



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/118
24 December 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Forty-ninth session
Geneva, 17-18 March 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Monday, 17 March 2008^{1, 2}

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/118 ³ |
| 2. | UNECE Committee on Inland
Transport (ITC) | ECE/TRANS/199/Add.1 |

¹ 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).

² 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>>.

³ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>

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| 3. | New developments in intermodal transport and logistics | Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 4. | Monitoring and analysis of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/2
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 |
| 5. | Peer review on intermodal transport policy in Turkey | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| 6. | 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.24/2007/2 |
| | (b) Impact of “mega-trucks” on intermodal transport and on European roads | Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 7. | 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) Logistics and the role of Governments | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/1
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/3
Informal documentation
(available at the session) |
| 8. | Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia | Informal documentation
(available at the session)
Informal document No. 9 (2007)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111
TRANS/WP.24/2006/1 |
| 9. | European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) ⁴ | |
| | (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement | ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.4 |
| | (b) New amendment proposals | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/3
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/1, Add.1
and 2 ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115 |
| 10. | 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 |
| 11. | Date of next session | |
| 12. | Summary of decisions | TRANS/WP.24/63
ECE/TRANS/156 |

⁴ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>; <<http://unece.unog.ch/wp24/agtc.aspx>>

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.24/118).

Item 2 UNECE Committee on Inland Transport (ITC)

2. The Working Party may wish to be informed of results of the seventieth session of the ITC and in particular on its ministerial segment on the future development of Euro-Asian transport links (ECE/TRANS//199/Add.1).⁵ In this context, the intermodal transport observatory of the Working Party in the Ukraine may wish to provide information about the latest developments in intermodal transport on Euro-Asian transport lines (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 26-30).

Item 3 New Developments in Intermodal Transport and Logistics

3. The Working Party may wish to review the first results of a survey on national policy measures to promote intermodal transport (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/2) and have an exchange of views on recent developments and trends in intermodal transport and logistics in UNECE member countries. As decided at its last session, discussions will focus in particular on problems and challenges for Governments and industries of port hinterland traffic and on the possibilities of intermodal transport (rail and inland waterways) in this respect (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, para. 20).
4. 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 4 Monitoring and Analysis of National Policy Measures to Promote Intermodal Transport

5. At its sixty-ninth session, the ITC had decided that the Working Party should continue the work carried out by ECMT in (a) monitoring and analysing national measures to promote intermodal transport and (b) monitoring enforcement and reviewing the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport (CEMT/CM(2002)3/Final) (ECE/TRANS/192, paragraph 90). In accordance with the decisions of the Working Party, the secretariat, in early 2008, has circulated a pre-filled questionnaire to UNECE member States with a view to obtaining an update of national policy measures to promote intermodal transport in a consistent and comparable way (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 21-24).
6. The Working Party may wish to review the replies received as reproduced in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/2 and provide guidance of any follow-up activities taking account of secretariat document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/5.

⁵ <www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70>

7. 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 5 Peer Review on Intermodal Transport Policy in Turkey

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

9. 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 6 Monitoring of Weights and Dimensions of Loading Units in Intermodal Transport

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

10. The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its forty-eighth session, it had considered the results of a survey undertaken by the secretariat on the transport of 45 ft long ISO containers on the road network of UNECE member States. The survey available on-line⁶ had shown that there existed no harmonized approach on the acceptance of 45 ft long ISO containers on the national road network (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 34-37).

11. The Working Party may wish to revert to this question and review additional information received.

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

12. Recalling the detailed considerations at its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions 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, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/117, paragraphs 38-46), the Working Party may wish to be informed of the latest developments in this field in UNECE member States. Discussions will be based on a report to be presented by Sweden on experiences made with such “mega-trucks and the so-called modular concept since 1998.

Item 7 Modern Transport Chains and Logistics

(a) Development of Logistics Action or Master Plans

13. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party noted that several UNECE member countries, such as France, Germany and Portugal, had 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

⁶ <www.unece.org/trans/wp24/documents/Survey_results_45ft_containers_e.doc>

(ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 39-43). Also, the European Commission has issued an action plan on logistics based on extensive consultations with stakeholders. The action plan covered issues such as e-freight and intelligent transport systems, sustainable quality and efficiency, simplification of transport chains, vehicle dimensions and loading standards as well as “green” transport corridors for freight

14. 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) Logistics and the Role of Governments

15. The Working Party may wish to recall that its new programme of work for 2008-2012 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.24/117, annex).

16. As the importance of efficient logistics and transport systems for the competitiveness of European economies was increasingly recognized, the Working Party had already felt at its forty-seventh session that inter-governmental organizations should participate 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).

17. In line with this mandate and in order to have a sound basis for consideration of this new work element, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Working Party have prepared two notes on logistics, the role of Governments therein and a first draft work plan for the Working Party that could guide future work in this field (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/3; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/1).

18. On that basis, the Working Party may wish to consider concrete elements for action that would be of interest to UNECE member countries and could be taken up by the Working Party. As a first step, indicators to monitor, from a governmental point of view, logistical developments in UNECE member States could be identified. Such indicators could provide tools and benchmarks to measure and evaluate country or regional performance in this field and could complement the global work already initiated by the World Bank (logistics performance index).⁷ In a second phase, a catalogue of measures or fields of actions could be prepared that would allow Governments to influence logistical developments at national and international levels.

⁷ <<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTLF/Resources/lpireport.pdf>>

Item 8 Intermodal transport between Europe and Asia

19. Further to information already provided in 2007, the Working Party may wish to be informed by the intermodal transport observatory in the Ukraine on new developments and experiences made along the two specified intermodal transport lines transiting the Ukraine 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).

20. 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 9 European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

21. At present, the AGTC Agreement has 30 Contracting Parties.⁸ The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of other UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement.

22. 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 Depository Notifications are available at the website of the Working Party.^{9, 10}

(b) New Amendment Proposals

23. 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, Add.1 and Add.2). These amendment proposals have already been

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>

considered preliminarily at the forty-seventh session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 48-49).

24. The secretariat has prepared a revised consolidated package of amendment proposals that are mainly based on the extended AGC Agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/3). 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.

Item 10 Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement

25. The Protocol to the AGTC Agreement has been signed by 15 countries and ratified so far by eight countries, but is not yet in force.¹¹ Its text is contained in document ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1-2.¹²

26. Following ratification by Hungary on 27 September 2007, 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 11 Date of Next Session

27. The autumn session of the UNECE Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 6 and 7 October 2008.

Item 12 Summary of Decisions

28. 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 formal adoption at the autumn session of the Working Party.

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¹¹ Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Switzerland.

¹² <<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>>