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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics****Sixty-fifth session**

Geneva, 19–21 October 2022

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport:****National policy measures to promote intermodal transport****National policy measures to promote intermodal transport –  
ways to facilitate reporting and further reflections****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with a decision of the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) continues work of the former European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) in: (a) monitoring and analysis of national measures to promote intermodal transport; (b) monitoring enforcement and review of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport (ECE/TRANS/192, para. 90).
2. At its previous session, WP.24 agreed that reporting on the national policy measures for promoting intermodal transport should be facilitated so that an increased number of countries would report or simply update changes in the measures. In this regard, WP.24 requested the secretariat to explore options for facilitating reporting.
3. This document informs about such options for WP.24 consideration. It then provides further reflections for WP.24 consideration.

**II. Collection of information on national policy measures to promote  
intermodal transport**

4. To monitor national policy measures for promoting intermodal transport and to show the implementation of ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport, WP.24 has been collecting information from the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States through a questionnaire since 2007. It has been elaborated in a Microsoft (MS) Word format. WP.24 has been requesting its secretariat to disseminate periodically the questionnaire to the ECE member States and to share the collected information at the WP.24 sessions. The last questionnaire was disseminated in 2019.
5. The questionnaire lists issues and objectives in accordance with the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport. In some case, the objectives and issues contained in the Resolution have been consolidated by the secretariat (for example, the issues

of “fair competition” and “transparent and competitive pricing” are mentioned in several indents in the Resolution).

6. The information collected and subsequently updated through the periodic questionnaires, as relevant, has been made available through a portal on national policy measures at <https://apps.unece.org/NatPolWP24/>. As of 2020, it contains comparable information for 19 ECE member States as follows: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye and Ukraine. The information is provided in all three ECE official languages: English, French and Russian.

7. The portal allows for the viewing of measures applied by the reporting countries which can be viewed for a selected objective and issue and/or for selected reporting country or countries.

8. The current portal is public hence it does not limit access through a login to the portal, nor does it provide an interface for member States to input or edit data directly. If such limits were to be introduced, member States would possibly need to provide the information in all three ECE languages, or an alternative solution would need to be found for the provision of the information in these languages.

### **III. Collection of information other than through Microsoft Word questionnaire**

9. Dissemination and collection of information through a questionnaire issued in MS Word or the creation of such a questionnaire as an online survey/questionnaire e.g. through MS Forms or other similar online survey creators is probably the simplest solution for managing collection of information.

10. This solution would still require the secretariat to disseminate a link to the questionnaire and invite its completion by a given WP.24-agreed deadline.

11. In this solution, in order to further simplify reporting, in particular for countries who reported in the past, a possibility could be offered to report only on objectives or issues where updated information is available. Nonetheless, the questionnaire would need to be filled out by re-verifying information already made available in the national policy measures platform in order to understand what information needs updating.

12. Should however information already provided by a country in the past be made accessible for updating online on a platform, such a solution may require a customized electronic tool with a specific country login system.

13. A dedicated tool may be developed in Drupal, which is a web content management system compliant with the United Nations Information Technology (IT) standards or any other web content management system. At the same time, given the limited capacity of the ECE secretariat for developing customized IT tools, such a solution would require the availability of funding for the creation and maintenance of the tool. At the same time, since the customized tool, in particular when based on Drupal, would not be considered a complex one, its development should not require an excessive budget, possibly not exceeding ten thousand USD. Nonetheless, an estimate of a required budget can only be made when tool specifications have been prepared.

14. WP.24 should consider whether moving the MS Word questionnaire to an online questionnaire could be considered a way to facilitate reporting or whether such a goal would only be achieved when a dedicated tool is developed. For the latter, WP.24 would need to set up a process for the elaboration of the tool specifications and for fundraising.

### **IV. Further reflections**

15. Through the ITC decision to continue the work of the former ECMT, WP.24 was entrusted to (a) monitor and analyse national measures to promote intermodal transport; and

(b) monitor implementation of and review the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport.

16. By collecting the information on the national policy measures to promote intermodal transport, WP.24 undertook the monitoring task. At the same time, the mandate also refers to analysis of the national policy measures.

17. If analysis of the policy measures is undertaken, such analysis could potentially result in WP.24 issuing specific recommendations or encouraging countries to apply specific measures. When found appropriate, further to the analysis, WP.24 could also review the objectives and issues included in the Resolution and propose adjustments.

18. WP.24 may wish to consider how it could analyse the national policy measures, and whether reporting on national policy measures could be altered in a way allowing to automatically identify measures:

(i) for which objectives and issues should be further discussed by WP.24 and possibly adjusted, or

(ii) which potentially could be further strengthened by WP.24 to achieve better results.

19. Moreover, as some objectives of the Resolution are directly linked with issues regularly discussed and/or analysed during the WP.24 sessions, e.g. the international agreements under the WP.24 purview – included in the Resolution under ‘Networks’ (implementation of the agreements) but also under ‘Market monitoring’ (coherent and reliable data assurance versus discussion on the performance parameters) – WP.24 may wish to review the questionnaire and refocus it on the Resolution’s objectives and issues which are not discussed separately by WP.24 or alternatively collect additional information to support discussion under separate items. To do so and to design ways to analyse national policy measures, WP.24 may invite a group of volunteers to perform an initial assessment as intersessional work and make specific proposals for consideration by WP.24 at the following session.

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