



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

Geneva, 18–20 October 2023

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work**Programme of work: review of 2022–23 biennium and proposal for 2024–25 biennium****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) at its sixty-third session confirmed on its initial agreement for four main clusters for its long-term work programme (2020–2030). Within this long-term work programme WP.24 agreed at its sixty-fourth session on specific activities and expected accomplishments under each cluster for its biennial 2022–23 programme of work.

2. With the 2022–23 biennium coming to an end, this document reviews the work accomplished by WP.24 during that biennium under each of the four clusters. It further proposes activities and accomplishments for 2024–25 biennium for WP.24 consideration and possible adoption.

II. Clusters of the long-term programme of work

3. WP.24 carries its activities within four key clusters, 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 (Protocol to AGTC);

(b) Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport;

(c) Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics;

(d) Review and update of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code).

4. The specificities for each cluster are contained in Annex III, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/145.

III. Review of the 2022–23 programme of work

5. The below table contains the adopted 2022–23 programme of work, specifying the agreed activities in column 1 and the expected accomplishment in column 2. Column 3 provides then a brief assessment on the work done and so accomplishments achieved by WP.24.

(a) *Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:	Brief assessment
WP.24 ensures that the AGTC and the Protocol to AGTC are relevant and up to date	The AGTC lines and facilities are kept up to date in GIS	<p>Assessment of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevance of the AGTC and Protocol to AGTC:
WP.24 promotes accession to the two legal instruments	Amendment proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate	Over the 2022–23 biennium WP.24 has continued its work on clarifying issues of inconsistencies in the AGTC and AGTC Protocol. This work resulted in Contracting Parties proposing amendments to the AGTC, and thus in ensuring the AGTC stays relevant and up-to-date. A consolidated text (revision 7) of the AGTC was made available at https://unece.org/transport/publications/european-agreement-important-international-combined-transport-lines-and .
WP.24 monitors the implementation of the two legal instruments	One more accession to the AGTC and two to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved	At the same time, further efforts need to be undertaken on the Protocol to AGTC, which could not have been further developed.
WP.24 considers core networks	Monitoring mechanism is used to assess the AGTC implementation, monitoring mechanism for the Protocol to AGTC is developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New accessions to the AGTC and the Protocol to AGTC:
	Discussion on the core networks has started	There have been no new accessions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of implementation for both instruments:
		AGTC monitoring mechanism was developed in GIS.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Core networks
		WP.24 discussed whether core networks for emergency situations should be designated in the AGTC. WP.24 would be expected to conclude at its sixty-sixth session whether core networks should be designated.
		<p>Assessment of accomplishments:</p>
		The AGTC lines and facilities are kept up to date in GIS – achieved : The AGTC lines and facilities are available in GIS, validation process was in progress.
		Amendments proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate – achieved for the AGTC: two amendment proposals to the AGTC adopted at the sixty-fifth session, further three proposals were expected for consideration at the sixty-sixth session.

One more accession to the AGTC and two to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved – **not achieved**.

Monitoring mechanism is used to assess AGTC implementation, monitoring mechanism for Protocol to AGTC is developed – **partly achieved**: mechanism for monitoring of the AGTC implementation was developed, data validation process has started. Work on monitoring mechanism for the Protocol to AGTC has not yet started.

Discussion on the core networks has started – **achieved**: the discussion was expected to be concluded during the sixty-sixth session.

(b) *Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:	Brief assessment
<p>WP.24 promotes efficiency of intermodal transport, and addresses identified bottlenecks</p> <p>WP.24 serves as a knowledge platform for intermodal transport and exchange of experience</p> <p>WP.24 identifies and promotes new approaches to carrying out intermodal transport operations</p> <p>WP.24 monitors the enforcement and reviews the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT</p>	<p>Work on document digitalization, and sector automation has progressed</p> <p>Discussion on targets for market share of intermodal transport in freight transport has advanced</p> <p>Monitoring of the ECMT Consolidated resolution is more effective</p> <p>Discussion on the use of TIR carnet in the intermodal transport operations has resulted in specific recommendations</p>	<p>Assessment of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efficiency and bottlenecks, new approaches in intermodal transport operations: <p>WP.24 has started working on issues related to improved efficiencies in intermodal transport as identified in the resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport. These are data and information digitalization for intermodal transport and automation in freight transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WP.24 as knowledge platform: <p>WP.24 continued serving as a platform for mutual exchanges on good practices and for creation of knowledge in the field of intermodal transport in order to support the voice of intermodal sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of the enforcement of the ECMT Consolidated Resolution: <p>WP.24 reviewed and updated the questionnaire on the implementation of measures referred to in the ECMT Consolidated Resolution.</p> <p>Assessment of accomplishments:</p> <p>Work on document digitalization, and sector automation has progressed – achieved: a draft framework for data and information digitalization has been developed; focus areas for automation have been agreed.</p> <p>Discussion on targets for market share of intermodal transport in freight transport has advanced – achieved: WP.24 agreed to consider rail unitization rate in combination</p>

with rail modal share as a basis for setting up targets for market share of intermodal transport. At its sixty-sixth session, WP.24 was expected to discuss countries unitization rates and rail modal share and make recommendations.

Monitoring of the ECMT Consolidated resolution is more effective – **achieved**: WP.24 would be expected to review and update the questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the ECMT Consolidated resolution at the sixty-sixth session. This new questionnaire is to help identify issues for further development, in particular through WP.24 activities.

Discussion on the use of TIR carnet in the intermodal transport operations has resulted in specific recommendations – **achieved**: Possible benefits were shared from the use of electronic TIR to intermodal transport operations.

(c) *Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:	Brief assessment
WP.24 identifies emerging freight transport and logistics issues and analyses them	<p>Work on data interoperability and collaborative networks has been analysed and specific activities have started</p> <p>The preparation of a handbook for supporting automation in the sector has started</p>	<p>Assessment of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of emerging issues: WP.24 agreed to work on issues such as data interoperability, booking platforms, datahubs and standards under an item of information and document digitalization. <p>Assessment of accomplishments:</p> <p>Work on data interoperability and collaborative networks has been analysed and specific activities have started – achieved: a new item of the agenda to focus on data and information digitalization has been set up.</p> <p>The preparation of a handbook for supporting automation in the sector has started – achieved: WP.24 at its sixty-sixth session would be expected to review and finalise the handbook’s outline. The full publication would be due for elaboration for the sixty-seventh session.</p>

(d) *Review and update of the IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:	Brief assessment
WP.24 reviews CTU Code	Areas of CTU Code have been prioritized for updates	<p>Assessment of activities:</p> <p>Review of CTU Code:</p> <p>Informal pre-work continued in 2022-2023 to understand which sections of the CTU Code should be prioritized for updates. As a</p>

result of this work, proposals for specific updates to the CTU Code have been elaborated.

Assessment of accomplishments:

Areas of CTU Code have been prioritized for updates – **achieved**: proposals for specific updates to the CTU Code have been elaborated.

IV. Draft biennial 2024–2025 programme of work

6. The draft 2024–2025 biennial programme proposes activities for implementation within the coming biennium for consideration by WP.24. The activities are defined within the four clusters of the long-term programme of work. The activities are listed together with expected accomplishments which are defined to help WP.24 evaluate its achievements. The programme includes focus areas incorporated in the Inland Transport Committee's adopted resolutions for strengthening the intermodal freight transport and on facilitating the development of container transport on inland waterways.

(a) *Monitoring, review and updating of the AGTC Agreement and the Protocol to AGTC*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 ensures that the AGTC and the Protocol to AGTC are relevant and up to date	The AGTC lines and facilities are kept up to date in GIS
WP.24 promotes accession to the two legal instruments	Amendments proposals are considered and adopted if appropriate
WP.24 monitors the implementation of the two legal instruments	One more accession to the AGTC and one to the Protocol to AGTC are achieved
WP.24 supports the establishment of joint management of the Protocol to AGTC and the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)	Monitoring mechanism is used to assess the AGTC implementation, the development of a monitoring mechanism for the Protocol to AGTC has started Work has started on the joint management of the Protocol to AGTC and AGN

(b) *Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 promotes efficiency of intermodal transport, and addresses identified bottlenecks	Work on document digitalization, and sector automation has progressed
WP.24 serves as a knowledge platform for intermodal transport and exchange of experience	Discussion on targets for market share of intermodal transport in freight transport has been accomplished; discussion on target achievement has started.
WP.24 identifies and promotes new approaches to carrying out intermodal transport operations	Monitoring of the ECMT Consolidated resolution is more effective; more countries report on their work compared to previous round of reporting
WP.24 monitors the enforcement and reviews the ECMT Consolidated Resolution on Combined Transport adopted by ECMT	

(c) *Review and monitoring of emerging issues in freight transport and logistics*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 identifies emerging freight transport and logistics issues and analyses them	One additional issue identified
WP.24 explores feasibility studies for container transport on inland waterways along the Euro-Asian Transport links	Discussion on feasibility for container transport on inland waterways along the Euro-Asian Transport links has started
	The handbook for supporting automation in the sector has been developed

(d) *Review and update of the IMO/ILO/ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo in Intermodal Transport Units*

Activities:	Expected accomplishments:
WP.24 reviews CTU Code	CTU Code has been (partially) updated
