



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.24/82
2 February 1999

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport

(13 April 1999)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION ^{*/}

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 13 April 1999**

^{*/} In accordance with paragraph 2 of articles 14, 15 and 16 of the **European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)**, any amendment proposed by a Contracting Party to the Agreement shall be considered by the ECE Working Party on Combined Transport. Therefore, agenda item 5 (b) will be considered and amendment proposals adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 of articles 14, 15 and 16 of the AGTC.

^{*/} For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; E-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded (in their original language only) from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans). During the meeting, missing documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais Des Nations).

GE.99-20248

Attention:

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Therefore, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, phone the ECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

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1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/WP.24/82

2. Election of officers

3. Activities of ECE bodies and other organizations of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Inland Transport Committee (www.unece.org)

 - (b) European Commission (EC)

 - (c) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

 - (d) Other organizations

4. Follow-up to the 1997 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL
ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL
TRANS/WP.24/R.85/Rev.1
TRANS/WP.24/R.80/Rev.1

5. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)
 - (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement ECE/TRANS/88 and Corr.1
(www.un.org/depts/treaty)
 - (b) Amendments proposed to the AGTC Agreement^{1/}
6. Protocol on combined transport on inland waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) ECE/TRANS/122, Corr. 1 and 2
ECE/RCTE/CONF./7/FINAL
"Blue Book"(available at the session)
7. Inventory of existing AGTC standards and parameters TRANS/WP.24/1998/2
"Yellow Book" and Addendum
8. Possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport TRANS/WP.24/1999/1
9. Role of railways in the promotion of combined transport
10. New developments in the field of combined transport in ECE member countries Documents to be transmitted by delegations
11. Implementation of the programme of work for 1999 to 2003 TRANS/WP.24/81, annex
12. Other business

Date of next session
13. Decisions taken by the Working Party

^{1/} For consideration of this item, see footnote on page 1.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (TRANS/WP.24/82).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party will elect a Chairperson for its sessions in 1999.

3. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Inland Transport Committee

The Working Party will be informed about the results of the sixty-first session of the Inland Transport Committee (8-11 February 1999) as it relates to matters of interest to the Working Party. In particular, the Working Party may wish to consider its mandated programme of work in the light of the resources (meeting days, secretariat) made available to the Working Party in 1999 (see also agenda item 11).

Detailed information on the activities of the ECE, the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies is available on the ECE Internet home page (www.unece.org).

The Working Party will also be informed of the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee, such as the Working Party on Rail Transport, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport, as far as they relate to combined transport matters.

(b) European Commission (EC)

The Working Party may wish to be informed of the latest activities of the EC in the field of combined transport.

(c) European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities undertaken by the ECMT Combined Transport Group.

(d) Other organizations

The Working Party may wish to be informed of current and planned activities in combined transport of other international organizations.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1997 REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Working Party may wish to recall the outcome of the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment held in Vienna from 12 to 14 November 1997. In particular, the Conference had adopted a Declaration and a Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL; ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL). The Working Party may also wish to recall that it had prepared earlier two background documents for the Conference on the promotion of combined transport to foster a sustainable transport policy in Europe (TRANS/WP.24/R.85/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.24/R.80/Rev.1).

The Working Party will be informed of the follow-up activities undertaken by ECE member countries, concerned international organizations and the ECE secretariat.

5. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

As of 1 January 1999 the following 21 countries are Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement: Austria; Belarus; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey. The following countries have signed the AGTC Agreement, but have not yet become Contracting Parties to it: Belgium; Finland and Poland.

Up-to-date information on the status of the AGTC Agreement as well as of other United Nations treaties may be obtained via the Internet from the web site of the Legal Office of the United Nations in New York (www.un.org/depts/treaty).

The Working Party may wish to be informed by delegations about the intention of ECE member countries to accede to the AGTC Agreement and to invite in particular Belgium, Finland, Poland, the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine to undertake all necessary steps with a view to becoming Contracting Parties to the Agreement as soon as possible.

(b) Amendments proposed to the AGTC Agreement

The Working Party will be informed of further developments with regard to the inclusion into the AGTC Agreement of railway lines and related installations in the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine complementing the amendment proposals already adopted by the Working Party for Hungary and Romania in September 1997 (TRANS/WP.24/77, annex 1; TRANS/WP.24/81, paragraphs 20 and 21).

Governments which intend to propose further amendments to the AGTC Agreement, but have not yet transmitted their proposals to the ECE secretariat, are invited to do so as soon as possible.

6. PROTOCOL ON COMBINED TRANSPORT ON INLAND WATERWAYS TO THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)

The Working Party may recall that on the occasion of the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 12-14 November 1997), the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement has been signed by the following 12 ECE member countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland. Subsequently, the Protocol has been signed by Slovakia on 29 June 1998 and Bulgaria on 28 October 1998.

Amendment proposals already submitted to the Working Party at its twenty-ninth session by France, Hungary and Romania (Informal document No. 1 (1998) refers), will be reconsidered by the Working Party as soon as the Protocol had come into force (TRANS/WP.24/79, para. 20).

The Working Party may also wish to recall that, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of the Resolution adopted by the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (ECE/RCTE/CONF/7/FINAL), it had decided to monitor the implementation of the Protocol and to conduct an inventory of its parameters and standards in cooperation with the ECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport. This Working Party has already completed a first inventory of the existing and target parameters of the E waterway network identified in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), which, to a large extent, covers the network and the parameters enshrined in the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement and will be repeated every five years (TRANS/SC.3/1997/2). The final version of the so-called "Blue Book" will be available at the session.

The Working Party may wish to consider how to monitor the implementation of the Protocol and to conduct an inventory of its parameters and standards on the basis of the “Blue Book”.

The final text of the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement (in English, French and Russian) is contained in document ECE/TRANS/122 and Corr.1 (F) and Corr.2 (R).

7. INVENTORY OF EXISTING AGTC STANDARDS AND PARAMETERS

The Working Party may recall that, at its twenty-ninth session, it approved a standard questionnaire (TRANS/WP.24/1998/2) and requested the secretariat to add to each of the pre-filled country questionnaires the new lines and related installations that are part of the amendment proposals adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Working Party. Relevant AGC parameters and AGC lines, not part of the AGTC network, should also be added in consultation with the secretariat of the ECE Working Party on Rail Transport, to arrive at one consolidated questionnaire covering both the AGTC and the AGC Agreements (TRANS/WP.24/79, para. 23).

Due to limited staff resources, the secretariat has not yet been able to finalize the pre-filled questionnaires. It is planned to transmit them to concerned ECE member countries in the first quarter of 1999. The Working Party will be informed of progress made in this matter.

8. POSSIBILITIES FOR RECONCILIATION AND HARMONIZATION OF CIVIL LIABILITY REGIMES GOVERNING COMBINED TRANSPORT

The Working Party may recall that its programme of work contains as a priority item, the “... analysis of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport operations. This might include the organization of a “hearing” of all private sector and governmental parties concerned.”

Following a thorough discussion of this complex issue at the thirtieth session of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.24/81, paragraphs 37-44), an informal meeting of interested experts was held in Frankfurt (Germany) on 7 and 8 December 1998. This meeting considered the feasibility and the approach to be taken to resolve possible difficulties arising from differences in modal liability regimes and/or gaps in full coverage during combined transport operations. The results of this informal meeting are contained in document TRANS/WP.24/1999/1 for consideration and possible follow-up by the Working Party.

9. ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

In line with its mandate, the Working Party may wish to have an exchange of views on the contribution of railways, acting increasingly as commercial enterprises, in the promotion of competitive combined transport services. Attention should be accorded to issues, such as appropriate transport markets to be targeted and relevant key factors determining the competitiveness of combined transport (such as quality of services and prices).

10. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF COMBINED TRANSPORT IN ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Working Party may wish to continue its exchange of information on this subject. Delegations are expected to report orally on recent operating experiences, on new and planned administrative procedures and on new technologies with regard to combined transport in their countries or organizations.

Audio-visual aids, as well as written material, would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat if received in time before the session.

11. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1999 TO 2003

The Working Party may wish to consider its programme of work for 1999 to 2003, as adopted at its thirtieth session (TRANS/WP.24/81, annex), and decide on necessary activities in order to ensure its implementation in line with the time frames provided, taking due account of the present resource constraints of the ECE secretariat in this field.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Date of next session

The Working Party may wish to decide on the date for its next session.

The secretariat has tentatively made arrangements to convene the thirty-second session of the Working Party from 6 to 8 September 1999.

13. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party is not expected to adopt a report on its present session, but only a short list of decisions taken (TRANS/WP.24/63, para. 54). Following the session, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairman, will establish a short report of the session that could then be formally adopted at the autumn session of the Working Party in September 1999.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE - GENEVA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Date:

Title of the Conference

Delegation/Participant of country, Organization or Agency)

Participant: Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. First name(s)

Participation Category

Head of delegation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Observer (organization)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delegation Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observer Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....			
.....			
Participation from/until			
from	to	...

In which language do you prefer to receive documents

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Official position (in own country):

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Validity until:

Official telephone No:

Telefax No:

E-mail address:

Permanent official address:

Address in Geneva:

Accompanied by spouse

Oui

Non

Family name (spouse)

First Name (spouse)

On issue of ID Card	
Participant signature:	<input type="text"/>
Spouse signature:	<input type="text"/>
Date :	<input type="text"/>

Security Use Only	
Card No issued:	<input type="text"/>
Initials, UN Official	<input type="text"/>

