



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**Review of Terms of Reference of the Working Party
on Intermodal Transport and Logistics vis-à-vis
the long-term programme of work (2020–2030)****Note by the Chairs and the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) at its sixty-third session decided to compare its Terms of Reference against the long-term programme of work to understand if the Terms of Reference would require any alterations. This document contains such a comparison for consideration by WP.24.

II. Long-term programme of work (2020–2030)

2. The long-term programme of work was initially adopted in 2019 to guide the effort of WP.24 in pursuing its objective which is to strengthen the frameworks for sustainable intermodal transport and logistics operations and the intermodal transport and logistics policies in the region as well as enhance cooperation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States on intermodal transport and logistics through the exchange of experiences and good practices.

3. Taking into account its past activities as well as the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Strategy until 2030, WP.24 agreed on four key clusters for its work, as follows:

(a) Monitoring, review and updating of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement (Protocol to AGTC), with focus on:

- maintaining the instruments relevant and up-to-date;
- promoting the accession to both instruments; and
- monitoring the implementation of both instruments.

- (b) Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport, with focus on:
- elaborating measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport;
 - discussing and addressing bottlenecks in intermodal transport service; and
 - monitoring the enforcement of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport.
- (c) Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics, with focus on:
- discussing and analysing emerging freight transport and logistics issues and preparing analytical outputs;
 - monitoring concepts, designs, weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport in accordance with the ITC Resolution No. 241 of 5 February 1993;
 - analysing technical and organisational measures to optimizing terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures to allow cost-effective handling;
 - considering, if appropriate and demanded, reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations.
- (d) Review and update of the IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units, with focus on:
- reviewing regularly and updating the Guidelines in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental bodies of the International Labour Organisation and International Maritime Organisation.

III. Terms of Reference of the Working Party

4. The current, applicable Terms of Reference were adopted by WP.24 on 3 November 2011 and approved by ITC on 1 March 2021. (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/129, para. 71; ECE/TRANS/224, para. 91)
5. These Terms of Reference refer to the WP.24 programme of work for 2010–2014 and the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement for 2010–2011, as adopted by the fifty-second session of the Working Party in October 2009 (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2009/7 and ECE/WP.24/125, para. 39) and approved by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-second session in February 2010 (ECE/TRANS/2010/8 and Corr.1).
6. The Terms of Reference allocate the following activities to WP.24:
- (a) Monitoring, review and updating of AGTC and the Protocol to AGTC.
- (b) Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system whereby goods are moved in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes. This includes also bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level.
- (c) Monitoring enforcement and review of ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by the ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final). Monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport. Consideration of ways to implement a harmonized set of best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping).
- (d) Peer reviews on technical, institutional and policy aspects for efficient intermodal transport.
- (e) Analysis of the consequences on the organization of intermodal transport in Europe resulting from the development of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia, including the Trans-Siberian railway, and vice versa.

(f) Monitoring and exchange of best practices on new concepts, design, weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal 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.

(g) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures allowing for cost-effective handling procedures of loading units.

(h) Consideration of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context.

(i) Analysis of modern transport chains and logistics that allow for an integration of production and distribution systems providing a rational basis for Governmental decisions on transport demand, modal choice as well as on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures and taking into account transport safety and security requirements.

(j) Monitoring and reports by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party on a number of specific subjects as decided by the Working Party upon specific request only.

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

In addition, the Terms of Reference also list other functions such as:

(i) Promotion and provision of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the fields of intermodal transport and logistics;

(ii) Fostering cooperation and collaboration with the European Commission, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other United Nations regional commissions and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system; and

(iii) Close collaboration with other ITC's subsidiary bodies and other ECE bodies on matters of common interest.

IV. Comparison

7. The table below presents the comparison between the long-term programme of work and the Terms of Reference. Column 1 lists the clusters and their related activities, column 2 shows the relevant activities from the Terms of Reference, while column 3 offers a brief assessment:

<i>Activities in the long-term programme of work</i>	<i>Equivalent activities of the terms of reference</i>	<i>Brief assessment</i>
Monitoring, review and updating of AGTC and Protocol to AGTC maintaining the instruments relevant and up-to-date, promoting the accession to both instruments, and monitor the implementation of both instruments.	(a) Monitoring, review and updating of AGTC and the Protocol to AGTC.	The long-term programme of work (LTPW) refers also to the promotion of accession and the monitoring of implementation while the Terms of Reference (ToR) do not. It would be plausible to include these activities also in the ToR.
Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport, with focus on:	(b) Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system whereby goods are moved in	Activities (b) and (c) of ToR match the activities of the cluster 2 of LTPW. At the same time, the description of activities in ToR could be

<i>Activities in the long-term programme of work</i>	<i>Equivalent activities of the terms of reference</i>	<i>Brief assessment</i>
<p>elaborating measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport, discuss and address bottlenecks in intermodal transport service, and monitoring the enforcement of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport.</p>	<p>one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes. This includes also bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level.</p> <p>(c) Monitoring enforcement and review of ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by the ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final). Monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport. Consideration of ways to implement a harmonized set of best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping).</p>	<p>reviewed with a view to streamline the text.</p>
<p>Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics, with focus on:</p> <p>discussing and analysing emerging freight transport and logistics issues and preparing analytical outputs, monitoring concepts, designs, weights and dimensions of loading units in intermodal transport in accordance with the ITC Resolution No. 241 of 5 February 1993,</p> <p>analysing technical and organisational measures to optimizing terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures to allow cost-effective handling,</p> <p>considering, if appropriate and demanded, reconciliation and harmonization of liability</p>	<p>(d) Peer reviews on technical, institutional and policy aspects for efficient intermodal transport.</p> <p>(e) Analysis of the consequences on the organization of intermodal transport in Europe resulting from the development of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia, including the Trans-Siberian railway, and vice versa.</p> <p>(f) Monitoring and exchange of best practices on new concepts, design, weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with resolution No. 241 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 5 February 1993. This includes consideration of possibilities for</p>	<p>In general activities (d) to (i) of the ToR correspond to the activities of cluster 3 of the LTPW. At the same time, the language used for the activities in the ToR may be streamlined.</p> <p>Activity (j) of the ToR may be integrated in a reformulated activity (d) which would refer to the analysis of various technical issues but also emerging issues.</p>

<i>Activities in the long-term programme of work</i>	<i>Equivalent activities of the terms of reference</i>	<i>Brief assessment</i>
regimes governing intermodal transport operations.	<p>standardization of loading units and the compliance with safety regulations.</p> <p>(g) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures allowing for cost-effective handling procedures of loading units.</p> <p>(h) Consideration of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context.</p> <p>(i) Analysis of modern transport chains and logistics that allow for an integration of production and distribution systems providing a rational basis for Governmental decisions on transport demand, modal choice as well as on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures and taking into account transport safety and security requirements.</p> <p>(j) Monitoring and reports by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party on a number of specific subjects as decided by the Working Party upon specific request only.</p>	
<p>(d) Review and update of the IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units, with focus on:</p> <p>reviewing regularly and updating the Guidelines in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental bodies of ILO and IMO.</p>	<p>(k) Review and update the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units.</p>	<p>Activity (k) of the ToR matches the activity of cluster 4 of LTPW</p>
	<p>(i) Promotion and provision of technical cooperation and capacity-</p>	<p>As the LTPW refers to activities such as the elaboration and analysis of</p>

<i>Activities in the long-term programme of work</i>	<i>Equivalent activities of the terms of reference</i>	<i>Brief assessment</i>
	building in the fields of intermodal transport and logistics	measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport and this is also reflected in activities (b) and (g) of ToR; further considering that WP.24 assists development of the sector in countries by elaboration of measures and analytical outputs and by guaranteeing technical collaboration in this work, it appears unnecessary to formulate action in the ToR such as (i). Instead it might be useful to explicitly refer to hosting workshops, seminars or roundtables by the working party on topics of interests.
	(ii) Fostering cooperation and collaboration with the European Commission, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other United Nations regional commissions and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system, and	
	(iii) Close collaboration with other ITC's subsidiary bodies and other ECE bodies on matters of common interest.	Actions of the ToR such as those referred under (ii) and (iii) arise from actions assigned to the Commission as available in E/ECE/778/Rev.5. The language of these activities may be reviewed to align it better with the language used in E/ECE/778/Rev.5.

V. Proposal for amendments to the Terms of Reference

8. The below box indicates proposed text changes to the Terms of Reference further to the comparison and the brief assessment done in this document between the long-terms programme of work and the Terms of Reference. The proposed changes are indicated by strikethrough for proposed deletions and bold text for new text:

Terms of reference of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) ~~will~~ acts within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter ~~UNECE~~) and under the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (hereafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of ~~UNECE~~ (E/ECE/778/Rev.45).

WP.24 ~~will~~ operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within ~~UNECE~~ as approved by the ~~UNECE~~ Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1). These guidelines refer to its status and characteristics, including the review of its mandate and extension every 5 years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the ~~UNECE~~ **Sustainable** Transport Division.

WP.24 carries out activities in support of ~~In line with~~ the objective of the ~~UNECE~~ transport subprogramme to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport. **In**

this context, WP.24 leads activities aimed at making freight transport more sustainable and climate neutral, in particular by increasing the share of intermodal freight transport in freight transport, whereby freight is moved in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the freight in changing modes. These WP.24 activities are also aimed at supporting the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030, in particular related to tasks such as (i) servicing and administering legal instruments related to intermodal transport, (ii) developing training material, standards and competency criteria for intermodal transport, (iii) identifying, fostering and facilitating introduction of new intermodal technologies, and (iv) supporting integrated regional and interregional intermodal connectivity.

Given this general context, more specifically WP.24:

WP.24 will carry out the following activities:

(a) ~~Monitoring, reviews and updates of~~ the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement ~~on Inland Waterways~~, **promotes accession to both instruments and monitors their implementation.**

(b) ~~Consideration of~~ **Elaborates** measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport, as part of a sustainable transport system whereby goods are moved in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes. This includes also **identifies and addresses** bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level.

(c) ~~Monitoring enforcement and reviews of~~ the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by the ECMT in Bucharest in 2002 (CEMT/CM (2002)3/Final). ~~Monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport.~~ **and provides a forum for sharing** ~~Consideration of ways to implement a harmonized set of best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping).~~

(d) ~~Peer reviews on~~ **Discusses and analyses** technical, institutional and policy aspects **and emerging issues in** ~~for~~ efficient intermodal transport.

(e) ~~Further Analysis of the consequences on~~ the organization of intermodal transport in Europe resulting from the development of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia, including the Trans-Siberian railway, and vice versa.

(f) ~~Monitoring and exchanges of~~ best practices on new concepts, design, weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with resolution No. 241 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 5 February 1993, **and considers** ~~This includes consideration of~~ possibilities for standardization of loading units and their compliance with safety regulations.

(g) ~~Analyses of~~ technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal, transshipment and logistical procedures allowing for cost-effective handling ~~procedures~~ of loading units.

(h) ~~Consideration of~~ possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations in a pan-European context.

(i) ~~Analyses of modern transport supply chains and logistics that allow for an integration of~~ **to understand better** production and distribution ~~patterns systems providing a~~ **to provide good rational** basis for ~~Governmental decision-makers in countries~~ on transport demand, modal choice as well as on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures **and while** taking into account transport safety and security requirements.

(j) ~~Monitoring and reports by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party on a number of specific subjects as decided by the Working Party upon specific request only.~~

(k) Reviews and updates the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units.

~~6. WP.24 will promote and provide technical cooperation and capacity building in the fields of intermodal transport and logistics.~~

In undertaking its activities, WP.24 invites representatives of ~~will encourage participation in its activities by fostering cooperation and collaboration with the European Commission,~~ **regional economic integration organizations,** intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations **to participate in its meetings in consultative capacity in consideration of any matter of particular concern to them.**

WP.24 may also organise workshops, seminars or roundtables in the area of its expertise and in support of its specific activities.

Finally, WP.24 shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations, in particular sister Regional Commissions, and the specialized agencies. ~~with the specialized agencies and other United Nations regional commissions and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system; It should also 8. WP.24 will collaborate closely~~ **collaborate with its sister Working Parties i.e. other ITC subsidiary bodies of ITC and other UNECE bodies** on matters of common interest.