



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Inland Water Transport****Sixty-eighth session**

Geneva, 23–25 October 2024

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe Bodies of Interest
to the Working Party: Inland Transport Committee Strategy on
Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport****Inland Transport Committee's Climate Action Plan and the
Programme of Work of the Working Party on Inland Water
Transport****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. The present document is submitted in accordance with the proposed programme budget for 2024, part V (Regional cooperation for development), section 20 (Economic development in Europe), programme 17 (Economic development in Europe) (A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5).
2. At its sixty-fifth session, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) finalized the draft proposal on monitoring the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport¹ (ITC Strategy). SC.3/WP.3 also took note of the Initial ITC Climate Action Plan with Milestones (ITC Climate Action Plan) and actions for the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and joint and coordinated actions with other ITC subsidiary bodies (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2024/7).
3. This document contains an overview of the current programme of work of SC.3 in relation to the actions assigned to SC.3 by the ITC Climate Action Plan in order to identify, to which extent the activities of SC.3 already meet the objectives and tasks of the ITC Strategy, a proposal for bringing the programme of work further in line with the ITC Climate Action Plan and next steps.
4. SC.3 may wish to consider how to incorporate these actions in its biennial work programme of work and provide guidance for the secretariat for the next review of the programme of work at its seventy-ninth session in 2025 and next steps.

¹ ECE/TRANS/2024/3.

II. Inland Transport Committee's Climate Action Plan

5. The decarbonization framework of the ITC Strategy draws on avoid–shift–improve (ASI) measures which member States may implement in any of or across the following areas:

- (a) Avoid unnecessary vehicle kilometres through compact development, increasing accessibility to services, and reducing the need to travel as much as we do today;
- (b) Shift to low and zero carbon, sustainable transport modes and/or operations; and
- (c) Improve vehicles, infrastructure, and operations.

6. The list of actions for SC.3, as mentioned in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2024/7, paragraph 5, and complemented with action 31, is given in table I. All seven actions are assigned to SC.3 as one of the Working Parties responsible for their implementation, that include, in particular, the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24), the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29).

Table I

ITC Climate Action Plan: activities of relevance for SC.3

<i>Action number</i>	<i>Specific action</i>	<i>Target year</i>	<i>ASI pillar addressed</i>	<i>Responsible bodies</i>
1	Assess regularly actions taken in support of implementation of this Strategy, and address climate change whenever feasible, through annual sessions or dedicated seminars or workshops and report it	From 2024, annually	Avoid/ Shift/ Improve	ITC and all its subsidiary bodies
3	Assess the feasibility and potential benefits of modal shift goals, if appropriate for individual Member States when developing their own national strategies, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders (i. e. shippers and logistical companies)	2027	Shift	WP.5/WP.24/ SC.1/SC.2/SC.3
6	Enable hybrid attendance and participation, including for decision making purposes	2027	Avoid	All subsidiary bodies
9	Accelerate accession and implementation of the AGC ² /AGTC ³ /AGTC-Protocol ⁴ so that intermodal transport infrastructure is developed enabling a shift to rail or inland waterways and monitor progress in infrastructure improvements	2040	Shift/ Improve	WP.24/SC.2/ SC.3
10	Enable instruments similar to AGTC for use by United Nations Member States from outside of ECE region	2040	Shift/ Improve	WP.24/SC.2/ SC.3/WP.5

² The European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.

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

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

<i>Action number</i>	<i>Specific action</i>	<i>Target year</i>	<i>ASI pillar addressed</i>	<i>Responsible bodies</i>
26	Develop methodological and analytical tools to support national efforts further to and based on existing tools such as For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS), Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN), and the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO-GIS) ⁵	From 2024 onwards	Avoid/ Shift/ Improve	ITC and all its Working Parties
31	Ensure the safe and secure deployment of low- and zero-carbon modes, technologies for vehicles and their charging infrastructure	Continuous	Shift/ Improve	WP.15/WP.29, with contributions from WP.1, WP.5 and other Working Parties

7. It should be noted that actions 1 and 6 are of administrative nature and as such do not need to be included in future programmes of work.

III. Programme of Work for 2024–2025 and Climate Actions

8. Table II contains the clusters of SC.3 activities from its programme of work for 2024–2025 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/17), the relevant actions from the ITC Climate Action Plan and notes by the secretariat.

Table II
Programme of work for 2024–2025 and climate actions

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Relevant actions from the ITC Climate Action Plan</i>	<i>Note</i>
1. Organize a pan-European policy dialogue on the sustainable inland water transport issues	Action 1	Decarbonization and greening of the sector and addressing climate change are among the cross-cutting issues that are regularly addressed at sessions of SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3. The proposal on monitoring the implementation of the ITC Strategy by member States focuses on these issues
	Action 3	Modal shift from road to inland waterways is one of the strategic objectives in the sector
	Action 6	Hybrid attendance and participation is fundamental for all decision making
	Action 26	Such tools fall within emerging issues for which analytical outputs are prepared. SC.3 contributes to analytical work on issues related to inland water transport
	Action 31	Innovative technologies and equipment for alternative fuels for vessels and the onshore infrastructure will further increase the green credentials of the sector

⁵ Geographic Information System.

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Relevant actions from the ITC Climate Action Plan</i>	<i>Note</i>
2. Promote a coordinated development of inland waterway infrastructure and the implementation of international conventions and agreements	Action 9	The implementation of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) is closely related to the AGTC-Protocol
	Action 10	Coastal routes in the context of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) can be considered as relevant to this action
3. Address safety and operational requirements in inland navigation, promote innovations and modernization of inland fleet and river-sea shipping	Action 1	Projects and programmes for the fleet decarbonization, transition to alternative fuels and zero-emission fleet are regularly addressed at sessions of SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3. The proposal on monitoring the implementation of the ITC Strategy by member States focuses on these issues
	Action 31	Innovative technologies and equipment for alternative fuels for vessels and infrastructure will further increase the green credentials of the sector
4. Promote integration of inland water transport in multimodal transport chains	Action 1	Projects and programmes for integration of inland water transport in multimodal transport chains, which also aim to contribute to modal shift, are regularly addressed at sessions of SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3. The proposal on monitoring the implementation of the ITC Strategy by member States focuses on these issues
	Action 3	Modal shift from road to inland waterways is one of the strategic objectives in the sector. The promotion, and assessment of modal shift is core to activities of SC.3, also in collaboration with WP.24
	Action 9	The implementation of AGN is closely related to the AGTC-Protocol
	Action 31	Innovative technologies and equipment for alternative fuels for vessels and infrastructure will further increase the green credentials of the sector
5. Contribute to the prevention of pollution from vessels and resilience of inland water transport to climate change	Action 1	Decarbonization of the sector and improving its resilience to climate change are among the cross-cutting issues that are regularly addressed at sessions of SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3. The proposal on monitoring the implementation of the ITC Strategy by member States focuses on these issues
	Action 31	Innovative technologies and equipment for alternative fuels for vessels and infrastructure will further increase the green credentials of the sector
6. Contribute to the harmonization of the legal framework for inland water transport	Action 9	The implementation of AGN is closely related to the AGTC-Protocol
	Action 10	Coastal routes in the context of EATL and promotion of recreational navigation can be considered as relevant to this action

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Relevant actions from the ITC Climate Action Plan</i>	<i>Note</i>
7. Promote the attractiveness of the sector to the market and increasing its competitiveness, promote recreational navigation	Action 3 Action 10	Not specifically tied to any action in the ITC Climate Action Plan, however, increasing the modal share of inland water transport will contribute to its competitiveness Promotion of recreational navigation can be considered as relevant to this action
7. Undertake other activities related to regional and international cooperation or requested by ITC	Actions 1, 3, 26, 31	Depending on the purpose and the context, such activities can be relevant to or complement the actions assigned to SC.3, in particular, actions 1, 3, 26 and 31

9. Table II shows that all seven core actions from the ITC Climate Action Plan are already covered in its current programme of work. However, in order to emphasize the importance of these actions and ensure a complete alignment with the plan, SC.3 may wish to introduce minor modifications to the following clusters for the next review of the programme of work:

- Cluster 3: Address safety and operational requirements in inland navigation, promote innovations, ~~and~~ modernization **and decarbonization** of inland fleet and river-sea shipping
- Cluster 4: Promote integration of inland water transport in multimodal transport chains **and its modal shift**
- Cluster 5: **Contribute to the** prevention of pollution from vessels, ~~and~~ resilience of inland water transport to climate change **and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland water transport.**

10. SC.3 may also wish to consider aligning of its terms of reference with the ITC Strategy, where necessary, in particular, adding references to the Strategy and actions from the ITC Climate Action Plan and provide guidance to the secretariat for its next session.