



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

Geneva, 16–18 October 2024

Item 4(c) of the provisional agenda

Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations: Implementation of the Protocol**Draft terms of reference for the group of experts for the development of the Protocol****Note of the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. At its sixty-sixth session, the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) discussed ways to further develop the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (the Protocol). In this regard, WP.24 invited countries to review the Protocol and assess whether short sea shipping on coastal routes could be better reflected therein, by better designation of the coastal routes and intermodal terminals in ports and reflect whether a group of experts should be established for the development of the Protocol.

2. WP.24 should continue its discussion on the development of the Protocol at the sixty-seventh session and decide whether a group of experts for the development of the Protocol should be established.

3. In support of this discussion, and for the occasion, WP.24 would decide to establish a group of experts for the development of the Protocol, draft terms of reference have been prepared by the secretariat and are contained in this document for such a group of experts to formulate its possible mandate and tasks.

II. Mandate

4. The Group of Experts for the development of the Protocol is tasked to develop options for the development of the Protocol. This may include: (a) more detailed integration of short-sea shipping coastal routes, and (b) designation of waterway routes, short-sea shipping coastal routes for facilitating Euro-Asian intermodal transport links.

5. The mandate is proposed for the period 2025–2027.

III. Terms of Reference

A. Tasks:

6. The Group of Experts will:
 - (a) Collect and analyse short-sea shipping connections along the costal routes in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE);
 - (b) Collect and analyse data and information on waterways that could facilitate Euro-Asian intermodal transport links;
 - (c) Make proposals, if any, for a more specific designation of short-sea shipping costal routes to the Protocol;
 - (d) Make proposals for inclusion in the Protocol of terminals in ports for short-sea shipping operations on costal routes;
 - (e) Make proposals for a designation of waterway routes, if any, in facilitation of Euro-Asian intermodal transport links;
 - (f) Make proposals for inclusion in the Protocol of terminals in ports for facilitating Euro-Asian intermodal transport links; and
 - (g) Prepare a final report on its achievements.

B. Methods of work:

7. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the ECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1).
8. The Group of Experts is expected to meet at twice per year. The meetings should be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, unless hosted by countries or partner organisations.
9. The Chair of the Group of Experts should report on the ongoing work at the annual session of WP.24, while the final report should be submitted to the session scheduled for October 2027. Information on the work undertaken should be also provided to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.
10. The meetings should be held in all ECE official languages and in hybrid format where possible. Meeting documents should be made available in all ECE official languages.
11. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all ECE member countries and experts. Interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.
12. The Group of Experts should ensure inclusiveness and so active participation of experts in the group from all ECE member states.

C. Secretariat

13. ECE will provide secretariat services to the Group of Experts.
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