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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 16–18 October 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session*.**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 October 2024 in the Salle IX

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Session's workshops
3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations:
 - (a) Status of the Agreement;
 - (b) Amendment proposals;
 - (c) Implementation of the Agreement.
4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations:
 - (a) Status of the Protocol;
 - (b) Amendment proposals;
 - (c) Implementation of the Protocol.

* Participation is possible only in person. Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007271>. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should present their digital badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate Pavillon (14, Avenue de la Paix), opened on weekdays from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (+41 22 917 2432) or by email (WP.24@un.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

** Delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division's website at <https://unece.org/info/Transport/events/391466>.

5. Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport.
 - (a) Measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport and bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level:
 - (i) Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links;
 - (ii) Intelligent transport systems and technological developments;
 - (iii) Information and document digitalization;
 - (iv) Handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics;
 - (v) Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.
 - (b) National policy measures to promote intermodal transport.
6. Emerging issues in freight transport and logistics:
 - (a) Issues, trends and performance in the industry;
 - (b) Pan-European developments in policies;
 - (c) Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.
7. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units.
8. Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
9. Election of officers for 2025–2026.
10. Other Business.
11. Date and venue of next session.
12. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) is invited to adopt the agenda for its sixty-seventh session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/156

2. Session's workshops

WP.24 has been assigned for the current session two and a half instead the usual three days of meeting due to ongoing liquidity crisis at the United Nations. For this reason, the session does not include a workshop.

3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations

(a) Status of the Agreement

The European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC), at the time of preparation of this agenda, had 33 Contracting Parties.¹ Detailed information on the AGTC is available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html. With reference to the Inland Transport Committee's (ITC) adopted resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport, which, among others, invites further accession to the AGTC. WP.24 may wish to consider ways for promoting these further accessions.

WP.24 requested the secretariat to continue working with the Contracting Parties on clarifying outstanding inconsistencies which could not have been addressed in the process of the preparation of the AGTC Revision 7. To this end, the secretariat will inform WP.24 on progress made in clarifying the outstanding issues.

(b) Amendment proposals

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the status of amendment proposals adopted by WP.24 at its sixty-sixth session on 19 October 2023 as contained in annex I of ECE/TRANS/WP.24/153.

WP.24 will be then invited to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/2 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/3 which contain amendment proposals submitted to annex I and/or annex II of the AGTC.

(c) Implementation of the Agreement

WP.24 had agreed at its sixty-fourth session to establish a monitoring mechanism for the AGTC lines and related installation vis-à-vis their technical parameters by creating the AGTC inventory in Geographic Information System environment. At the last session, WP.24 reviewed progress in establishing the mechanism and invited the Contracting Parties to collaborate in this endeavour with the secretariat. It also requested the secretariat to report further progress at the current session. The secretariat will hence report on the work done since the previous session.

At the sixty-sixth session, WP.24 decided to postpone its discussion on performance indicators to 2026. At the same time, it welcomed the proposal by the International Union of

¹ Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

Railways (UIC) and invited UIC to present at the current session the key performance indicators (KPIs) developed by the rail industry to measure performance. To this end, UIC will present these KPIs.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/3

4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations

(a) Status of the Protocol

The Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the AGTC (AGTC Protocol), at the time of preparation of this agenda, had 10 Contracting Parties.² Detailed information on the AGTC Protocol is available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

(b) Amendment proposals

WP.24 had taken note at its sixty-second session of additional differences between the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and the AGTC Protocol regarding European inland waterways and ports included in both instruments. WP.24 further invited Contracting Parties to the AGTC Protocol to consider submission of an official amendment proposal to align the text of the AGTC Protocol to the AGN. The secretariat will report on its communication with the Contracting Parties to the Protocol on this matter.

(c) Implementation of the Protocol

WP.24 had welcomed at its sixty-fifth session the preparation of the ITC's resolution on facilitating the development of container transport on inland waterways. This resolution was adopted by ITC at its eighty-fifth session (Geneva, 21–24 February 2023). At the previous session, following its discussion on way to further develop the Protocol, WP.24 invited countries to review the Protocol and assess whether the short sea shipping on coastal routes could be better reflected therein, by better designation of the coastal routes and intermodal terminals in ports. They were also invited to consult within their governments on the interest in better utilizing and so developing the Protocol for short sea shipping along the coastal routes. Moreover, WP.24 delegations were invited to consider whether they would wish to establish a group of experts for the development of the Protocol on short-sea shipping.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/4 contains draft terms of reference for the group of experts for the development of the Protocol. WP.24 is invited to consider the terms of reference and decide on the way forward.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/4

² Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

5. Policies and measures in support of intermodal transport

(a) Measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport and bottlenecks in intermodal transport services at the pan-European level

Within this item, WP.24 may wish to continue its deliberations concerning issues such as: (i) Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links; (ii) Intelligent transport systems and technological developments; (iii) Information and document digitalization; (iv) Handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics; and (v) Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention.

(i) *Intermodal issues along Euro-Asian Transport Links*

At its sixty-sixth session, WP.24 was briefed by the secretary to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) on progress in operationalization of the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul corridors by a dedicated Corridor Coordination Committee. The secretary of WP.5 also provided updates on the development of the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory and on the work undertaken surrounding electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure, including on the expected establishment of an informal e-mobility task force.

The WP.5 secretary will report on developments of relevant WP.5 activities of interests to WP.24.

(ii) *Intelligent transport systems and technological developments*

The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) secretariat will inform about activities related to the road map on intelligent transport systems.

(iii) *Information and document digitalization*

WP.24 agreed at its last session that it would continue working on further development of its framework on information and document digitalization by learning from simulations. To this end, WP.24 agreed to focus its efforts on the organisation of a simulation during an informal online meeting to learn about potential challenges to electronic exchanges of data and information in situation such as cargo loss, damage to rail wagon, closure of borders, etc.

WP.24 will be expected to discuss outcomes from the simulation which at the time of the preparation of this agenda was being arranged for the end of September 2024.

(iv) *Handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport and logistics*

At its last session, WP.24 agreed on an outline for its handbook on automation in freight intermodal transport. At the current session, WP.24 should review the developed handbook and finalize it. ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/5 contains the core content of the handbook while ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/6 contains relevant case studies.

(v) *Intermodal transport and the TIR Convention*

The TIR secretariat will be invited to inform about further developments on the application of TIR system to intermodal transport.

(b) National policy measures to promote intermodal transport

In accordance with a decision of ITC, 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, paragraph 90).

Comparable information for 19 ECE member States is currently available in English, French and Russian (<http://apps.unece.org/NatPolWP24/>).

At its previous session, WP.24 agreed on a new survey in MS Forms for reporting on the national policy measures to promote intermodal transport. It requested all countries to

complete it in the first half of 2024 and the secretariat to issue an official document with the results of the survey.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/7 contains the results from the survey, which WP.24 will be invited to discuss.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/5, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/6, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/7

6. Emerging issues in freight transport and logistics

(a) Issues, trends and performance in the industry

The ITC-adopted resolution for strengthening the intermodal freight transport calls upon WP.24 to undertake various actions. In addition to the actions already referred under items 3 and 4 related to the AGTC Agreement and the AGTC Protocol, and item 5 (a) (ii) with regard to automation, document digitalization and data interoperability, the resolution requests WP.24 to work on: (i) appropriate targets for the market share of intermodal transport in freight sector and a plan for achieving the targets; and (ii) support to collaborative networks for flexible transport planning processes and integration of modes and for strengthening the voice of the intermodal industry.

In this context, for setting the appropriate targets for intermodal transport, WP.24 agreed that countries should have been able to consult until the current session on how the targets could be expressed. To facilitate this process a simple survey was prepared by the Chair, Vice-Chair and the secretariat.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/8 contains the results from the simple survey, which WP.24 is invited to consider in setting the appropriate targets.

On collaborative networks, WP.24 agreed at its last session that it is providing a platform for strengthening the voice of the intermodal industry, this has become of greater importance since the adoption of the new ITC Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport. In this regard, countries may wish to exchange latest developments in this field.

WP.24 also decided to support self-learning and the development of e-courses to be integrated into the LearnITC elearning platform. WP.24 may therefore wish to explore ideas and ways for e-course development.

WP.24 should also consider new developments in network resilience. To this end, the secretariat will make a presentation.

WP.24 will be then invited to consider any recent issues and trends on intermodal transport and logistics if such are brought to its attention by stakeholders such as the European Commission, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Finally, the secretariat will inform about recent developments in transport statistics of relevance to WP.24.

(b) Pan-European developments in policies

WP.24 is invited to exchange views on recent developments in pan-European policies for intermodal transport and logistics.

WP.24 should also continue its discussion on the role that intermodal terminals could play for providing charging infrastructure for electric light- and heavy-duty vehicles and exchange possible developments in their countries in this regard. In this regard, the Netherlands will make a presentation at the current session on the adopted approach to developing the clean energy hubs. Terminal operators will be invited to present their views for putting vehicle charging facilities at terminals.

(c) Annual themes on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

WP.24 is invited to consider ideas for a theme on which a workshop could be organized in the framework of its sixty-seventh session in 2024. Informal document WP.24 No. 1 (2024) lists specific proposals for WP.24 consideration.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/8, Informal document WP.24 No. 1 (2024)

7. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units

The secretariat will report on the collection of information on users of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). This information is obtained from the implementation of a registration form for downloading the CTU Code from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.

WP.24 will be then informed about the work undertaken further to the ITC decision at its eighty-sixth session (Geneva, 20–23 February 2024) related to the further development of the CTU Code. ITC having considered the outcomes and the proposed way forward by the WP.24 Special Session on CTU Code (Geneva, 5–7 December 2023) and the statements made by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) secretariats during the ITC session, decided to task WP.24 with managing the process to propose restructuring the CTU Code into the CTU Code Core and Supplement and to hold a WP.24 Special Session in collaboration with other interested Working Parties on the CTU Code in 2024 as part of this process. This information will also include preparation to the WP.24 Special Session on CTU Code scheduled for 16–17 December 2024, organised jointly with the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and other related developments.

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/9 informs about the outcomes of the informal meetings on the CTU Code restructuring held in 2024 and discusses possible follow-up to the WP.24 Special Session.

WP.24 may then wish to discuss the preparation to its special session on CTU Code and activities to be undertaken in 2025 in collaboration with ILO and IMO.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/9

8. Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will inform WP.24 about the main decisions of the eighty-sixth session of ITC and the 2024 ITC Bureau meeting on issues of interest to WP.24. This, in particular, concerns the adoption by ITC of its Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport. With the adoption, the Working Parties are invited to report on the implementation of the Strategy biennially as per the initial ITC Climate Action Plan.

WP.24 may wish to consider how to incorporate the actions of the Strategy into its long-term and biennial work programmes. ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/10 contains a proposal to that end.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2024/10

9. Election of officers for 2025–2026

WP.24 is invited to elect a Chair and possibly a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2025 and 2026.

10. Other Business

At the time of drafting this provisional agenda, there were no proposals under this item.

11. Date and venue of next session

The sixty-eighth session of WP.24 is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva from 8 to 10 October 2025.

The WP.24 Special Session on CTU Code is scheduled for 16–17 December 2024 and will be organised jointly with SC.2.

12. Summary of decisions

WP.24 will be invited to review and adopt the decisions taken at the sixty-seventh session.

III. Tentative timetable

Wednesday 16 October	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 1–3
Thursday 17 October	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 4–5
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 5–6
Friday 18 October	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 7–8
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 9–12
