

Annex II

Revised Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics²

(As amended by WP.24 at its sixty-fourth session)

1. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) acts within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter ECE) and under the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (hereafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of ECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5).
2. WP.24 operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within ECE as approved by the ECE 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 ECE Sustainable Transport Division.
3. WP.24 carries out activities in support of the objective of the ECE 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.
4. Given this general context, more specifically WP.24:
 - (a) Monitors, reviews and updates 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, promotes accession to both instruments and monitors their implementation.
 - (b) Elaborates measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport, identifies and addresses bottlenecks in intermodal transport services.
 - (c) Monitors enforcement and reviews 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) and provides a forum for sharing best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping).
 - (d) Discusses and analyses technical, institutional and policy aspects and emerging issues in efficient intermodal transport.
 - (e) Further analyses the organization of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia.
 - (f) Monitors and exchanges 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 possibilities for standardization of loading units and their compliance with safety regulations.

² Reproduced and renumbered from ECE/TRANS/WP.24/149.

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

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

(i) Analyses modern supply chains to understand better production and distribution patterns to provide good basis for decision-makers in countries on transport demand, modal choice as well as on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures while taking into account transport safety and security requirements.

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

5. In undertaking its activities, WP.24 invites representatives of 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.

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

7. 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. It should also closely collaborate with its sister Working Parties i.e. other ITC subsidiary bodies and other ECE bodies on matters of common interest.