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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport

(Thirty-seventh session, 18 and 19 April 2002,
agenda item 8)

THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

**Terms of Reference for the two informal ad-hoc expert groups on the role of railways in the
promotion of combined transport**

Note by the secretariat

**Terms of Reference for the two informal ad-hoc expert groups
on the role of railways in the promotion of combined transport established by the UNECE
Working Party on Combined Transport
at its thirty-sixth session**

The Terms of Reference have been formulated in accordance with the decisions adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24) at its thirty-sixth session (3-5 September 2001 in Geneva). The Terms of Reference have been established by the UNECE secretariat, the Chairperson of WP.30, Ms. M. Masclee (Netherlands) and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. M. Viardot (France).

The two informal ad-hoc expert groups shall be composed of experts designated by UNECE member countries participating in the work of WP.24. Experts from the European Commission, the ECMT and other intergovernmental bodies as well as experts representing competent industry bodies may participate at the meetings of the informal ad-hoc expert groups.

A. Informal Ad-hoc Expert Group on partnership models and best practices in combined transport.

The informal ad-hoc Expert Group shall:

1. Study available examples of applied partnership models and best practices in combined transport, including the issue of key performance indicators, monitoring systems and evaluation principles as well as partnership models and best practice being developed, but not yet implemented.
2. Analyse the individual parts of the available partnership models and best practices with the aim of identifying elements that can be incorporated in an example partnership model and a set of best practices in combined transport for UNECE member countries.
3. Prepare a proposal for a recommended partnership model and a recommended set of best practices in combined transport that encompasses principles and standards that are generally acceptable to all UNECE member countries in order that the proposal will have the widest possible acceptance. The proposal shall comply with existing anti-trust and competition regulations.
4. Propose mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of a recommended partnership model and recommended set of best practices in combined transport as well its incorporation into the AGTC Agreement and/or its Protocol on Inland Water transport.

B. Informal Ad-hoc Expert Group on Efficiency of/in combined transport terminal operations.

The informal ad-hoc Expert Group shall:

1. Study procedures and standards applied at combined transport terminals, in particular rules regarding the availability of trains, available statistics concerning the timeliness of rail and road operations as part of the combined transport operation, available information about goods' downtime in terminals, information concerning management systems in combined transport terminals, in particular information procedures in case of delays and finally information on liability regulations and standards as well as security standards and procedures for goods while being in combined transport terminals.
2. Analyse the applied procedures and in particular shortcomings with the aim of identifying elements that can be incorporated in a recommended procedure for terminal operations in combined transport for UNECE member countries.
3. Prepare proposals for recommended procedures for terminal operations in combined transport that encompass principles and standards that are generally acceptable to all UNECE member countries in order that the proposal will have the widest possible acceptance. The proposal shall comply with anti-trust and free competition regulations.
4. Propose mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of such recommended procedures by amending the existing provisions of the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol on Inland Water transport.

The two informal ad-hoc expert groups should develop two discussion papers on their proposals. The two reports shall be transmitted to the Working Party in all official languages for consideration and further action at its thirty-seventh session (18 and 19 April 2002).

The two informal ad-hoc expert groups will be convened by the UNECE secretariat and shall meet as required. The UNECE secretariat will provide secretarial assistance to the two groups.

The Rules of Procedure of the UNECE Working Parties apply also to the two informal ad-hoc expert groups.
