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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport

(6-8 September 1999)

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

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.30 hours on Monday, 6 September 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 Agreement.

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).

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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 (Intern: 72453).

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1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/WP.24/84

2. Adoption of the decisions taken at the thirty-first session of the Working Party TRANS/WP.24/83

3. Activities of ECE bodies and other organizations of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee (www.unece.org)
 - (b) European Commission (EC)
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 - (d) Other organizations

4. Follow-up to the 1997 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment JMTE/1999/1
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ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL
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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/} TRANS/WP.24/84, annex 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
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.24/1999/2
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. Programme of work for 2000 to 2004 TRANS/WP.24/84, annex 2
12. Other business

Date of next session
13. Adoption of the report

Annex 1: European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC Agreement) - Draft amendment proposals

Annex 2: Draft programme of work for 2000 to 2004

^{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.24/84).

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

In accordance with its decision, the Working Party may wish to formally adopt the decisions taken at its thirty-first session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman (TRANS/WP.24/83).

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

(a) Subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee

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

Detailed information on the activities of the ECE and its subsidiary bodies, including the Working Party on Combined Transport, is available on the ECE web site (www.unece.org).

(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).

All subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee, including the Working Party, had reviewed their programme of work in 1998 to align it, as far as possible, with the Programme of Joint Action.

The Working Party will be informed of the follow-up activities undertaken by ECE member countries, concerned international organizations and the ECE secretariat. In particular, information will be provided on the outcome of the second Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment held on 6 July 1999 in Geneva (JMTE/1999/1). The Joint Meeting is composed, among others, of the Bureaux of the ECE Inland Transport Committee and the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy as well as of the Lead Actors implementing the Programme of Joint Action. Apart from an analysis of selected key issues in the field of transport and the environment, the Joint Meeting is expected to review international activities leading towards implementation of the Programme of Action.

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

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

As of 1 July 1999 the following 22 countries are Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement: Austria; Belarus; 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: 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

Following the considerations on this subject at its thirty-first session (TRANS/WP.24/83, paras. 19-22), the Working Party may wish to review the amendment proposals as contained in annex 1 to this agenda for adoption.

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.

As of 1 September 1999, the Protocol will have the following five Contracting Parties: Bulgaria; Czech Republic, Denmark, Romania and Switzerland. It will come into force following ratification by at least five States that 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 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).

On 28 May 1999 the secretariat has transmitted the pre-filled questionnaires to delegations represented in the Working Party covering all Contracting Parties of the AGTC Agreement with a deadline for completion and return by 1 September 1999. The Working Party will be informed about the results of the returned questionnaires.

8. 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 an informal meeting of interested experts (Frankfurt, 7 and 8 December 1998) which 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 (TRANS/WP.24/1999/1), the Inland Transport Committee had requested that further investigations should be made in order to ascertain the existing difficulties for combined transport operations (ECE/TRANS/128, para. 86).

The Working Party, at its thirty-first session, requested the secretariat to convene another informal meeting of experts to consider in depth the conclusions of the first expert group meeting. The meeting should provide guidance to the Working Party and to the Inland Transport Committee on possible legal instruments to be prepared at the international level in this field and on the arrangements and procedures to be used in order to finalize such instruments within a reasonable time frame. The Working Party may wish to consider the results of this second expert meeting that will be held on 12 and 13 July 1999 in Geneva (TRANS/WP.24/1999/2) and decide on follow-up action.

9. ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

In line with its mandate, the Working Party may wish to continue its 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) (TRANS/WP.24/83, paras. 38-40).

In particular, the Working Party may wish to review the present stagnation of combined transport services in Europe, while overall freight transport, particularly international transport, continues to increase. Delegates are invited to report on national experiences.

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. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2000 TO 2004

The Working Party may wish to have an in-depth consideration of its programme of work for 2000 to 2004 on the basis of its present programme adopted by the Inland Transport Committee. The Working Party may also decide on necessary activities in order to ensure implementation of this programme of work 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 allow for the convening of the thirty-third session of the Working Party on 10 and 11 April 2000.

13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its thirty-second session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat. Due to resource limitations affecting the concerned conference room services, parts of the report may only be available in English for adoption on the last day of the session. Following the session, the final report will however continue to be available in the three ECE working languages.

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Annex 1

**EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED
TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS
(AGTC Agreement)**

DRAFT

Amendment proposals

**for adoption by the Working Party
at its thirty-second session
on 8 September 1999**

Most of the amendment proposals contained below had been adopted already by the Working Party at its twenty-eighth session (8-10 September 1997) with the exception of line C-E 95, which pending an agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine, had not been finalized (TRANS/WP.30/83, paras. 19-21; TRANS/WP.30/81, para. 21; TRANS/WP.24/79, para. 17). Following approval by the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine (refer to their communications received respectively on 25 and 30 September 1999), the Working Party may wish to adopt the relevant amendment proposals.

The Working Party may also wish to adopt amendment proposals transmitted by Hungary relating to line C-E 71 (TRANS/WP.24/83, para. 20).

* * *

Countries directly concerned, in accordance with article 51, paragraph 3 of the AGTC Agreement, are marked with an asterisk* if these countries are Contracting Parties to the Agreement as of 1 July 1999.

Proposed by Hungary

AGTC Annex I

Add the following railway lines

"C 54/1 (Episcopia Bihor-) Biharkeresztes-Berettyóújfalú-Püspökladány

C-E 691 Murakereztúr-Gyékényes"

Replace in railway line C-E 71 the town “Murakeresztur” by: Dombóvár“,

Countries directly concerned: Hungary^{*/}, Romania^{*/}

Proposed by Romania

AGTC Annex I

Add the following railway line

"C 54/1 Pascani-Suceava-Salva Dej-Cluj Napoca-Oradea-Episcopia Bihor
(-Biharkeresztes)"

Countries directly concerned: Hungary^{*/}, Romania^{*/}

AGTC Annex II

Add the following border crossing point:

"Episcopia Bihor (CFR) - Biharkeresztes (MAV)"

Countries directly concerned: Hungary^{*/}, Romania^{*/}

Proposed by Romania

AGTC Annex I

Add the following railway line

"C-E 95 (Iași-) Ungeny-Chișinău-Bendery-Novosavyske (-Kuchurgan)"

Countries directly concerned: Republic of Moldova, Romania^{*/}, Ukraine

AGTC Annex II

Add the following border crossing points:

"Ungeny (CFM) - Iași (CFR)

Novosavyske (CFR) - Kuchurgan (UZ)"

Countries directly concerned: Bulgaria^{*/}, Republic of Moldova, Romania^{*/}, Ukraine

Annex 2**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2000 TO 2004**
(as contained in ECE/TRANS/128/Add.1)**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.9: COMBINED TRANSPORT****Promotion of combined and multimodal transport**Priority: 1

Description: Consideration of legal, administrative, documentary, technical, economic and environmental aspects of combined and multimodal transport with a view to the development of measures to promote combined and multimodal transport as well as the maximum utilization of equipment, infrastructure and terminals used for such transport.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Combined Transport will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Review and updating of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) with a view to:
- Extending the AGTC network to all ECE member countries concerned taking account of the work already undertaken by ESCAP and the OSZhD;
 - Taking into account new developments in transport markets (demands and requirements), including new east-west traffic flows;
 - Implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters;
 - Raising environmental, energy and safety standards.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2000:

Adoption of an extended AGTC network covering all ECE member countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Inclusion into the AGTC Agreement of new East-West combined transport lines.

Analysis of existing standards and operational parameters to be published by the ECE secretariat in an updated Yellow Book.

- (b) Analysis of data requirements for transshipment and handling requirements, of marking, coding and identification systems for means of transport and loading units in combined transport, including the promotion of electronic data processing, with a view to improving the flow of information among the various operators and to allow for a better integration of production and distribution systems (logistics) using combined transport techniques.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2000:

Review and analysis of standardized data systems for combined transport operations with a view to possibly preparing international recommendations on this subject.

- (c) Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units used in combined transport in accordance with resolution No. 241 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 5 February 1993. This includes consideration of possibilities for standardization of loading units and the compliance with safety regulations.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2000:

Review of the issues based on two annual reports to be prepared by the ECE secretariat on latest developments in this field.

- (d) Monitoring of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal and transshipment procedures allowing for more cost-effective handling procedures of loading units.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2000:

Report to be prepared on the basis of information provided by ECE member Governments and international organizations.

- (e) Analysis of economic and environmental aspects of combined transport, including administrative measures and activities of the transport industry, with a view to promoting sustainable transport development.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2000:

Follow-up to the 1997 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 12 to 14 November 1998) on the basis of the Programme of Joint Action adopted at the Conference, to be determined in accordance with the decisions taken by the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (JMTE/1998/4) and inter-secretariat consultations to be held before the end of 1998.

- (f) Monitoring by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party of the following subjects for consideration by the Working Party upon specific request only:
- Harmonization of combined transport terminology in order to contribute to a single international glossary of terms used in this field;
 - Combined transport techniques and operations (including inland waterways and coastal shipping techniques) as a basis for a possible international compendium of measures for the safe handling and temporary storage of dangerous goods;
 - National approval procedures for containers and swap-bodies in the framework of relevant conventions, such as the CSC Convention, with a view to better harmonizing such procedures;
 - New services and technologies in combined and intermodal transport, including sea/inland waterways and sea/land interfaces, and the use of bimodal road/rail vehicles with a view to be able to analyse the potential of combined transport.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2000:

Preparation and organization of an inter-secretariat working group on combined transport terminology.

Two annual reports to be prepared by the ECE secretariat on safe handling and temporary storage of dangerous goods in combined transport, national approval procedures under the CSC Convention and on new services and technologies in combined transport.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (a) Analysis of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport operations.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 1999:

Preparation of an analysis on the reconciliation and harmonization of the existing civil liability regimes.

- (b) Analysis of the consequences on the organization of combined transport in Europe resulting from the development of combined transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia. This includes the organization of an inter-regional meeting harmonizing the legal and administrative work carried out by relevant international organizations in Europe and Asia (e.g. ESCAP, UNCTAD, EC, OSZhD).

Priority: 2

Output expected in 1999:

Based on work carried out by ESCAP, study on the feasibility of an intergovernmental meeting, jointly organized with ESCAP, in Central Asia or the Caucasus to agree on common measures to facilitate combined transport services along the interregional links.



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...

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