹ |
| 2. | Adoption of the report of its
forty-seventh session | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |

* 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).

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>>.

¹ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>

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| 3. | UNECE Committee on Inland Transport (ITC) | ECE/TRANS/192
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6 |
| 4. | New developments in intermodal transport and logistics | Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 5. | Monitoring and analysis of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5
CEMT/CS/TIL(2007)1/REV1
CEMT/CS/TIL(2006)5
CEMT/CM(2002)3/Final
TRANS/WP.24/2005/7 |
| 6. | Peer review on intermodal transport policy in Turkey | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| 7. | Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia: Follow-up to an ECMT/UNECE Seminar (Kiev, 27-28.09.2004) | Informal documentation
(available at the session)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111
TRANS/WP.24/2006/1 |
| 8. | Border crossing facilitation procedures relating to intermodal transport in a pan-European context | Informal documentation
(available at the session)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/1 |
| 9. | Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport | |
| | (a) Transport of 45 ft long ISO containers on the European road network | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/6
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/2
TRANS/WP.24/107 |
| | (b) Impact of “mega-trucks” on intermodal transport and on European roads | Informal documentation
(available at the session)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| 10. | Modern transport chains and logistics | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| | (a) Development of logistics action or master plans | Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| | (b) Concept note on logistics and draft work plan for the Working Party | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/3
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, annex |
| 11. | Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/5
TRANS/WP.24/2002/6
TRANS/WP.24/2000/3 |

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| 12. | European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) ² | |
| | (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement | ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.4 |
| | (b) New amendment proposals | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1, Add.1 and 2 ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| 13. | Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement | ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1 and 2 ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111 TRANS/WP.24/97 |
| 14. | Programme of work and biennial evaluation | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/4 |
| 15. | Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2008 | |
| 16. | Date of next session | |
| 17. | Summary of decisions | TRANS/WP.24/63
ECE/TRANS/156 |

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

1. The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/116).

Item 2. Adoption of the Report of its forty-seventh Session

2. The Working Party may wish to formally adopt the report of its forty-seventh session prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115).

Item 3. UNECE Committee on Inland Transport (ITC)

3. The Working Party may wish to be informed of recent activities undertaken in the framework of the Committee on Inland Transport, in particular the results of the twentieth session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) (Geneva, 13-14 September 2007) and of an Informal Meeting on Seaports (Geneva, 17 April 2007) (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/6).

Item 4. New Developments in Intermodal Transport and Logistics

4. 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. It is planned to discuss in particular the following subjects: (a) cooperation between maritime container ports and inland freight villages; (b) identification and resolution of congestion and bottlenecks on intermodal

² <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>; <<http://unece.unog.ch/wp24/agtc.aspx>>

road/rail transport networks; (c) impact of the new 35 km long Lötschberg tunnel in Switzerland on intermodal alpine transport; and (d) revival of rolling highway (RoLa) systems in Europe.

5. Delegations are invited to report on recent operating experiences, new and planned technologies, procedures, research and policies enacted in their countries or organizations. Audio-visual aids and written documentation would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat, if received well in time before the session.

Item 5. Monitoring and Analysis of National Policy Measures to Promote Intermodal Transport

6. At its sixty-ninth session, the ITC had decided that the Working Party should continue, possibly in a streamlined manner, the work carried out by 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).

7. In accordance with the decisions of the Working Party at its forty-seventh session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 13-15), the secretariat has prepared a first outline of a survey that could provide a comprehensive and consistent picture of national policy measures taken by UNECE member States to promote intermodal transport (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5).

8. The elements for consideration and the information contained in this document have been derived from the provisions of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution and from country information provided earlier to the ECMT (CEMT/CS/TIL(2007)1/REV1; CEMT/CS/TIL(2006)5). The secretariat also proposes in this draft document a rating system to evaluate national policy measures. The mechanisms for such a rating system could be developed and adopted by the Working Party in 2008.

9. In this context, the Working Party may also wish to consider how to promote and implement the model Action Plans and Public-Private Partnership Agreements prepared by the Working Party and adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers in 2005 (TRANS/WP.24/109, paragraphs 21-22; TRANS/WP.24/2005/7).

Item 6. Peer Review on Intermodal Transport Policy in Turkey

10. The Working Party will be informed of progress made on the peer review on intermodal transport policy in Turkey undertaken by ECMT with the assistance of the UNECE secretariat.

11. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party 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 and would allow countries to learn from each other (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 16-18).

Item 7. Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia: Follow-up to an ECMT/UNECE Seminar (Kiev, 27-28 September 2004)

12. As agreed in 2006, the Working Party will review a first report by the intermodal transport observatory in the Ukraine on experiences and results achieved during its first year of

operation, including information on infrastructure and services standards along two specified intermodal transport lines transiting the Ukraine and forming part of the Euro-Asian transport corridors (Dresden-Kiev and Helsinki-Istanbul/Alexandroupolis) (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, paragraph 10; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 19-23).

13. The contact point for the observatory in Ukraine is Mr. Oleksandr Polischuk (e-mail: o.polischuk@liski.com.ua).

14. The Working Party may wish to recall that the observatory in the Ukraine has been designated in April 2006 to serve as an information centre for intermodal transport operations between Europe and Asia, to provide a forum for the exchange of views among operators and Governments along the two designated lines and to allow, if necessary, for the introduction of corrective measures on the basis of best practices as well as of the model Action Plans and Public-Private Partnership Agreements prepared by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, paragraphs 5-6 and annex 1; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/1).

Item 8. Border Crossing Facilitation Procedures Relating to Intermodal Transport in a pan-European context

15. The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made by UNECE bodies and international organizations, such as OTIF, OSJD and CIT on the three strategic elements of work that had been identified as constituting, in the long term, the cornerstones of international activities to facilitate border crossing procedures for intermodal transport in a pan-European context (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 24-30):

- (a) Unified railway law resolving the present separation between the COTIF and SMGS regimes (CIM/SMGS consignment note);
- (b) Unified rail Customs transit system;
- (c) Draft annex on rail border crossings to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/1).

Item 9. Monitoring of Weights and Dimensions of Loading Units in Intermodal Transport

(a) Transport of 45 ft long ISO Containers on the European road network

16. The Working Party may recall that, at its forty-third session in March 2005, it had adopted an opinion on the proposal of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to standardize 45 ft (13,716 mm) long containers (TRANS/WP.24/107, paragraphs 20-22 and annex). This opinion, alluding also to Council Directive 96/53EC of 25 July 1996 applicable in the European Union, stated that "... there is no indication that Governments would allow for longer vehicle dimensions on the European road network to accommodate the proposed 45 ft long ISO container." As 45 ft long ISO containers are 9 cm longer than the maximum allowable length in the EC Directive, such containers would normally no longer be allowed to be transported in national transport operations within the European Union after 31 December 2006.

17. On 27 November 2006 the Commission of the European Communities issued a staff working document interpreting EC Directive 96/53EC in such a way as to allow, as of

1 January 2007, continued national transport of 45 ft long ISO containers as “indivisible loads” or under a so-called “modular concept” if EU member States so decide individually.

18. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party considered a document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/2) and decided to inquire from all UNECE member States whether they would allow the transport of 45 ft long ISO containers on their national road network (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 33-35).

19. The Working Party may wish to consider the results of this survey among the 56 UNECE member States provided that a sufficient number of replies to a secretariat questionnaire are available in time for the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/6).

(b) Impact of “Mega-Trucks” on Intermodal Transport and on European Roads

20. Recalling the considerations at its forty-seventh session on the impact of “mega-trucks” with a maximum length of 25.5 m and weights of up to 60 tonnes on intermodal transport and the European road network (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 36-38), the Working Party may wish to be informed of the results of relevant studies and trials made in UNECE member States.

21. While such lorries are regularly allowed in some of the Nordic countries, such as Sweden, they are at present not allowed on the road networks of other European countries. However, “mega-trucks” are already allowed, on a trial basis and on specific motorway sections, in Germany and the Netherlands and studies on their feasibility are undertaken in other countries, such as Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

22. The Working Party may wish to exchange views and experiences on the impact the general or limited (e.g. port hinterland traffic) use of such “mega-trucks” might have in UNECE member countries on the modal split in general, and on intermodal transport in particular.

Item 10. Modern Transport Chains and Logistics

(a) Development of Logistics Action or Master Plans

23. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party noted that several UNECE member countries, such as France, Germany and Portugal have already embarked on plans to identify various logistics concepts, to analyze developments and future trends in logistics, in particular with regard to transport requirements and to define the role of Governments in this context. Also, the European Commission was finalizing an action plan on logistics to be issued in November 2007 covering issues such as financing of logistical infrastructures, urban freight transport, information technologies, dimensions of intermodal transport units (ITU), quality labelling and training (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 39-43).

24. In order to gain an overview of the present considerations in UNECE member countries, delegations are invited to briefly inform the Working Party about activities and involvement of their Governments in the development of logistical concepts and plans at national and international levels, including ideas about the role of public authorities and the subjects that should be addressed and/or regulated in this field. Audio-visual aids and written documentation would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat, if received well in time before the session.

(b) Concept Note on Logistics and Draft Work Plan for the Working Party

25. As the importance of efficient logistics and transport systems for the competitiveness of European economies was increasingly recognized, the Working Party felt at its forty-seventh session that there might be a role for inter-governmental organizations to assist in the exchange of best practices and possibly in the coordination of well-focused activities in this field (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 39-43).

26. The Working Party may recall that its programme of work contains the following work element: "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" (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/113, annex).

27. As decided at its last session, the Vice-Chairman of the Working Party has prepared a concept note on logistics and a draft work plan for the Working Party that could serve as the basis for future work in this field (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/3). On that basis, the Working Party may wish to consider concrete elements for action that are of interest to UNECE member countries and could possibly be taken up as part of its work programme.

Item 11. Reconciliation and Harmonization of Civil Liability Regimes in Intermodal Transport

28. The Working Party will be informed of progress made by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group III (Transport Law) in the preparation of an international instrument on maritime transport that would, in its present form, extend to all contracts of carriage involving a sea leg, including short-sea shipping and port hinterland transport by road, rail or inland water transport. UNCITRAL plans to finalize work on the preparation of this convention in April 2008. Following adoption by the UNCITRAL Commission in the second half of 2008, the convention could then be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for adoption.

29. For background information and the results of two UNECE hearings with the industry on this subject, refer to TRANS/WP.24/2002/6 and TRANS/WP.24/2000/3.

Item 12. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

30. At present, the AGTC Agreement has 30 Contracting Parties.³ The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of other UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement.

31. Detailed information on the AGTC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.4), a map on the AGTC network, an inventory of standards stipulated in the Agreements as well as all relevant Depositary Notifications are available at the website of the Working Party.^{4, 5}

(b) New Amendment Proposals

32. The Working Party may wish to review a package of amendment proposals prepared by the secretariat containing a number of railway lines for inclusion into the AGTC Agreement that complement the existing networks and cover important international pan-European combined transport lines in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia and the Russian Federation. These proposals also contain railway lines and related installations that would extend the AGTC network to Central Asia and the Caucasus and would align it with the AGC rail network in this region (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1 and Add.1). These amendment proposals have already been considered preliminarily at the forty-seventh session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 48-49).

33. Further amendment proposals transmitted by the Trans-European Railway (TER) Office proposing to extend combined transport line C-E 63 to Hungary is contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1/Add.2.

34. In case the required consultation process among countries directly concerned has been concluded, representatives of Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement present at the session of the Working Party may wish to formally adopt these proposals in accordance with article 15 of the AGTC Agreement. The secretariat would then transmit these proposals to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section for depositary action.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>

Item 13. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement

35. The Protocol to the AGTC Agreement has been signed by 15 countries and ratified so far by seven countries, but is not yet in force.⁶ Its text is contained in document ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1-2.⁷

36. Following ratification by Hungary, the Protocol should enter into force soon. Upon entry into force, the Working Party may wish to consider possible modifications to the standards contained in the Protocol (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, paragraphs 31-33) together with other amendment proposals already made earlier by Bulgaria, France, Hungary and Romania (TRANS/WP.24/97, paragraph 23).

Item 14. Programme of work and biennial evaluation

37. The Working Party may wish to review its current programme of work for the period 2008 to 2012 and propose modifications to it, as appropriate.

38. In this context, the Working Party may wish to note that the ITC has been requested by the ECE Commission to conduct biennial evaluations of its respective sub-programme as of the 2008-2009 biennium. The Working Party is therefore requested to prepare expected accomplishments related to its area of work, indicators of achievement as well as appropriate methodologies for the evaluation of its activities.

39. In order to facilitate considerations and decisions by the Working Party on this issue, 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 2008 and 2009. The document also contains the present programme of work together with proposals for its update (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/4).

Item 15. Election of Officers for the Sessions of the Working Party in 2008

40. The Working Party may wish to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-chairperson for the sessions of the Working Party in 2008.

Item 16. Date of Next Session

41. The spring session of the UNECE Working Party will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 17 and 18 March 2008.

Item 17. Summary of Decisions

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.

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⁶ Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Switzerland.

⁷ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>