Intermodal transport and logistics
2022 activities, WP.24

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## Intermodal Transport and Logistics

**Key points from WP.24 65th session**

| 1) | European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) |
| 2) | Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC Agreement (Protocol to AGTC) |
| 3) | Resolution on strengthening intermodal freight transport |
| 4) | Code of Practice for Packing Cargo Transport Units |
| 5) | Others |
AGTC lines/installations continuously updated => WP.24 adopted amendment proposals to AGTC (annexes I and II) based on proposals from Denmark and Lithuania

AGTC publication => WP.24 agreed to publish Revision 7 of the Consolidated Text of the Convention

Updates continue => WP.24 encourages review of AGTC versus TEN-T lines and installations for EU countries

AGTC implementation monitoring mechanism => work continues to set up the mechanism
Joint WP.24-SC.3 workshop on container transport on inland waterways and a roundtable on the promotion of the AGTC Protocol (12 October 2022) discussed:

(i) misalignment between AGN and AGTC Protocol,
(ii) potential and challenges for developing combined transport on IWWs,
(iii) support measures needed,
(iv) good practices and lessons learned

Solution to misalignment => Joint SC.3-WP.24
Mechanism to be established

ITC resolution on facilitating the development of container transport on inland waterways => ITC is requested to adopt the resolution (ECE/TRANS/2023/31)
Intermodal Transport and Logistics
Implementation of the resolution strengthening intermodal freight transport

- **AGTC core networks** => special procedures under discussion; special procedures decisive as to whether core lines are required or not

- **Intermodal transport document digitalization** => workshop held on document and information digitalization during 65th session; framework on information and document digitalization to be developed for 66th session

- **Automation in freight transport** => workshop on automation held during 65th session, handbook on automation to be elaborated

- **Voluntary targets for intermodal transport market share** => combination of rail utilization rate and rail share as a basis for voluntary targets

- **Collaborative networks for flexible transport planning/integration of modes** => WP.24 serves as a platform for mutual exchanges of good practices and for supporting the voice of intermodal industry; WP.24 will continue developing e-courses to facilitate intermodal transport
Outcomes:

- Digitalization requires strategic planning and active management
- Consistent data structure and interoperability are key
- Data protocols and relevant ecosystems are necessary
- Integrity of digital system must not be compromised
- Legal obligations for digital documents are important

Speakers: EC, UNECE, SGKV, Russian Railways, FESCO, Hupac Intermodal and Greater Caspian Associations
Outcomes:
- Automation requires business case, proper management and stakeholder dialogue
- Must be tailor-made to needs (complexity of automation)
- Automation does not necessarily result in productivity gains
- Certain automation solution requires alignment by entire sector (automated coupling)
- Cybersecurity is at the heart of automation
- Humans must be in control of automation and manage it to the benefits of societies
- Automation need to go hand-in-hand with workforce re-skilling or up-skilling

Speakers: Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, ICHCA Australia, ÖBB Rail Cargo Group, Hupac Intermodal, Automated Reefer Management Systems, Russian Railways, Greater Caspian Associations, Fraunhofer Institute for material flow and logistics, ReLOG3P, ILO
Informal pre-work on prioritization of updates => 2021-2022 – proposal for updates elaborated:

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2022/10:
- to clause 5.3 (Annex 7) on transporting solid bulk cargo in CTUs
- to clause 5.2 (Annex 7) on transport of liquids in flexitanks

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2022/11
- to clause 2.3 (Annex 7) on blocking material and arrangements, and review of blocking terms
- to section 4 (Appendix 4, Annex 7) on cargo securing with dunnage bags

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2022/12
- To clause 4.2 (Annex 7) on package stability
- To clause 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 (Annex 7) to incorporate guidance for bedding arrangements in the CTU Code and in section (appendix 4, annex 7) with detailed calculations for design of bedding arrangements
- To section 3 (Annex 7) on load positioning
- To Chapter 10, new section 10.4 on stabilizers
- Consistency changes for unit of measurements
- To clause 5.3 of Chapter 5 on acceleration coefficients for rail transport
Informal pre-work on prioritization of updates => topics on which discussion continues:
(i) prevention of pest contamination
(ii) chains of responsibilities (review of terms used)
(iii) usage of terms such as placards, labels, marks and signs

Informal pre-work on development of a mobile app => approach worked out (identification of information relevant to CTU type, commodity grouping and packaging), mapping of text done => basis for App development
2023 work => informal pre-work mandated by WP.24 to continue (and be concluded) in 2023 due to no decision by ILO SAB in Jan 2023 towards establishment of the joint group of experts on CTU Code; need for formal review and adoption of the proposals made for update of the CTU Code by UNECE, IMO and ILO members

Way forward => Special session of WP.24 on CTU Code at the end of 2023 open to IMO and ILO members

ITC possible decision:
Took note of the progress made in updating the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) done in informal pre-work requested by WP.24; further took note of the fact that the International Labour Organisation’s Sectoral Advisory Bodies would not be able to discuss the establishment of the joint Group of Experts on CTU Code at least until 2025. ITC recognized the urgent need to update the CTU Code to improve the safety of workers handling CTUs and through it contribute to SDG 8, target 8 on promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers. To this end, it requested that a process is initiated to review the proposed elaborated updates, and if and as appropriate to adopt them, in the framework of a Special session of WP.24 on the CTU Code to be held before the end of 2023. It requested the secretariat to invite IMO and ILO and, through them, their members to the Special session.
WP.24 Rules of procedures in line with ITC RoPs (ECE/TRANS/2023/9 Annex VI)
Actions of the inland transport sector to join the global fight against climate change

Thank you!