



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.24/100  
7 July 2003

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Combined Transport

(29 September –1 October 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTIETH SESSION**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 14.30 hours on Monday 29 September 2003 <sup>\*/</sup>**

- |    |  |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda   | TRANS/WP.24/100          |
| 2. | Adoption of the decisions taken at the thirty-ninth session of the Working Party | TRANS/WP.24/99 and Add.1 |

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<sup>\*/</sup> For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: WP.24@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division ([www.unece.org/trans](http://www.unece.org/trans)). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE ([www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org))) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (WP.24@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

3. European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)
  - (a) Status of the AGTC Agreement ECE/TRANS/88/Rev. 1
  - (b) Status of amendments proposed to the AGTC Agreement TRANS/WP.24/97  
TRANS/WP.24/2003/1
  - (c) Inventory of existing AGTC standards and parameters UNECE Publication  
("Yellow Book")
4. Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) ECE/TRANS/122 and Corr. 1 and 2  
TRANS/WP.24/79
5. Role of railways in the promotion of combined transport  
TRANS/WP.24/2003/6  
TRANS/SC.2/2002/9  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/9  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/4  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/3  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/2  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/1  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/8  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/7  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/6  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/5  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/4  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/3  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/2  
TRANS/WP.24/2001/1  
Informal document No. 5 (2003)  
Informal document No. 3 (2003)  
Informal document No. 10 (2002)
6. Possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport TRANS/WP.24/2000/3
7. Combined transport and security TRANS/2003/6  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/12

8. Activities and developments in combined transport of interest to the Working Party
  - (a) New developments in the field of combined transport in UNECE member countries Informal documents (available at the session)
  - (b) Subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC)
  - (c) European Commission (EC) and European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)
  - (d) Other organizations
9. Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) ECE/AC.21/2003/6  
[www.the-pep.org](http://www.the-pep.org)
10. Terminology in combined transport UNECE Publication  
([www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/wp24/pub/html](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/wp24/pub/html))
11. Programme of work for 2004 to 2008 TRANS/WP.24/2003/7  
TRANS/2003/13  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/12  
TRANS/WP.24/2002/11
12. Cooperation with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) TRANS/WP.24/2003/8
13. Other business  
  
Date of next session
14. Adoption of the report

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### EXPLANATORY NOTES

- Monday, 29 September 2003: Agenda items 1-5  
Tuesday, 30 September 2003: Agenda items 5-11  
Wednesday, 1 October 2003 (morning only): Agenda items 12-14

## **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (TRANS/WP.24/100).

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY**

The Working Party may wish to formally adopt the decisions taken at its thirty-ninth session on the basis of the draft report prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman and comments received (TRANS/WP.24/99 and Add.1).

## **3. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)**

### **(a) Status of the AGTC Agreement**

As of 1 July 2003 the following 26 countries are Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Luxembourg; Kazakhstan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey. The Working Party will be informed of progress made in the extension of the geographical scope of the Agreement.

The updated text of the AGTC Agreement is contained in document ECE/TRANS/88/Rev.1. Up-to-date information on the status of the AGTC Agreement as well as of other United Nations treaties developed and/or administered by the UNECE may be obtained from the web site of the UNECE Transport Division ([www.unece.org/trans](http://www.unece.org/trans) - Legal instruments).

### **(b) Status of amendments proposed to the AGTC Agreement**

The Working Party may wish to be informed of the status of the amendment proposals adopted at its thirty-eighth session (TRANS/WP.24/97, annexes 1 and 2).

The Working Party may also wish to consider progress made on amendment proposals with regard to the inclusion into the Agreement of Euro-Asian links covering administrative, legal and technical issues (TRANS/WP.24/2003/1).

(c) **Inventory of existing AGTC standards and parameters**

The Working Party may wish to recall the publication in the year 2000 of the so-called “Yellow Book”, an inventory of existing AGTC and AGC standards and parameters covering the year 1997. It may wish to consider progress made in the collection of 2002 data by means of a new questionnaire to be prepared by the secretariat and transmitted to Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement that would also include queries on the appropriateness of the minimum standards and parameters contained in the Agreement.

**4. PROTOCOL ON COMBINED TRANSPORT ON INLAND WATERWAYS TO THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLATIONS (AGTC)**

As of 1 July 2002, the Protocol has the following seven Contracting Parties: Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania and Switzerland. It will come into force following ratification by at least five States, of which three States are linked, in a continuous manner, by the waterways identified in the Protocol. Amendment proposals submitted to the Working Party at its twenty-ninth session by France, Hungary and Romania (Informal document No. 1 (1998); TRANS/WP.24/79, para. 20) as well as amendment proposals transmitted by the Government of Bulgaria to the secretariat may be considered by the Working Party as soon as the Protocol enters into force.

The text of the Protocol to the AGTC Agreement is contained in document ECE/TRANS/122 and Corr.1 (F) and Corr.2 (R). Up-to-date information on the status and the text of the Protocol may be obtained from the web site of the UNECE Transport Division ([www.unece.org/trans](http://www.unece.org/trans) - Legal instruments).

The Working Party may wish to be informed on progress made in the ratification of the Protocol by UNECE member States, Contracting Parties to the AGTC Agreement.

**5. ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT**

The Working Party may wish to consider a document prepared by the ad hoc expert groups on partnership models and best practices for combined transport terminals (TRANS/WP.24/2003/6).

The document contains a “Model” Action Plan or Framework Agreement as well as a “Model” Partnership Agreement. The objective of these models is to assist Contracting Parties to the AGTC and to its Protocol on Inland Waterways as well as all actors involved in international

combined transport services to cooperate with each other at the policy as well as at technical and commercial levels with a view to promoting international combined and intermodal transport at the pan-European level. Such models or possibly elements thereof might be included into the AGTC Agreement.

## **6. POSSIBILITIES FOR RECONCILIATION AND HARMONIZATION OF CIVIL LIABILITY REGIMES GOVERNING COMBINED TRANSPORT**

The Working Party may wish to recall that its programme of work contains as a priority item, the “... analysis of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of civil liability regimes governing combined transport operations.” Following a number of activities by the Working Party and its ad hoc expert group in this field, including the organization, in 1999 and 2000, of two hearings with interested industry groups (TRANS/WP.24/2000/3), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has started to prepare a new legal instrument covering transport of goods by sea. This instrument contains door-to-door provisions giving it a multimodal scope.

The Working Party had felt earlier that value added could be achieved in this field by developing a civil liability regime for combined transport operations in the UNECE region covering land transport and possibly short-sea shipping.

The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made by its ad hoc expert group in the elaboration of a draft convention and of the latest developments within UNCITRAL, particularly results achieved at its Working Group III (Transport Law) (Vienna, 16-18 July 2003) on the law of carriage.

## **7. COMBINED TRANSPORT AND SECURITY**

The Working Party may wish to continue its considerations of national and international activities aiming at improved security measures in combined and intermodal transport operations.

## **8. ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN COMBINED TRANSPORT OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY**

### **(a) New developments in the field of combined transport in UNECE member countries**

The Working Party may wish to continue its exchange of information on this subject. Delegations are expected to report orally on recent operating experiences, on new and planned administrative procedures and on new technologies with regard to combined transport in their countries or organizations. Audio-visual aids, as well as written material, would be welcomed and could be distributed by the secretariat if received in time before the session.

### **(b) Subsidiary bodies of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC)**

The Working Party will be informed of the activities of subsidiary bodies of the ITC, such as the Working Parties on Road Transport (SC.1), Rail Transport (SC.2) and Inland Water Transport (SC.3) as well as the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), as far as they relate to combined transport matters.

### **(c) European Commission (EC) and European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)**

The Working Party may wish to be informed of the latest activities of the EC and the ECMT in the field of combined transport.

### **(d) Other organizations**

The Working Party may wish to be informed of current and planned activities in combined transport of other international organizations.

## **9. TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE PEP)**

The Working Party may wish to be informed of new developments and activities carried out in the framework of the newly established Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) that has consolidated and takes forward the previous Vienna and London follow-up processes on transport and environment and on transport and health respectively (ECE/AC.21/2003/6) ([www.the-pep.org](http://www.the-pep.org)).

## **10. TERMINOLOGY IN COMBINED TRANSPORT**

The Working Party may wish to recall the glossary of terms used in combined transport prepared jointly by the European Commission (EC), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the UNECE secretariat. The glossary contains a detailed, though not exhaustive list of definitions applied in the framework of combined transport in Europe ([www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/wp24/-publications](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/wp24/-publications)).

The Working Party may wish to consider whether the terms contained in the glossary should be updated.

## **11. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004 TO 2008**

The Working Party may wish to consider and review its programme of work covering the years 2004 to 2008 as contained in document TRANS/WP.24/2003/7.

## **12. COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT (ECMT)**

The Working Party may wish to consider proposals on the streamlining of working procedures and the relevant institutional machineries of ECMT and UNECE in the field of combined transport (TRANS/WP.24/2003/8).

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

### Date of next session

The Working Party may wish to decide on the date for its next session.

## **14. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its fortieth session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat. Due to resource limitations, parts of the report may only be available in English for adoption on the last day of the session. Following the session, the final report will, however, continue to be available in the three UNECE working languages.

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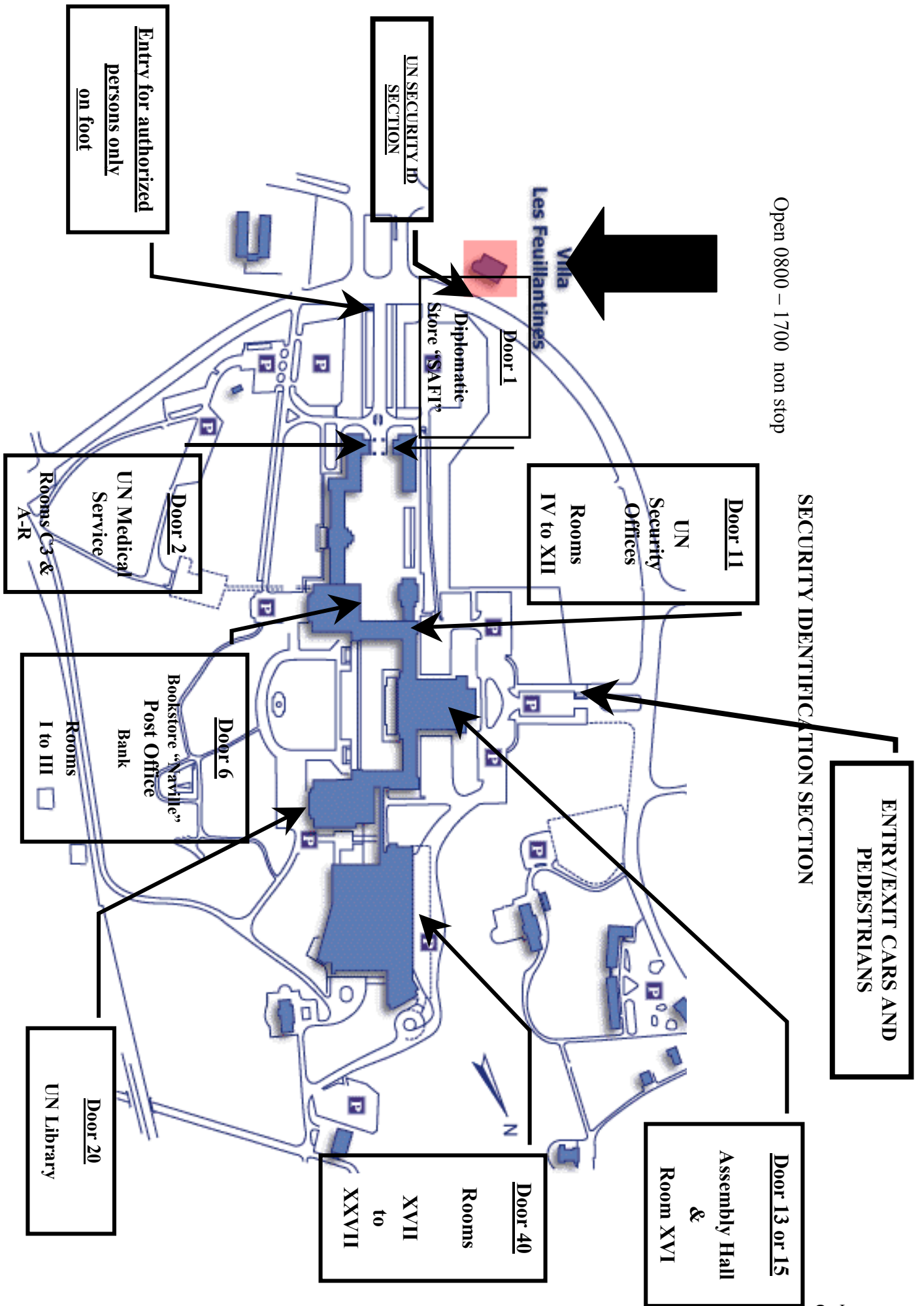
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