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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics ¹

UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Forty-sixth session
Paris, 4 October 2006

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ^{2 3}**

to be held at Union de l'Europe Occidentale (UEO) headquarters,
43 avenue du Président Wilson, 75016 Paris (France)
starting at 9.30 hours on Wednesday, 4 October 2006

¹ The UNECE and ECMT have adopted cooperative arrangements in establishing the "Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics" consisting of separate ECMT and UNECE segments, the UNECE segment consisting of its Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

² 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 UNECE secretariat (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: WP.24@unece.org). Documents are also available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>.

Delegations are requested to complete the attached registration form and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest, two weeks prior to the session (also available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/info.delegates.html>).

³ The ECMT segment will be held on Tuesday, 3 October 2006 (for the draft agenda and documents refer to: <http://www.cemt.org/>). The session of the UNECE Working Party will be concluded on Wednesday, 4 October 2006, at 17.50 hours.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/112⁴ |
| 2. | Inland Transport Committee (ITC) | ECE/TRANS/166 |
| 3. | New developments in intermodal transport | TRANS/WP.24/2005/7 |
| 4. | Follow-up to the ECMT/UNECE Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia (Kiev, 27-28 September 2004) | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/1
TRANS/WP.24/109
TRANS/WP.24/107
TRANS/WP.24/2005/1 |
| 5. | Border crossing facilitation procedures relating to intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111 |
| 6. | Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/5
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111
Informal document No.1 (2006)
TRANS/WP.24/2002/6
ECE/TRANS/162
TRANS/WP.24/2000/3 |
| 7. | European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) | |
| | (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement | ECE/TRANS/88/Rev. 4 |
| | (b) Status of amendment proposals adopted by the Working Party
TRANS/WP.24/2005/6 | C.N.153.2006.TREATIES-1
TRANS/WP.24/107 |
| | (c) New amendment proposals | Informal document No.3 (2006)
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2005/2 |
| | (d) Electronic inventory of AGTC standards and parameters (e-Yellow Book) | Informal document (available at the session) |
| 8. | Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) | ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111
ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/4
ECE/TRANS/122 and Corr.1, 2 |
| 9. | Programme of work for 2006 to 2010 | TRANS/WP.24/109
ECE/TRANS/166, annex |
| 10. | Date of next session | |
| 11. | Summary of decisions taken | TRANS/WP.24/63;
ECE/TRANS/156 |

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⁴ Document references are hyperlinked, allowing on-line access (in PDF format); just click on reference number.

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.24/112](#)).

Item 2 Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

2. The Working Party will be informed about recent developments in the framework of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee. For reference: The report of the sixty-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee is contained in document [ECE/TRANS/166](#).

Item 3 New Developments in Intermodal Transport

3. The Working Party may wish to be informed and review recent developments and trends in volumes and quality of intermodal transport in Europe. Reference is made in this context to the “model” action plans and partnership agreements prepared by the Working Party and adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers in 2005 ([TRANS/WP.24/109](#), paragraphs 21 and 22; [TRANS/WP.24/2005/7](#)).
4. Delegations are invited to report on recent operating experiences, on new and planned technologies, procedures and policies enacted in their countries or organizations. Audio-visual aids and documentation would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat if received in time before the session.

Item 4 Follow-up to the ECMT/UNECE Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia (Kiev, 27-28 September 2004)⁵

5. At its last session, the Working Party welcomed the offer of Ukraine to act as observatory for North-South and East-West intermodal transport lines forming part of the Euro-Asian transport corridors as contained in annex 1 to the report ([ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111](#)). The observatory will serve as an information centre for intermodal transport operations along the two corridors, provide a forum for the exchange of views among operators and Governments along these lines and allow, if necessary, for the introduction of corrective measures on the basis of best practices as well as of the model action plans and partnership agreements prepared by the Working Party.
6. The Working Party will be informed of the operating modalities of the observatory and on progress made in the collection of information on infrastructure and services standards along these major intermodal transport corridors and may wish to provide guidance on further work.

Background information: [ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/1](#); [TRANS/WP.24/2005/1](#); [ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111](#), paragraphs 5-10; [TRANS/WP.24/107](#), paragraphs 4-6, [TRANS/WP.24/109](#), paragraphs 4-12); 2005 ECMT [framework action plan](#) for the promotion of intermodal transport on transport links between Europe and Asia.

⁵ Basic consideration of this item will be held during the ECMT segment of the Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on 3 October 2006. Decisions on specific follow-up activities of the UNECE Working Party will be taken under this agenda item.

Item 5 Border Crossing Facilitation Procedures Relating to Intermodal Transport Operations in a Pan-European Context

7. The Kiev Seminar has identified the persistent problems at border crossings, particularly in rail transport, as one of the main weaknesses for the effective development of transport linkages between Europe and Asia. Subsequently, the ECMT Council of Ministers, in its action plan, has underlined that priority needs to be given to facilitating border crossings, all components and all modes combined, but with the focus on rail transport.

8. The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made by UNECE bodies and international organizations in the following fields:

- (a) Negotiation of a unified railway law system, replacing the present artificial separation between COTIF and SMGS regimes. In the short term, the development of a common CIM/SMGS consignment note as currently pursued by CIT and OSZhD, providing evidence for the existence of both contracts of rail carriage, should be completed as soon as possible.
- (b) Development of a common pan-European rail Customs transit system allowing for use of rail consignment notes as Customs declarations, for the introduction of international Customs control and guarantee systems and thus for the establishment of a level playing field with road transport.
- (c) Insertion of an annex on international rail transport into the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)⁶.

Item 6 Reconciliation and Harmonization of Civil Liability Regimes in Intermodal Transport

9. The Working Party may wish to recall its consideration of a study commissioned by the European Commission containing a first draft of uniform intermodal liability rules that concentrate the risk on one party and provide for strict and full liability of the contracting carrier (the intermodal operator) for all types of losses (damage, loss, delay) irrespective of the modal stage where a loss occurs and of the causes of such a loss Informal document No.1 (2006). The view was expressed that the intermodal liability rules contained in the study seemed to be a step in the right direction as they provided a simple, transparent, uniform and strict liability framework that places liability on a single multimodal transport operator ([ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111](#), paragraphs 14-18).

10. Recalling the specific mandate given to it by the Committee on Inland Transport (ECE/TRANS/162, para.4) and recognizing that a large part of European intermodal transport operations extends well beyond and takes place outside the boundaries of the European Union, the Working Party may wish to consider concrete steps towards preparation of a pan-European civil liability regime applicable to intermodal transport, covering road, rail, inland water and short sea shipping. Taking account of the above study commissioned by the European Commission, the Working Party may wish to re-convene, for example, its informal ad hoc group of legal experts to evaluate possible scenarios and to propose concrete steps forward.

⁶ The UNECE Inland Transport Committee had decided to prepare an annex on railway border crossing facilitation to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) ([ECE/TRANS/162](#)). This UNECE Convention has at present 47 Contracting Parties.

11. As a basis for consideration, the secretariat has summarized the discussions in the Working Party on this subject and specified criteria to be met by a new civil liability system for multimodal transport in the UNECE region ([ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2006/5](#)).

12. In this context, the Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) [Working Group III \(Transport Law\)](#) in the preparation of an international instrument on maritime transport that would, in its present form, extend to all contracts of carriage involving a sea leg, including short-sea shipping and port hinterland transport by road, rail or inland water transport. UNCITRAL expects to finish its work by the end of 2007 (for background information and the results of two UNECE hearings with the industry on this subject, refer to [TRANS/WP.24/2002/6](#) and [TRANS/WP.24/2000/3](#)).

Item 7 European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement

13. With the accession of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ukraine, the AGTC Agreement has 28 Contracting Parties⁷. The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of other UNECE member Governments to accede to the Agreement.

(b) Status of amendment proposals adopted by the Working Party

14. The Working Party may wish to note that the large package of amendment proposals ([TRANS/WP.24/2005/6](#)) adopted by the Working Party on 8 March 2005 ([TRANS/WP.24/107](#), para. 11) has come into force on 20 May 2006 (refer to Depositary Notification [C.N.153.2006.TREATIES-1](#)).

15. The up-to-date and consolidated text of the AGTC Agreement is contained in document ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.4 and is available at the website of the Working Party in English, French and Russian (<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>).

(c) New amendment proposals

16. The amendment proposals pertaining to Latvia that had been considered provisionally by the Working Party at its last session are subject to the necessary consultation process and will be reconsidered by the Working Party at one of its forthcoming sessions ([ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111](#), paragraph 25).

17. The Working Party will also be informed of progress made with another package of amendment proposals extending the AGTC network to Central Asia and the Caucasus ([TRANS/WP.24/2005/2](#)).

⁷ Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Luxembourg; Kazakhstan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovakia; Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

(d) Electronic inventory of AGTC standards and parameters (e-Yellow Book)

18. The Working Party will be informed of progress made in the development of a website allowing on-line access to the inventory of existing AGTC and AGC standards and parameters previously published in the so-called “Yellow Book” series (Informal document available at the session).

19. The new system would allow access to more than 40 infrastructure and service standards and parameters covering all railway lines contained in the AGC and AGTC Agreements. At a later stage, time series data could be included as well as data pertaining to the other infrastructure agreements administered by the UNECE, such as AGR (E-roads) and AGN (inland water transport).

Item 8 Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)

20. The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made in the ratification of the Protocol following transmission of a communication by the secretariat to concerned Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement. The Protocol has been signed by 15 countries and ratified so far by seven countries, but is not yet in force⁸. Its text is contained in document ECE/TRANS/122 and Corrs.1 and 2 (<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>).

21. At its last session, the Working Party welcomed the statements made by the representatives of Hungary and Slovakia indicating that their countries would soon accede to the Protocol. The Protocol would then come into force as the relevant provisions of Article 9 of the Protocol on its entry into force stipulate that one or more waterways contained in the Protocol should link, in a continuous manner, the territories of at least three of the Contracting Parties. With the accession of Hungary and Slovakia, the Danube (C-E 80) would link the territories of four countries in a continuous manner, i.e. Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, paragraph 30).

22. Following entry into force of the Protocol, the Working Party would consider possible modifications to the standards stipulated in the Protocol (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/111, paragraph 31-33) together with other amendment proposals already made earlier by Bulgaria, France, Hungary and Romania (TRANS/WP.24/97, para. 23).

Item 9 Programme of Work for 2006 to 2010

23. At its forty-fourth session in October 2005 the Working Party adopted its programme of work for the period 2006 to 2010. This programme, approved by the Committee on Inland Transport in February 2006 (ECE/TRANS/166, paragraph 125), is contained in the annex to the report of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.24/109).

24. In view of the recently decisions to transform the ECMT into an International Transport Forum and to streamline its supporting structure, the Working Party may wish to review its current programme of work and propose modifications to it, if needed.

⁸ Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Switzerland.

Item 10 Date of Next Session

25. The spring 2007 session of the UNECE Working Party is scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 5 and 6 March 2007.

Item 11 Summary of Decisions Taken

26. In line with established practice (TRANS/WP.24/63, para. 54) and in accordance with the decision of the Committee on Inland Transport ([ECE/TRANS/156, para. 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 transmission to the Committee on Inland Transport.

ANNEX 1 – CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM



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Conference Registration Form

Date

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Title of the Conference

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24), Paris

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms

Date of birth

/ /

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

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Delegation Member

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ANNEX 2 – MAP OF THE VENUE OF THE MEETING,
UNION DE L'EUROPE OCCIDENTALE (UEO), PARIS



OCDE/OECD
2 Rue André Pascal
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