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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS¹

Agenda item 2: UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and its subsidiary bodies

1. With a view to further improving cooperation among and functioning of the ITC subsidiary bodies, **the Working Party invited a virtual group of volunteers to prepare a road map on the activities of the Working Party and its modalities of work for the years to come** for consideration by the Working Party at its October 2009 session. The secretariat was requested to moderate this activity open to all participants in the Working Party.

Agenda item 4: New developments in intermodal transport and logistics

2. Noting that traffic volumes in intermodal transport in Europe had decreased by around 1% in 2008 (compared to 2007)² and had dramatically decreased in the second half of 2008 and in the first two months of 2009, **the Working Party invited a virtual group of experts to analyze the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on intermodal transport** and to report to the Working Party at its October 2009 session. The secretariat was requested to moderate this activity open to all participants in the Working Party.

Agenda item 5: Modern transport chains and logistics

3. Taking note of presentations made by Germany, the Netherland and ISL³ on national logistics action plans, initiatives and logistics centers, **the Working Party approved, with minor modifications, the conclusions of its virtual group of volunteers on logistics and the role of Governments (document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/4)**. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its October 2009 session, a revised draft programme of work for 2010-2014 that contained proposed activities of the Working Party in the field of modern transport chains and logistics addressing (a) policy and regulatory measures, (b) transport infrastructure and performance measures as well as (c) exchange of best practices on research, education and awareness.

¹ Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairman, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for formal adoption at the October 2009 session of the Working Party.

² UIRR data.

³ Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics, Bremen.

Agenda item 6: Reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes in intermodal transport

4. The Working Party was informed about the status and provisions of the new UNCITRAL Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partially by Sea (“Rotterdam Rules”) as adopted by the UN General Assembly on 11 December 2008 and to be opened for signature on 23 September 2009 at Rotterdam. The Working Party felt that this new treaty did not seem to address the specific requirements of intermodal land transport services in Europe. **The Working Party decided to revert to this issue at its October 2009 session, with a view to identifying the possible impact and value-added of this new Convention for intermodal transport in Europe in close cooperation with the European Commission (DG TREN).**

Agenda item 8: IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packaging of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units

5. **The Working Party agreed to the proposal of the International Labour Office (ILO) to review, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the 1997 IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packaging of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units during the period 2010-2011.** It requested the secretariat to coordinate with ILO and IMO in this respect and to report back on new developments at its October 2009 session.

Agenda item 11: European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations

6. The Working Party noted that the amendment proposals to Annex I of the AGTC contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/1 relating to (15) Austria should be deleted and to (39) Turkmenistan could be acceptable.

7. On the basis of document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/2, **the Working Party decided that the minimum infrastructure and performance parameters in Annexes III and IV of the AGTC should be reviewed, focusing possibly on those applicable for the construction of new railway lines.** Furthermore, the list of terminals might need to be updated, possibly as a first step, independently of Annex II of the AGTC Agreement.

Agenda item 13: Date of next session

8. **The Working Party decided to hold its next session in the week 12-16 October 2009.** The exact date would be communicated by the secretariat in due course.
