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Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-fifth session

Geneva, 17 and 19–21 October 2022

Agenda item 2 (a)

Session's workshops:

**National experience and challenges faced
with intermodal transport document digitalization**

National experience and challenges faced with intermodal transport information or document digitalization

Note by secretariat

Background

The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) is exploring ways to assist information or document digitalization process, one that is seen crucial to further optimizing freight and logistics operations.

There are numerous and obvious benefits from transport information and/or document digitalization. The optimization in logistics operations would come from reduction of time and costs for managing information flow and thus prevent inefficiencies or interruptions to goods movements. On contrary digitalization may speed up those movements.

The benefits also comprise reduction of risk of document loss. Instead, improvement can be achieved in document or information traceability or in finding information and accessing it. Further efficiencies can be achieved from reduction of billing times.

Digitalization should also result in more secure information handling procedures, given a relevant security level of the digital systems is achieved. Also, the paperless approach and less resource intensity due to more efficiency would increase logistics processes sustainability.

All these benefits can lead to a better communication in a sector and offer the potential to bring more quality in intermodal transport chains. The latter is of high importance for shippers and their customers to access this transport solution.

At the same time, the transition from a paper-based to digital information exchange is one that come with various challenges. Errors in addressing these challenges can be quite costly and so make the return on investment in digitalization not so positive. Therefore, public or

private entities may actually fail to reap benefits from digitalization if it is not appropriately managed.

Among the key challenges to digitalization is system interoperability. Whether or not digital systems would be able to communicate with each other would depend on their interoperability capacity. At the same time, communication of the right set of data and information is crucial so that, on the one hand, systems are not filled with unnecessary information while, on the other hand, an entity does not share competition sensitive information. This requires creation of relevant ecosystems through which appropriate data is shared with relevant business partners and other entities.

Moreover, as systems develop over time, this requires procedures for collection, transformation and synchronization of data from old to newer systems. Procedures should also be put in place to ensure that employees have the required right skillsets to embrace digitalization and utilize the changing technologies.

Proper procedures as well as information and data management standards and protocols are thus key to addressing digitalization challenges. International standards and protocols on the other hand should serve the establishment of interoperable ecosystems for seamless exchange of relevant information among partners.

Even better, a holistic digitalization strategy is necessary to effectively manage the digitalization process. This strategy should pursue integration of all necessary information and entities.

In this complex environment, and action already taken by many various entities at a transport mode level (e.g. road transport) or a transport asset/enterprise level (e.g. a port or a terminal) or regional level (e.g. European Union) or a country level, WP.24 is interested to consider the experience made at those different levels, review good practices worked out as well as understand specific challenges faced. The workshop is organized to enable such exchanges and to build up knowledge on digitalization in transport in WP.24.

This knowledge should then help WP.24 to determine its possible role, where gaps potentially exist, to support the digitalization effort with the focus on intermodal transport and logistics.

Workshop programme, 17 October 2022, 10.00 to 13.00

Programme

10.00-10.10 Workshop opening and a brief introduction

Statements by WP.24 chair and the secretariat

10.10-12.30 Transport digitalization work in progress at regional, mode or country level

10.10-10.30 Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information

10.30-10.50 Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR), activities of the group of experts on the operationalization of eCMR, lessons learned

10.50-11.10 German specification of standardized data exchange as a pre-requisite for an efficient flow of information

11.10-11.30 KV 4.0, a data hub and a standardized interface to exchange intermodal transport relevant information

Programme

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| 11.30-11.50 | Coffee break |
| 11.50-12.10 | Russian Railways achievements in digital exchanges of data and information |
| 12.10-12.30 | Digital information exchanges practiced by HUPAC |
| 12.30-12.50 | What have we learned on digitalization in transport? Can we see work areas which WP.24 could support? |
| | Open discussion involving all workshop participants |
| | Moderation – chair/secretariat |
| 12:50-13:00 | Conclusions and closure |
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