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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics¹
(26-28 September 2005)

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics
(Forty-fourth session, 27 and 28 September 2005, agenda item 13)

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2006-2010

Note by the secretariat

in cooperation with the Chair of the Working Party,
the Chair of the ECMT Working Group and the ECMT secretariat

A. MANDATE

1. On 1 October 2003, the Working Party adopted its programme of work 2004-2008, that consolidated and refocused the activities of the Working Party in light of the newly established cooperative arrangements with ECMT and had been established in cooperation with ECMT and the European Commission (TRANS/WP.24/101, paras.40 and 41).
2. The Working Party may wish to consider and adopt its updated programme of work 2006-2010 as contained in the present document.

¹ ECMT and UNECE have adopted cooperative arrangements in establishing the "Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics" consisting of separate ECMT and UNECE segments, the UNECE segment consisting of its Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

3. As decided at the forty-second session of the Working Party and approved by the Inland Transport Committee, the present draft contains (in bold characters) specific new references relating to “transport safety and security” as well as to “globalization of the world economy” (TRANS/WP.24/105, para. 4; ECE/TRANS/162, paras. 133 and 134).

4. The adopted programme of work for 2006 to 2010 will be transmitted to the Inland Transport Committee for approval.

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B. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2006-2010

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.9: INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS²

Promotion of combined and intermodal transport

Priority: 1

Description: Consideration of legal, administrative, documentary, technical, economic and environmental aspects of combined and intermodal transport with a view to the development of measures to promote combined and intermodal transport as well as the maximum utilization of equipment, infrastructure and terminals used for such transport.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Consideration of measures to promote efficiency of intermodal transport as part of a sustainable transport system whereby goods are moved in one and the same loading unit or road vehicle using successively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing modes. Analysis of ways to implement a harmonized set of best practices and partnership models for intermodal transport operations (road, rail, inland water transport and short-sea shipping).

Priority: 1

[Output expected in 2004: Preparation of models or best practices for international action plans or agreements among Governments and private and public actors involved that can provide a framework and benchmarks for collaborative action towards the development of competitive international intermodal transport services.]

Output expected in 2006: Monitoring the use of and, if necessary, preparation of implementation procedures for the “model” action plans and partnership agreements for the development of intermodal transport prepared by the Working Party and adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers (Moscow, 24-25 May 2005) and the Inland Transport Committee in 2006.

² The underlying text refers to the programme of work for 2004-2008 of the Working Party as adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 19 February 2004 and contained in document ECE/TRANS/156/Add.1: Text in square brackets [...] refers to text proposed for deletion; text in **bold** characters indicates newly proposed text.

(b) Review and updating of the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) with a view to:

- Extending the AGTC network to all UNECE member countries concerned taking account of the work already undertaken by UNESCAP and OSZhD;
- Taking into account new developments in transport markets (demands and requirements) **also as a result of globalization of the world economy**³, including new East-West traffic flows;
- Implementing and, whenever feasible, improving existing standards and operational parameters;
- Raising environmental, energy as well as safety and security standards.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 200[5] 6: Adoption of an extended AGTC network covering all UNECE member countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Inclusion into the AGTC Agreement of new East-West combined transport lines.

(c) Monitoring of weights and dimensions of loading units used in intermodal transport in accordance with resolution No. 241 adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 5 February 1993. This includes consideration of possibilities for standardization of loading units and the compliance with safety regulations.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 200[4] 6: Review of the issues based on one annual report to be prepared by the UNECE secretariat on latest developments in this field.

(d) Analysis of modern transport chains and logistics that allow for an integration of production and distribution systems providing a rational basis for Governmental decisions on efficient intermodal transport regulations and infrastructures **and taking into account transport safety and security requirements**⁴.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 200[4] 6: Review of technical and legal issues and development of regional implementation tools and measures based on considerations and analyses made by the ECMT.

³ Refer to paragraph 2 above and to document TRANS/WP.24/105, para. 4.

⁴ Idem.

- (e) Analysis of technical and organizational measures to optimize terminal and transshipment procedures allowing for more cost-effective handling procedures of loading units. Analysis of possibilities to improve efficiency and quality of terminal operations in intermodal transport.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 200[4] 6: Report to be prepared on the basis of information provided by UNECE member Governments and international organizations allowing the preparation of benchmarks for the efficient operation of intermodal terminals.

- (f) Monitoring and reports by the secretariat on behalf of the Working Party on the following subjects for consideration by the Working Party upon specific request only:

- Translation and updating of the intermodal transport terminology into Arabic, Chinese and Spanish in order to contribute to the dissemination of the joint ECMT, EC and UNECE glossary of terms used in this field;
- Intermodal transport techniques and operations (including inland waterways and coastal shipping techniques) as a basis for a possible international compendium of measures for the safe handling and temporary storage of dangerous goods;
- National approval procedures for containers and swap-bodies in the framework of relevant conventions, such as the CSC Convention, with a view to better harmonizing such procedures;
- New services and technologies in combined and intermodal transport, including sea/inland waterways and sea/land interfaces, and the use of bimodal road/rail vehicles with a view to be able to analyse the potential of intermodal transport;
- Data requirements for transshipment and handling operations, of marking, coding and identification systems for means of transport and loading units in intermodal transport, including electronic data processing;
- Analysis of economic and environmental aspects of intermodal transport, including administrative measures and activities of the transport industry, with a view to promoting sustainable transport development.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 200[4] 6: Report(s) to be prepared by the secretariat as a basis for discussion by the Working Party, as appropriate.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (g) Analysis of possibilities for reconciliation and harmonization of liability regimes governing intermodal transport operations.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2004: Review of relevant activities undertaken by international organizations and, if appropriate, preparation of a draft legal instrument for multimodal overland transport covering the UNECE region.

- (h) Analysis of the consequences on the organization of intermodal transport in Europe resulting from the development of intermodal transport services on interregional rail links between Europe and Asia, including the Trans-Siberian railway, and vice versa, **in close cooperation with ECMT, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, EC, OSZhD, etc.**. [This includes the organization of an inter-regional meeting harmonizing the legal and administrative work carried out by relevant international organizations in Europe and Asia (e.g. UNESCAP, UNCTAD, EC, OSZhD).]

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2004: Based on work carried out by UNESCAP, study on the feasibility of an intergovernmental meeting, jointly organized with UNESCAP, in a country in Central Asia, the Caucasus or in the Russian Federation to agree on common measures to facilitate intermodal transport services along interregional links.]

Output expected in 2006: Based on the recommendations adopted at the ECMT/UNECE Kiev Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia and the corresponding framework action plan adopted by the ECMT Council of Ministers (Moscow, 24-25 May 2005), review of measures to facilitate border crossing procedures and analysis of the coherence between the various rail and intermodal infrastructure parameters and their possible harmonization in the longer term.
