Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-fourth session
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda
Programme of work

Programme of work: review of 2020–21 biennial programme and proposal for 2022–23 programme

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1.   The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) at its sixty-third session confirmed on its initial agreement for four main clusters for its long-term work programme (2020–2030) as well as specific activities and expected accomplishments under each cluster for its biennial 2020–21 programme of work.

2.   With the 2020–21 biennium coming to the end, this document reviews the work accomplished by WP.24 during that biennium under each of the four clusters. It further proposes activities and accomplishments for 2022–23 biennium for WP.24 consideration and possible adoption.

II. Clusters of the long-term programme of work

3.   WP.24 carries its activities within four key clusters, as follows:

(a)   Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC;

(b)   Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport;

(c)   Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics;

(d)   Review and update of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units.

4.   The specificities for each cluster are contained in Annex III, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/145.

III. Review of the 2020–21 programme of work

5.   The below table contains the agreed 2020–21 programme of work, specifying the agreed activities in column 1 and the expected accomplishment in column 2. Column 3 provide then a brief assessment on the work done and so accomplishments achieved by WP.24.

Activities	Expected accomplishments	Brief assessment
(a) ***Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC***		
WP.24 ensures that the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC are relevant and up-to-date WP.24 promotes accession to the two legal instruments WP.24 monitors the implementation of the two legal instruments	AGTC lines and facilities are made available in GIS Amendments proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate One more accession to AGTC Agreement and two to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved Work on monitoring mechanism has started	Activities: Relevance of AGTC and Protocol to AGTC: Over the 2020–21 biennium WP.24 has been working to clarify issues of inconsistencies in AGTC and AGTC Protocol. This work resulted in Contracting Parties proposing amendments to AGTC, and thus in ensuring AGTC stays relevant and up-to-date. At the same time, further efforts need to be undertaken on the Protocol to AGTC, which could not have been further developed. AGTC digitalization effort has started. New accessions to AGTC and Protocol to AGTC: AGTC has been acceded to by Turkmenistan. There has been no new accession to the Protocol to AGTC. Monitoring of implementation for both instruments: WP.24 considered a mechanism for monitoring of the AGTC implementation. Assessment of accomplishments: AGTC lines and facilities are made available in GIS – **party achieved**: digitalization effort has started. Amendments proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate – **achieved** for AGTC: five amendment proposals to AGTC adopted at the sixty-third session, further 4 proposals were expected for consideration at the sixty-fourth session. One more accession to AGTC Agreement and two to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved – **achieved** for AGTC: Turkmenistan acceded to AGTC in 2020. Work on monitoring mechanism has started – **achieved** for AGTC: WP.24

Activities	Expected accomplishments	Brief assessment
		considered mechanism for monitoring of AGTC implementation.

(b)   *Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport*

Activities	Expected accomplishments	Brief assessment
WP.24 promotes efficiency of intermodal transport, and addresses identified bottlenecks	Mechanism for identification of bottlenecks is established	Activities:
WP.24 serves as a knowledge platform for intermodal transport and exchange of experience	Review of the Resolution is undertaken	Efficiency and bottlenecks, new approaches in intermodal transport operations:
WP.24 identifies and promotes new approaches to carrying out intermodal transport operations	Discussion on the use of TIR carnet in the intermodal transport operations has started	WP.24 has been actively assessing what efficiencies and inefficiencies existed in intermodal transport and got revealed through the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on transport. In this work, WP.24 identified focus areas aimed at improving efficiencies in intermodal transport. These focus areas have been included in the resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport.
WP.24 monitors the enforcement and reviews the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT		WP.24 as knowledge platform:
		WP.24 served as a platform for exchange of lessons learned from COVID-19. It analysed and made recommendations with regard to response to COVID-19 and its impact on intermodal freight transport.
		Monitoring of the enforcement of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution:
		WP.24 continued to collect information from countries through a questionnaire on the implementation of measures referred to in the ECMT Consolidated Resolution.
		Assessment of accomplishments:
		Mechanism for identification of bottlenecks is established – **partly achieved**: bottlenecks identified by WP.24. Implementation mechanism for AGTC can partly serve as mechanism for identification of bottlenecks.
		Review of the Resolution is undertaken – **achieved**: WP.24 is to review the Resolution at the sixty-fourth session.
		Discussion on the use of TIR carnet in the intermodal transport operations has started – **achieved**: WP.24 started discussion on which legs of intermodal transport the TIR system could be successfully applied.

Activities	Expected accomplishments	Brief assesment
(c) *Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics*		
WP.24 identifies emerging freight transport and logistics issues and analyses them	At least one additional issue is identified, and its analysis has started The handbook for preparation of national master plans for freight transport and logistics is elaborated	Activities: Identification of emerging issues: In its work related to assessing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic on intermodal transport, WP.24 identified a number of issues which should be addressed in order to enhance intermodal freight transport. Analysis of these issues is to start at the sixty-fourth session. WP.24 elaborated and published the handbook for national master plans for freight transport and logistics which provides guidelines and good practices for further developing the sector targeted at both advanced and less advanced countries in the sector. Assessment of accomplishments: At least one additional issue is identified, and its analysis has started – **achieved**: several issues have been identified and included in the resolution for strengthening intermodal freight transport. Analysis on these issues is to start at the sixty-fourth session. The handbook for preparation of national master plans for freight transport and logistics is elaborated – **achieved**: the handbook was developed and published.
(d) *Review and update of the IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units*		
WP.24 reviews IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Unit	The review of the Guidelines has started	Activities: Review of CTU Code: Informal pre-work started in 2021 to understand which sections of the CTU Code should be prioritized for updates. Assessment of accomplishments: The review of the Guidelines has started – **achieved**: the informal pre-work started the review.

IV.   Draft biennial 2022–2023 programme of work

6.   The draft 2022–2023 biennial programme proposes activities for implementation within the coming biennium for consideration by WP.24. The activities are defined within the four clusters of the long-term programme of work. The activities are listed together with

expected accomplishments which are defined to help WP.24 evaluate its achievements. The programme includes focus areas incorporated in the resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport.

(a)   Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 ensures that the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC are relevant and up-to-date	AGTC lines and facilities are kept up-to-date in GIS
	Amendments proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate
WP.24 promotes accession to the two legal instruments	One more accession to AGTC Agreement and two to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved
WP.24 monitors the implementation of the two legal instruments	Monitoring mechanism is used to assess AGTC implementation, monitoring mechanism for Protocol to AGTC is developed
WP.24 considers core networks	Discussion on the core networks has started

(b)   Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 promotes efficiency of intermodal transport, and addresses identified bottlenecks	Work on document digitalization, and sector automation has progressed
WP.24 serves as a knowledge platform for intermodal transport and exchange of experience	Discussion on targets for market share of intermodal transport in freight transport has advanced
	Monitoring of the ECMT Consolidated resolution is more effective
WP.24 identifies and promotes new approaches to carrying out intermodal transport operations	Discussion on the use of TIR carnet in the intermodal transport operations has resulted in specific recommendations
WP.24 monitors the enforcement and reviews the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT	

(c)   Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 identifies emerging freight transport and logistics issues and analyses them	Work on data interoperability and collaborative networks has been analysed and specific activities have started
	The preparation of a handbook for supporting automation in the sector has started

(d)   Review and update of the IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 reviews IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Unit	Areas of CTU Code have been prioritized for updates