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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

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Item 17 of the agenda

Programme of work

Draft programme of work

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (81st session, Geneva, 19-22 February 2019) discontinued the preparation of programmatic documents due to the fact that they are no longer relevant for the new programmatic cycle. To that end, the Working Parties under the ITC purview are no longer required to prepare their programmes of work following a predefined format. At the same time, a Working Party may choose to continue preparing long-term programmes, biennial programmes and evaluate its accomplishments.

2. The present document defines the objectives for the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24). It specifies activities which WP.24 has been engaged with for many years, in accordance with mandates provided by ITC, and naturally needs to continue working on in line with the mandate given by ITC at the 81st session (ECE/TRANS/288, para. 79) and to support the implementation of the ITC strategy until 2030. This document further proposes five clusters of work which may constitute the long-term (2020-2030) programme of work for WP.24. It also proposes specific activities and expected accomplishment within the proposed clusters to constitute the biennial 2020-2021 programme of work and evaluation.

3. WP.24 will be expected to discuss whether it would like to continue preparing such long-term and biennial programmes of work and evaluate its achievements. WP.24 may then wish to consider the present document and amend it as appropriate also in view of its decisions and discussion at its 62nd session.

II. Objectives of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

4. The main objective of WP.24 is to strengthen the frameworks for sustainable intermodal transport and logistics operations and the intermodal transport and logistics policies in the region as well as enhance cooperation of ECE member countries on intermodal transport and logistics through the exchange of experiences and good practices.

III. Long-term activities of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

5. In line with its main objectives, WP.24 has been focusing on the following activities for many years:

(a) Monitoring, review and updating of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to AGTC Agreement (Protocol to AGTC).

(b) Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system, including bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level.

(c) Monitoring of enforcement and reviewing of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final)

(d) Monitoring and exchange of best practices on new concepts, design, weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with ITC Resolution No. 241 adopted on 5 February 1993.

(e) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures allowing for cost-effective handling procedures of loading units including the manner in which intermodal terminals work, how the freight forwarders markets work and the development of national freight and logistics masterplans.

(f) Consideration of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context.

(g) Analysis of modern transport and supply chains as well as logistics.

(h) Follow-up activities relating to the review and update of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units.

6. More efforts are needed by WP.24 on the majority of these activities to facilitate the transition to more sustainable intermodal transport and logistics in ECE member States and other interested countries.

IV. Possible clusters of work and long-term (2020-2030) programme of work

7. The long-term activities in the focus of WP.24 can be logically grouped in five key clusters. They could form the long-term (2020-2030) programme of work of WP.24.

The proposed clusters are:

(a) Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC

Under this cluster the work on managing the United Nations legal instruments on intermodal transport should continue. In particular, and in line with the ITC Strategy until 2030, point IV action A, WP.24 should ensure that the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC are

relevant and up-to-date. WP. 24, as part of this cluster, should also promote the accession to both legal instruments, as well as monitor their implementation in the Contracting Parties.

(b) Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport

Under this cluster, and in line with the ITC Strategy until 2030, point IV action D, WP.24 should continue the elaboration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system, and discuss and address bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level. WP.24 should also monitor, as part of this cluster work, the enforcement and review of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final).

(c) Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics

Under this cluster, and in line with the ITC Strategy until 2030, point IV actions B and D, WP.24 should discuss and analyse emerging freight transport and logistics issues and prepare analytical outputs. WP.24 should monitor concepts, design, weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with ITC Resolution No. 241 adopted on 5 February 1993. It should also analyse technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures allowing for cost-effective handling procedures of loading units including the manner in which intermodal terminals work or how the freight forwarders markets work.

(d) Harmonization of liability regimes

Under this cluster, WP.24 should consider possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context.

(e) Review and update of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units

Under this cluster, WP.24 regularly reviews and updates in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental bodies of IMO and ILO the Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units.

V. Biennial 2020-2021 programme of work and evaluation

8. The 2020-2021 biennial programme sets forth activities for implementation within the coming biennium. The activities are defined within the clusters of the long-term programme of work. The activities are listed together with expected accomplishments which are defined to help WP.24 evaluate its achievements.

(a) Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC

Activities:	Expected accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WP.24 ensures that the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC are relevant and up-to-date - WP.24 promotes accession to the two legal instruments - WP.24 monitors the implementation of the two legal instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AGTC lines and facilities are made available in GIS - Amendments proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate - One more accession to AGTC Agreement and two to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved - Monitoring mechanism is established

(b) Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport

Activities:	Expected accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WP.24 promotes efficiency of intermodal transport and addresses identified bottlenecks - WP.24 monitors the enforcement and reviews the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanism for identification of bottlenecks is established - Review of the Resolution is undertaken

(c) Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics

Activities:	Expected accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WP.24 identifies emerging freight transport and logistics issues and analyses them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one additional issue is identified, and its analysis has started

(d) Harmonization of liability regimes

Activities:	Expected accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WP.24 considers liability regimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -

(e) Review and update of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units

Activities:	Expected accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WP.24 reviews IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The review of the Guidelines has started