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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport

(3-5 September 2001)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORKING
PARTY ON COMBINED TRANSPORT**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Monday 3 September 2001 ^{*/}**

^{*/} 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 UN/ECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: WP.24@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures, applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UN/ECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UN/ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (WP.24@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, please phone the UN/ECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/WP.24/92
2. Adoption of the decisions taken at the thirty-fifth session of the Working Party
3. Activities of UNECE bodies and other organizations of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (www.unece.org/trans/welcome)
 - (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 JMTE/2001/5
ECE/AC.21/2001/3
TRANS/2001/9
ECE/AC.21/2001/1
ECE/RCTE/CONF.3/FINAL
ECE/RCTE/CONF.2/FINAL
5. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)
 - (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement ECE/TRANS/88/Rev. 1
 - (b) Amendments proposed to the AGTC Agreement C.N.18.2001.TREATIES-1
6. Inventory of existing AGTC standards and parameters UNECE Publication
("Yellow Book")
(www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/
wp24/pub/html)
7. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

8. The role of railways in the promotion of combined transport.
- TRANS/WP.24/2001/8
TRANS/WP.24/2001/7
TRANS/WP.24/2001/6
TRANS/WP.24/2001/5
TRANS/WP.24/2001/4
TRANS/WP.24/2001/3
TRANS/WP.24/2001/2
TRANS/WP.24/2001/1
Informal document No. 1 (2001)
Informal document No. 3 (2001)
Informal document No. 4 (2001)
Informal document No. 5 (2001)
Informal document No. 6 (2001)
9. Possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport
- TRANS/WP.24/2000/3
UNCTAD/SDTE/TLB/2
(available at request from the secretariat)
10. Terminology in combined transport
- UNECE Publication
(www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/wp24/pub/html)
11. New developments in the field of combined transport in UNECE member countries.
12. Programme of work for 2002 to 2006
- TRANS/WP.24/89, annex 2
13. Other business.
- Date of next session

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

In connection with the thirty-sixth session of the Working Party the secretariat is planning to organize a **study tour in Switzerland on 4 September 2001**. Delegates will receive detailed information about the study tour as soon as the programme is finalized. The secretariat proposes the following preliminary schedule of work:

Monday, 3 September 2001:

Agenda items 1-8

Tuesday, 4 September 2001

Study tour

Wednesday, 5 September 2001

Agenda items 8 (cont'd) – 13

(Adoption of the report)

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.24/92).

2. ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

In accordance with its decision, the Working Party may wish to formally adopt the decisions taken at its thirty-fifth session on the basis of the draft report prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson (TRANS/WP.24/91).

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

(a) Subsidiary bodies of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

The Working Party will be informed of the activities of subsidiary bodies of the ITC, such as the Working Parties on Road Transport (SC.1), on Rail Transport (SC.2) and on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) as well as the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), as far as they relate to combined transport matters.

Detailed information on the activities of the UNECE and its subsidiary bodies, including the Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24) is available on the UNECE Transport Division web site (www.unece.org/trans/).

(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 UNECE member countries, and concerned international organizations and the UNECE secretariat in the implementation of the above Programme of Joint Action (POJA). In particular, the Working Party may wish to note the results of the fourth session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment that took place on 6 June 2001 (JMTE/2001/5).

The Working Party will also be informed about the follow-up activities undertaken jointly by UNECE and the World Health Organization (WHO) on the implementation of the so-called London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health. In particular the Working Party may wish to be informed of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health that took place on 4 May 2001 (ECE/AC.21/2001/3).

A report containing an overview of instruments relevant for transport, environment and health as well as recommendations for further actions, prepared by the UNECE and the WHO secretariats, is contained in document ECE/AC.21/2001/1.

Detailed information on all activities undertaken by the UNECE on the follow-up to the Vienna and London conferences is available at the UNECE POJA website (www.unece.org/poja).

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

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

As of 1 June 2001 the following 23 countries are Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Georgia; 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: Finland and Poland.

Up-to-date information on the status of the AGTC Agreement as well as of other United Nations treaties developed and/or administered by the UNECE may be obtained from the web site of the UNECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans - Legal instruments).

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

The Working Party will be informed about the preparation of a revised map covering the AGTC network.

(b) Amendments proposed to the AGTC Agreement

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the amendment proposals adopted by the Working Party at its thirty-fourth session (6-8 September 2000) relating to Annexes I and II to the AGTC Agreement, which have been transmitted for review to all Contracting Parties on 17 January 2001 (Depositary Notification C.N.18.2001.TREATIES-1). According to Article 15, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the AGTC Agreement, the amendments contained in Depositary Notification C.N.18.2001.TREATIES-1 will enter into force on 17 October 2001 unless objections are launched.

The secretariat will prepare a consolidated version of the AGTC Agreement containing all amendments that have come into force in 2001. This document will be available at the session.

6. INVENTORY OF EXISTING AGTC STANDARDS AND PARAMETERS

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its thirty-fourth session (6-8 September 2000), it had taken note of the publication of the so-called “Yellow Book”, an inventory of existing AGTC and AGC standards and parameters covering the year 1997. The secretariat has translated the short analysis on the implementation of the AGTC and AGC standards and parameters contained in the “Yellow Book” into French and Russian (TRANS/WP.24/2000/5).

The Working Party, at its thirty-fifth session, had invited all countries concerned to verify the data contained in the inventory and inform the secretariat of any further modifications. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the status of the inventory.

A corrigendum to the “Yellow Book” prepared by the secretariat will be available at the session.

7. 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 wish to 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 UNECE member countries: Austria; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Netherlands; Portugal; Romania and Switzerland. Subsequently, the Protocol has been signed by Luxembourg on 29 April 1998, Slovakia on 29 June 1998 and Bulgaria on 28 October 1998.

As of 1 June 2001, the Protocol has the following seven Contracting Parties: Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania and Switzerland. It will come into force following ratification by at least five States, of which three states are linked, in a continuous manner, by the waterways identified in the Protocol.

Amendment proposals submitted to the Working Party at its twenty-ninth session by France, Hungary and Romania (Informal document No. 1 (1998); TRANS/WP.24/79, para. 20) as well as amendment proposals transmitted by the Government of Bulgaria to the secretariat may be considered by the Working Party as soon as the Protocol enters into force.

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). Up-to-date information on the status and the text of the Protocol may be obtained via the Internet from the web site of UNECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans/).

The Working Party may wish to encourage all concerned Contracting Parties to the Agreement to accede to the Protocol as soon as possible in order that the Protocol will come into force and the above amendment proposals can be considered.

8. THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

The Working Party may wish to recall the outcome of the Joint Meeting of the Working Party and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) that took place on 19 April 2001 as contained in document TRANS/WP.24/2001/8.

The Working Party had preliminarily exchanged views on the results of the Joint Meeting at its thirty-fifth session (TRANS/WP.24/91, paras. 33-35). The Working Party was of the view that follow-up actions resulting from the meeting should focus on the following issues:

- Partnership models, including agreements, best practices and key performance indicators taking into consideration the question of free competition and anti-trust regulations;
- Costing, pricing and subsidies focusing on the specific elements which make up each of these economic parameters, what factors influence each of the elements and how can an optimization of the elements assist in promoting combined transport;
- Facilitation of border crossing procedures, harmonization of frontier controls and interoperability in international transport;
- Harmonization of civil liability regimes in multimodal transports.

The Working Party may wish to continue its discussions of the issues based on a first informal discussion paper prepared by the secretariat. The paper will be submitted to the delegates well before the session of the Working Party.

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

The Working Party may wish to 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.” Following a request by the Inland Transport Committee to investigate existing difficulties for combined transport operations (ECE/TRANS/128, para. 86), the Working Party decided to further consider possible difficulties arising from differences in modal liability regimes and/or gaps in full coverage during combined transport operations (TRANS/WP.24/1999/1).

Following the recommendations of a small working group (TRANS/WP.24/1999/2), the Working Party requested the secretariat to initiate an informal consultative process with participation by government representatives, representatives of the interested intergovernmental organizations as well as international organizations representing the interests of trade and industry. The results of the two hearings organized by the secretariat are contained in document TRANS/WP.24/2000/3.

At its thirty-fifth session the Working Party considered that it was important to consolidate work in the field of civil liability. The Working Party requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of organizing a worldwide forum to bring together all government representatives and experts on civil liability in multimodal transport with the aim to come to a final conclusion concerning the question of harmonization (TRANS/WP.24/91, paras. 40-46).

The Working Party also requested the secretariat as an intermediate step to explore the possibilities of aligning the liability clauses of the legal instruments governing European overland transport, in particular road and rail transport (TRANS/WP.24/91, para. 51).

The Working Party will be informed about the progress made on this issue.

In this context the Working Party will also be informed in detail about other initiatives in the field of cargo liability including a study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the implementation of multimodal transport rules (UNCTAD/SDTE/TLB/2 of 25 June 2001) and proposed activities of the United Nations Commission of International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on a new maritime/intermodal cargo liability instrument based on a draft developed by the Comité Maritime International (CMI).

The Working Party may wish to evaluate the situation about work in progress concerning civil liability in multimodal transport based on the information provided during the session, with a view to providing guidance to the Inland Transport Committee, at its forthcoming session in February 2002, on possible further work in this field.

10. TERMINOLOGY IN COMBINED TRANSPORT

The Working Party may wish to recall the glossary of terms used in combined transport; prepared jointly by the European Commission (EC), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the UNECE secretariat. The glossary contains a detailed, though not exhaustive list of definitions applied in the framework of combined transport in Europe. The definitions are available in four languages: English, French, Russian and German. The glossary is available on the UNECE Transport Division web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/wp24/-Publications).

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the status of the glossary, and in particular about the translation into the other official United Nations languages.

11. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF COMBINED TRANSPORT IN UNECE 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.

In particular, the representatives of Hungary and Poland will make presentations of the latest trends and developments in combined transport that had to be postponed, due to lack of time, at the thirty-fifth session of the Working Party.

12. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002 TO 2006

The Working Party may wish to consider its programme of work covering the period 2002 to 2006 on the basis of its present programme adopted by the Inland Transport Committee as contained in the annex to this agenda.

13. 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-seventh session of the Working Party on 18 and 19 April 2002.



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