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**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-second session

17 November 2008

Geneva, 18-20 November 2008

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

ENGLISH ONLY

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**ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES AND PROJECTS  
OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY**

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)

Note by the secretariat



# UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)



Serviced by

Sustainable Transport Section  
Transport Division  
UNECE

# What is WP.24 ?

- **Status**

- Permanent body under the auspices of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) since 1954
- Only pan-European inter-governmental forum
- Two regular annual meetings (March/October)

- **Functions**

- Exchange of technical, legal and policy information, research and best practices
- Technical and legal coordination
- Administration of legal instruments
- [Technical cooperation - peer reviews]

# What is WP.24 ?

- **Mandate**

- Support non-discriminatory, sustainable, safe and secure transport policies of UNECE member countries
- Promote intermodal and combined transport at the pan-European level (56 UNECE countries)
- Ensure maximum utilization of transport infrastructure networks, equipment and terminals
- Foster cooperation between public (Governments) and private (industry) sectors

# What is intermodal transport ?

## Terminology (UNECE, EC, ECMT)

### Multimodal transport (legal)

Carriage of goods by two or more modes of transport.

### Intermodal transport (functional)

Movement of goods in one and the same loading unit using two or more modes without handling the goods.

### Combined transport (political)

Intermodal transport of which major part of European journey being rail, IWT or short- sea whereby initial/final haulages by road are as short as possible.

# Intermodal technologies

- **Unaccompanied transport**  
(containers, swap-bodies, semi-trailers)

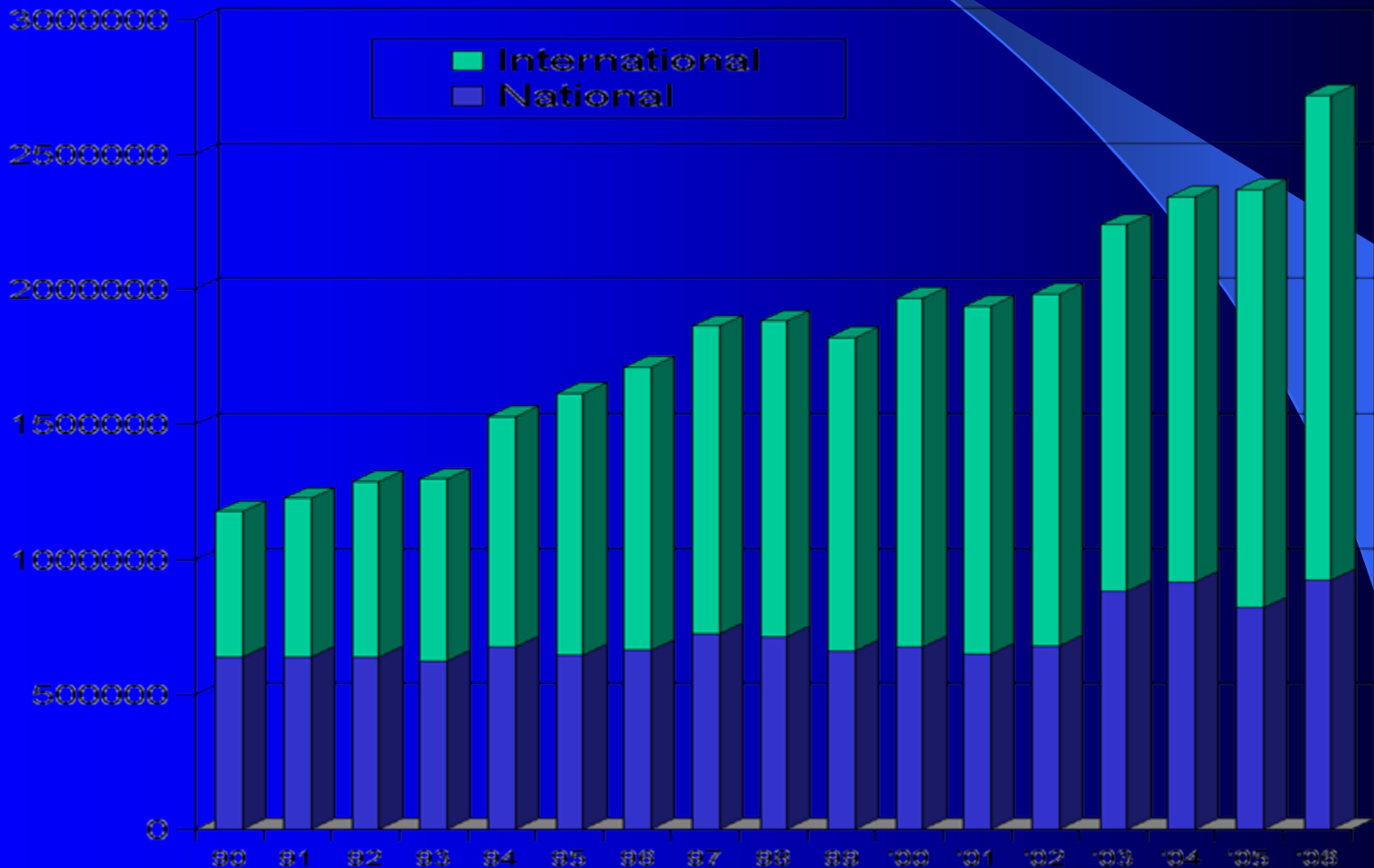


- **Accompanied transport (Rolling Highway–RoLa)**



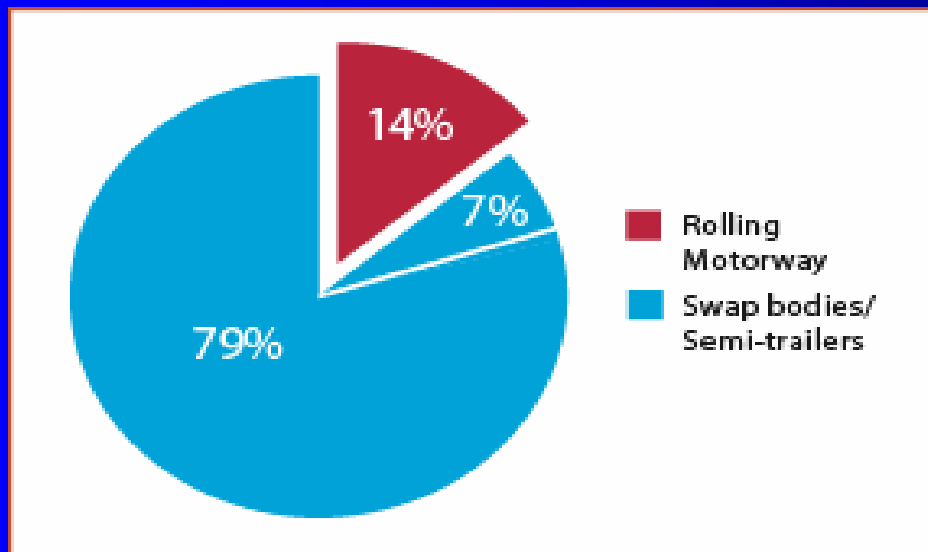
# Development of intermodal transport

## Number of consignments (UIRR companies)



# Development of intermodal transport

## Type of technology (UIRR companies)

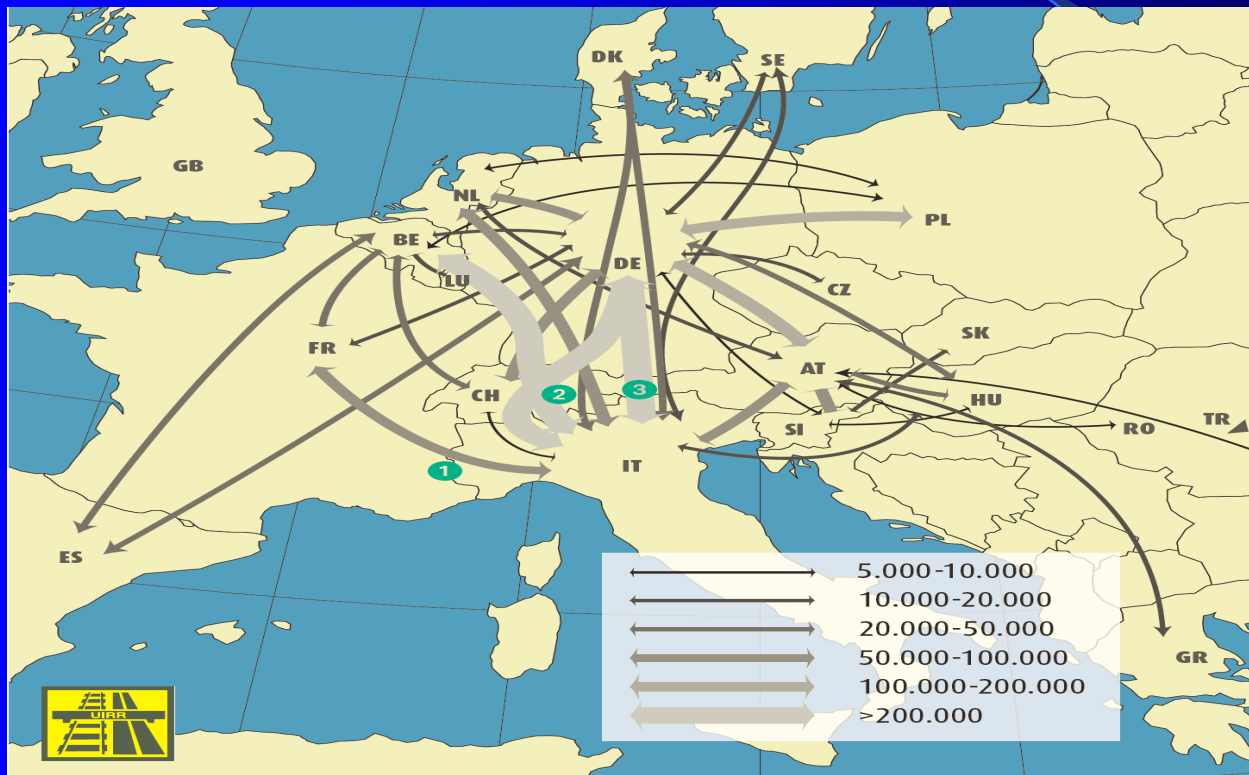


- **Unaccompanied transport:** 86%
  - Swap-bodies and containers: 79%
  - Semi-trailers 7%
- **Accompanied transport (RoLa)** 14% (80% in Austria)



# Intermodal transport flows in Europe

## Main traffic in North-South direction

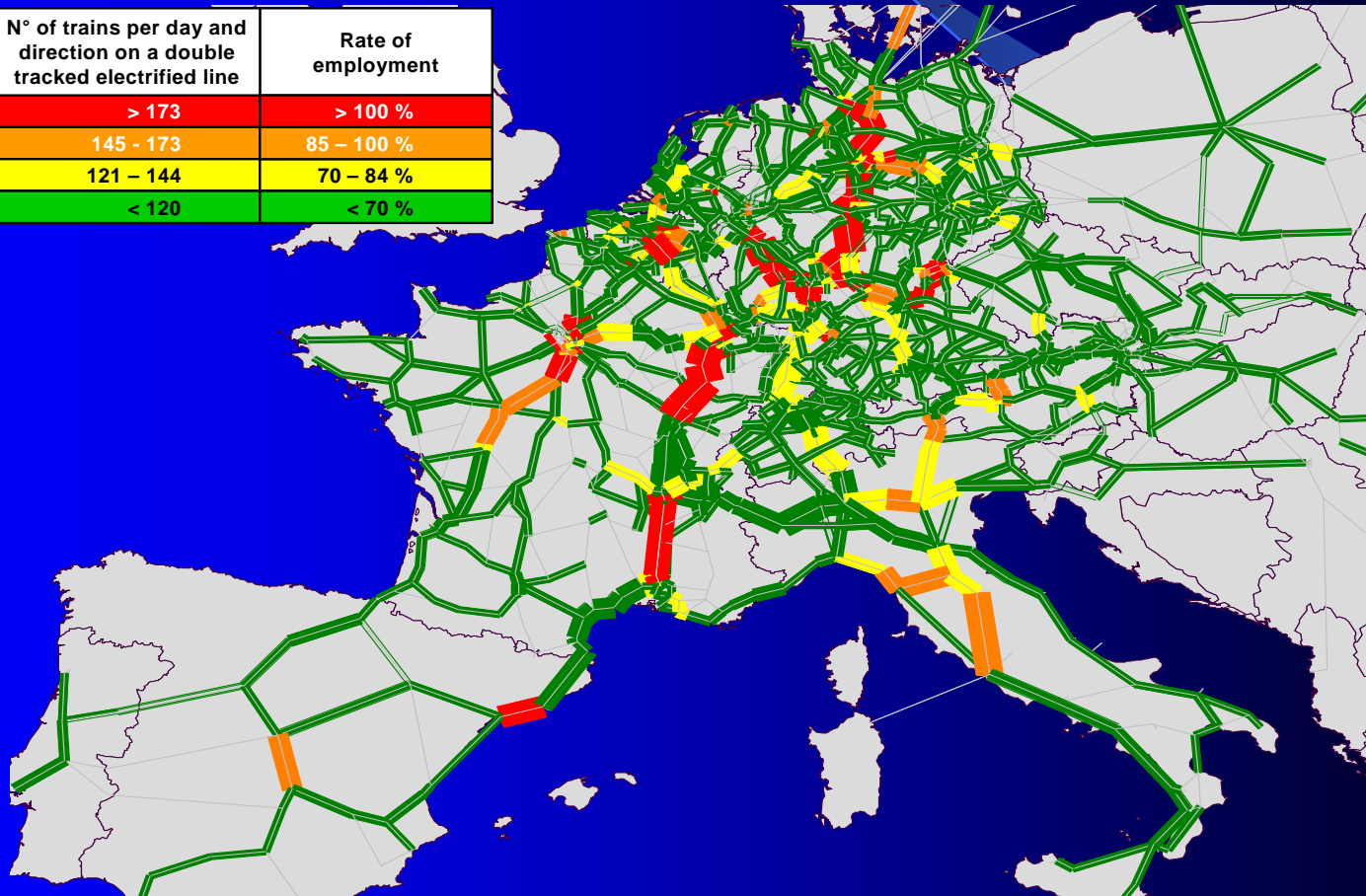


1 Modane 2 Gotthard/Lötschberg 3 Brenner (in consignments)

# Problems: Rail transport capacity

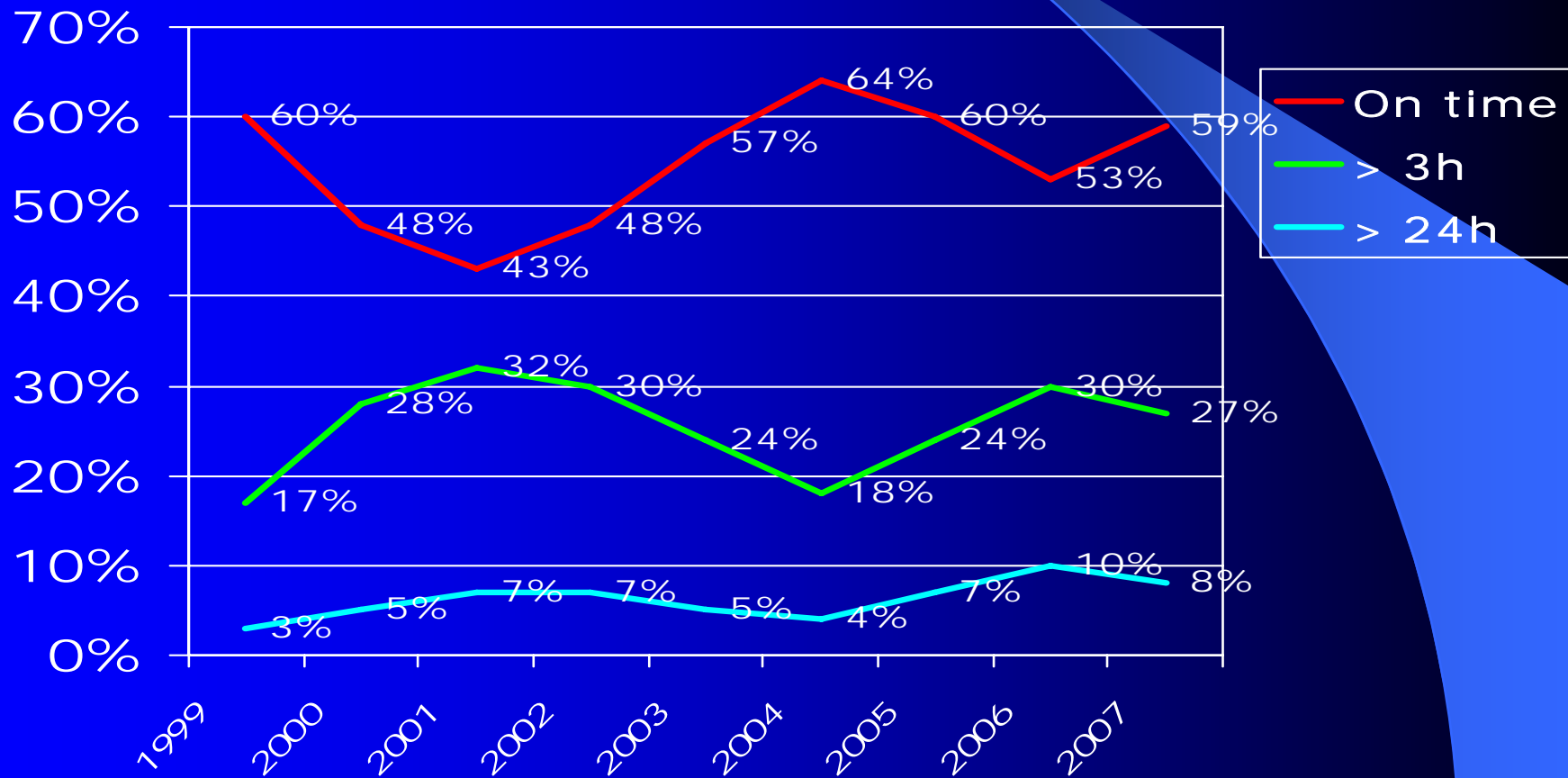
## Major bottlenecks in 2015 (UIC DIOMIS study)

N° of trains per day and direction on a double tracked electrified line	Rate of employment
> 173	> 100 %
145 - 173	85 - 100 %
121 - 144	70 - 84 %
< 120	< 70 %



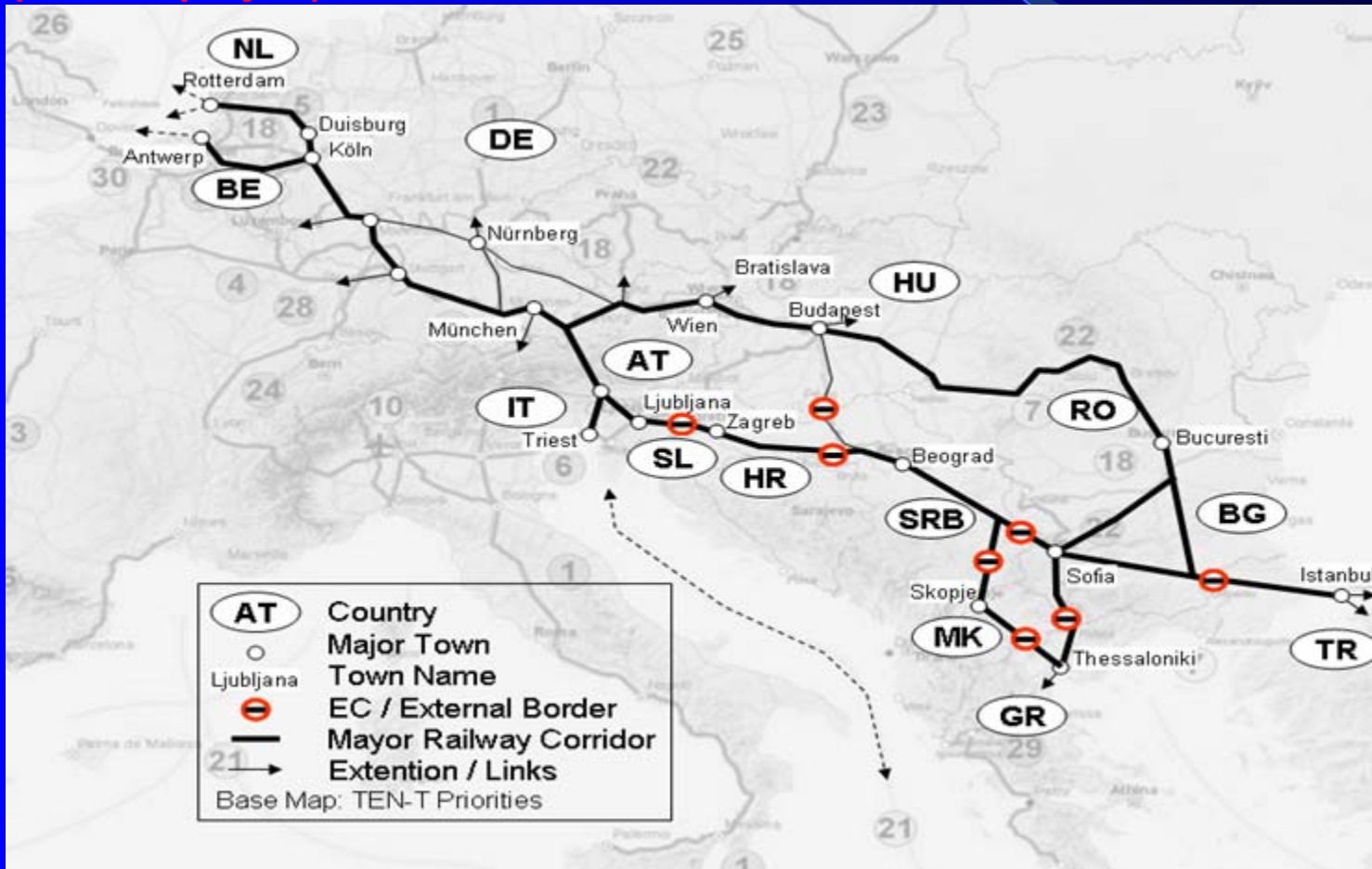
# Problems: Rail transport quality

## Punctuality of intermodal transport trains (UIRR)



# Problems: Border crossing procedures

## Administrative, technical and legal issues (CREAM project)



# Contributions by UNECE and WP.24

## Fields of action

- **Intermodal transport infrastructure**
- **Minimum intermodal service standards**
- **Intermodal transport policies**
- **Intermodal transport equipment**
- **Logistics (new)**

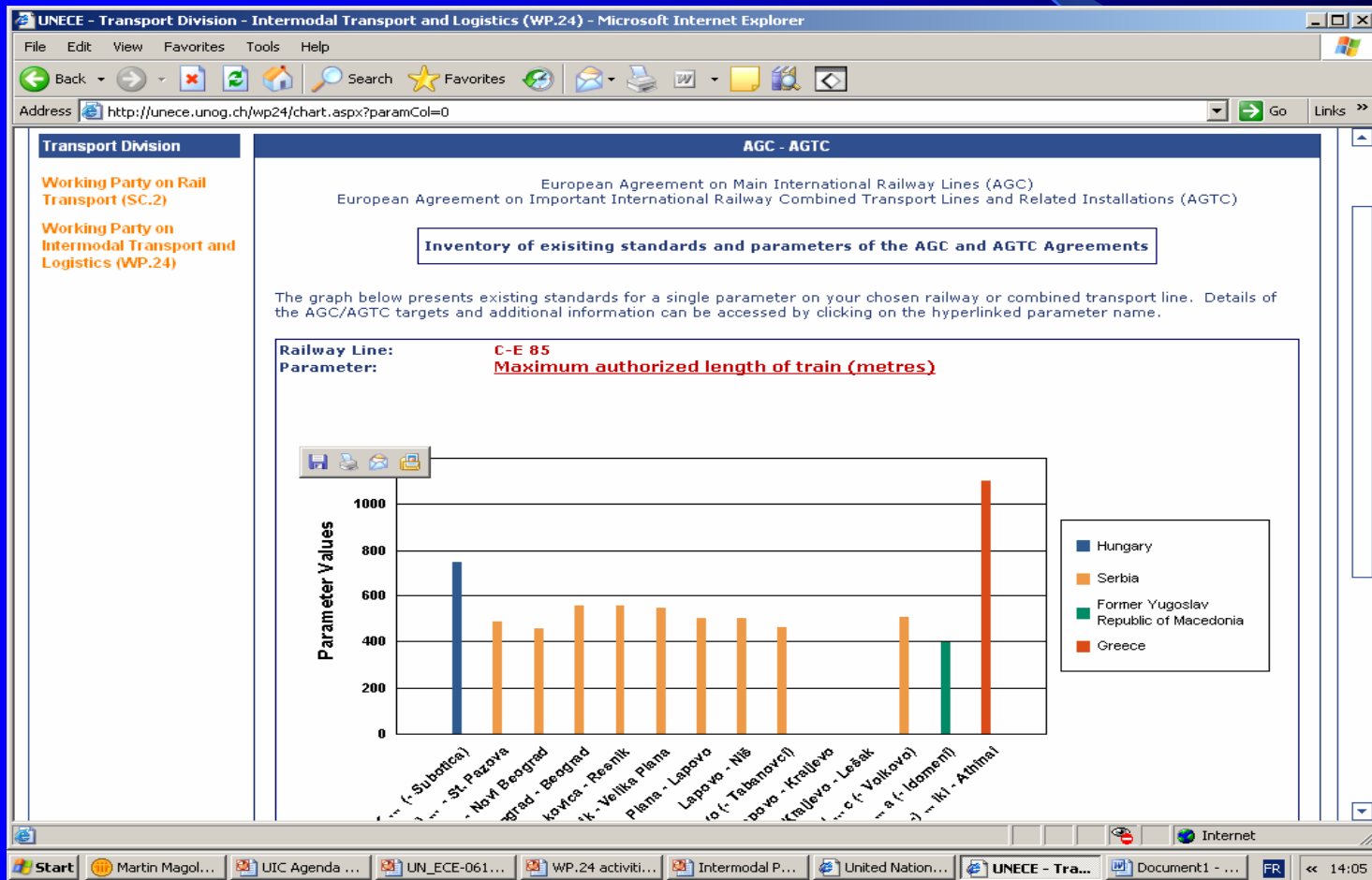
# Intermodal transport infrastructure

- AGTC Agreement and IWT Protocol



# Intermodal transport service standards

## Minimum AGTC infrastructure and service standards (also PPP models and benchmarks)



# Intermodal transport policies

## Support for Euro-Asian transport links

- Kiev Plan of Action adopted by ECMT Transport Ministers (Moscow, 2006)
- Establishment of an Intermodal Transport Observatory in Ukraine (Liski)
- Support for common CIM/SMGS consignment note (CIT and OSJD) and for a single railway regime from Atlantic to Pacific (COTIF-SMGS)
- Civil liability regime for intermodal/multimodal transport



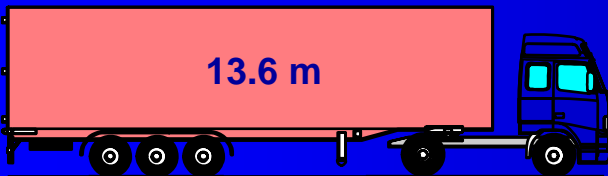
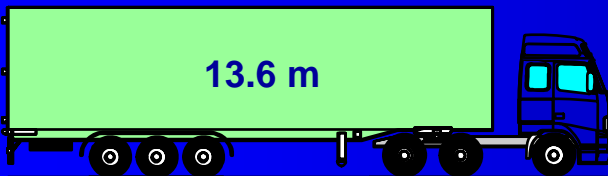
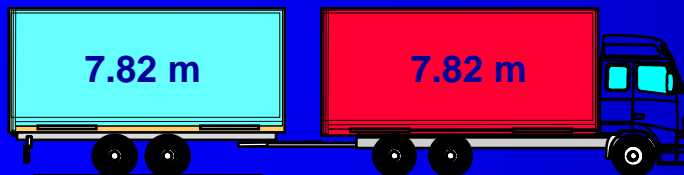
# Intermodal transport equipment

- **Container dimensions** (ISO Series 2 49ft, 45ft containers)

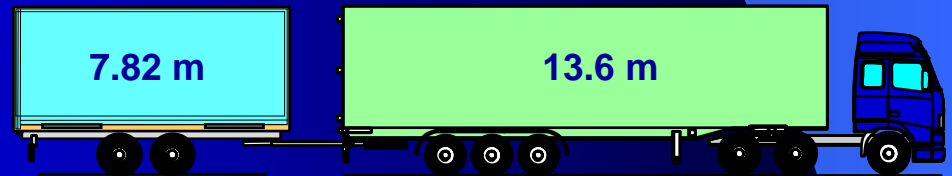
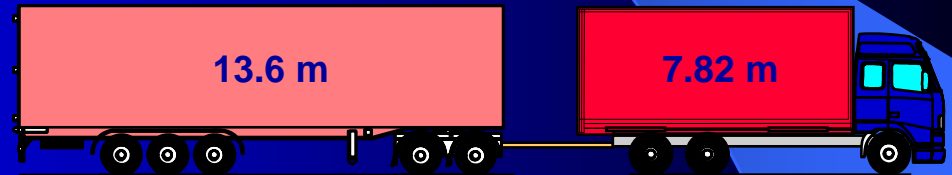


- **Mega-trucks and intermodality**

EU



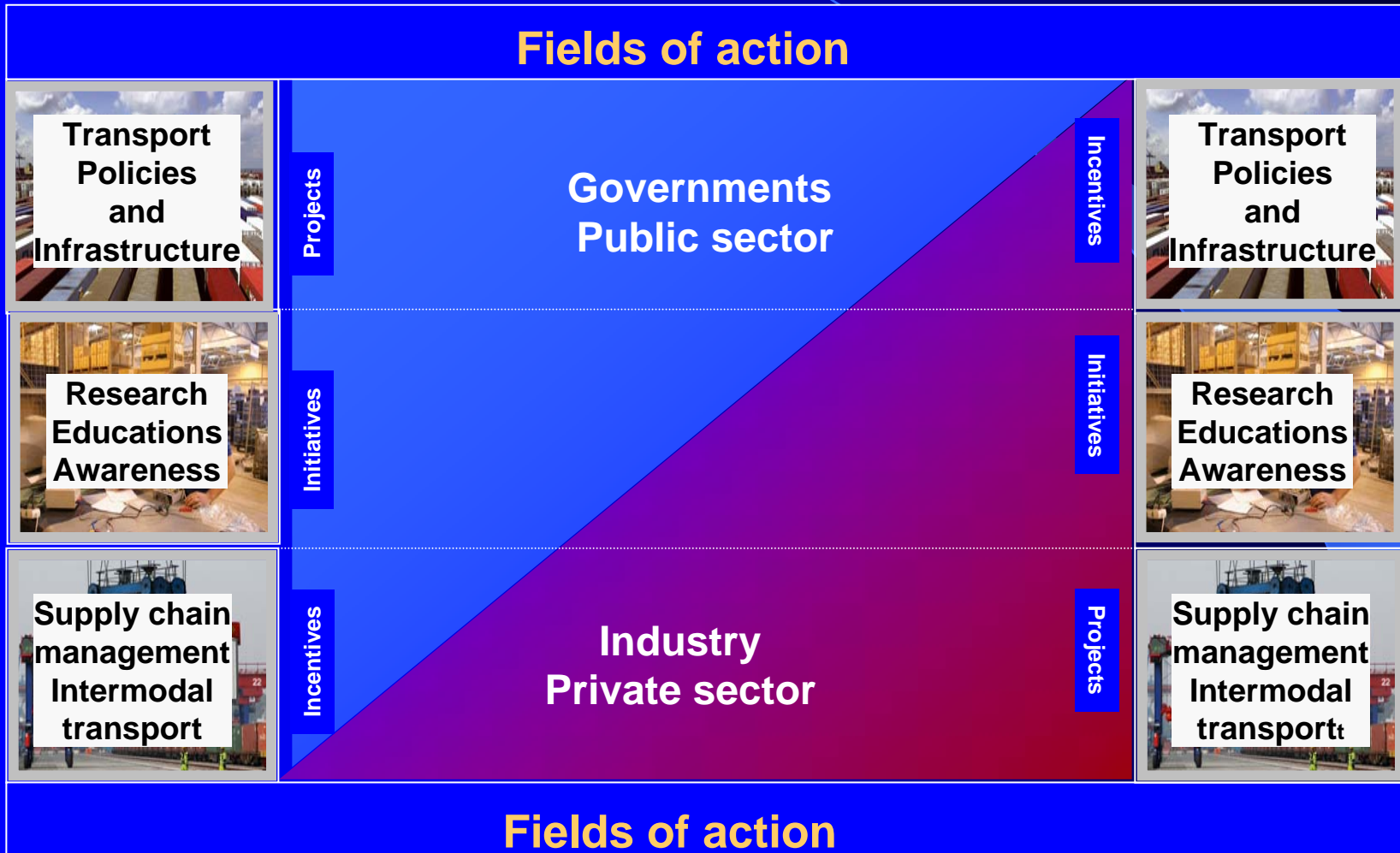
Sweden and Finland



# Role of Governments in “freight transport logistics”

- **Primarily a business activity**
  - Supply chain management
  - Organization of freight transport
  - Planning and operation of intermodal transport
  - Construction and operation of terminals (distribution)
- **Governments play a complementary role**
  - Transport policies  
(level playing field among actors and modes, safety, land use, sustainability, security, etc.)
  - Transport infrastructure  
(networks, terminals, etc.)
  - Research, education and awareness  
(ITS, professional training, public perception, etc.)

# Role of Governments in “freight transport logistics”



# Logistics and intermodal transport

## New activities of WP.24

### Preparation of a concept paper on

- concept of logistics and supply chains
- impact on freight and intermodal transport
- role and areas of Governmental action
- examples of Governmental initiatives
- proposals for future WP.24 activities

First draft has been completed:

ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2008/4 (E,F,R)

# Planned work of WP.24 in 2009

**Next session of WP.24: 19-20 March 2009**

**Provisional agenda available by end of December 2008**

- **Role and impact of Governments in logistics and supply chain management (national experiences)**
- **Civil liability issue (follow up to UNCITRAL work)**
- **Best practices on policy measures to promote intermodal transport (UNECE questionnaire)**
- **Extension of AGTC Agreement to Caucasus**
- **New developments in road/rail intermodal transport (exchange of information)**



[www.unece.org/trans/wp24](http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24)

