

No. 30382

MULTILATERAL

**European Agreement on Important International Combined
Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) (with
annexes). Concluded at Geneva on 1 February 1991**

Authentic texts: English, French and Russian.

Registered ex officio on 20 October 1993.

MULTILATÉRAL

**Accord européen sur les grandes lignes de transport inter-
national combiné et les installations connexes (AGTC)
[avec annexes]. Conclu à Genève le 1^{er} février 1991**

Textes authentiques : anglais, français et russe.

Enregistré d'office le 20 octobre 1993.

EUROPEAN AGREEMENT¹ ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT LINES AND RELATED INSTALLA- TIONS (AGTC)

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES,

DESIRING to facilitate the international transport of goods,

AWARE of the expected increase in the international transport of goods as a consequence of growing international trade,

CONSCIOUS of the adverse environmental consequences such developments might have,

EMPHASIZING the important role of combined transport to alleviate the burden on the European road network, particularly in trans-alpine traffic, and to mitigate environmental damages,

CONVINCED that, in order to make international combined transport in Europe more efficient and attractive to customers, it is essential to establish a legal framework which lays down a co-ordinated plan for the development of combined transport services and the infrastructure necessary for their operation based on internationally agreed performance parameters and standards,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Chapter I

GENERAL

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Agreement:

(a) The term "combined transport" shall mean the transport of goods in one and the same transport unit using more than one mode of transport;

¹ Came into force on 20 October 1993, i.e., 90 days after the date on which eight Parties had deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, in accordance with article 10 (1):

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance (A) or approval (AA)</i>	
Austria.....	22 July	1993
Denmark.....	9 January	1992 A
France.....	28 May	1992 AA
Germany.....	30 July	1992
Netherlands.....	13 May	1992 A
(For the Kingdom in Europe)		
Norway.....	30 April	1992 A
Romania.....	21 May	1993
Switzerland.....	11 February	1993

(b) The term "network of important international combined transport lines" shall refer to all railway lines considered to be important for international combined transport if:

(i) they are currently used for regular international combined transport (e.g. swap body, container, semi-trailer);

(ii) they serve as important feeder lines for international combined transport;

(iii) they are expected to become important combined transport lines in the near future (as defined in (i) and (ii));

(c) The term "related installations" shall refer to combined transport terminals, border crossing points, stations for the exchange of wagon groups, gauge interchange stations and ferry links/ports which are important for international combined transport.

Article 2

DESIGNATION OF THE NETWORK

The Contracting Parties adopt the provisions of this Agreement as a co-ordinated international plan for the development and operation of a network of important international combined transport lines and related installations, hereinafter referred to as "international combined transport network" which they intend to undertake within the framework of national programmes. The international combined transport network consists of the railway lines contained in annex I to this Agreement, and of combined transport terminals, border crossing points, gauge interchange stations and ferry links/ports important for international combined transport which are contained in annex II to this Agreement.

Article 3

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NETWORK

The railway lines of the international combined transport network shall conform to the characteristics set out in annex III to this Agreement or will be brought into conformity with the provisions of this annex in future improvement work to be carried out in conformity with national programmes.

Article 4

OPERATIONAL TARGETS

In order to facilitate international combined transport services on the international combined transport network, Contracting Parties shall undertake appropriate measures in order to achieve the performance parameters and minimum standards for combined transport trains and related installations referred to in annex IV to this Agreement.

Article 5

ANNEXES

The annexes to this Agreement form an integral part of the Agreement. Further annexes covering other aspects of combined transport may be added to the Agreement in accordance with the amendment procedure described in article 12.

Chapter II

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6

DESIGNATION OF THE DEPOSITARY

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of this Agreement.

Article 7

SIGNATURE

1. This Agreement shall be open at the office of the United Nations in Geneva for signature by States which are members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe or have been admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity in conformity with paragraphs 8 and 11 of the terms of reference of the Commission, from 1 April 1991 to 31 March 1992.
2. Such signatures shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 8

RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL

1. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 7.
2. Ratification, acceptance or approval shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 9

ACCESSION

1. This Agreement shall be open for accession by any State referred to in paragraph 1 of article 7 from 1 April 1991.
2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 10

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Agreement shall enter into force 90 days after the date on which the Governments of eight States have deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, provided that one or more lines of the international combined transport network link, in a continuous manner, the territories of at least four of the States which have deposited such an instrument.
2. If the above condition is not fulfilled, the Agreement shall enter into force 90 days after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, whereby the said condition will be satisfied.
3. For each State which deposits an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession after the commencement of the period of 90 days specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, the Agreement shall enter into force 90 days after the date of deposit of the said instrument.

Article 11

LIMITS TO THE APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as preventing a Contracting Party from taking such action, compatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and limited to the exigencies of the situation, as it considers necessary for its external or internal security.
2. Such measures, which must be temporary, shall be notified immediately to the depositary and their nature specified.

Article 12

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. Any dispute between two or more Contracting Parties which relates to the interpretation or application of this Agreement and which the Parties in dispute are unable to settle by negotiation or other means shall be referred to arbitration if any of the Contracting Parties in dispute so requests and shall, to that end, be submitted to one or more arbitrators selected by mutual agreement between the Parties in dispute. If the Parties in dispute fail to agree on the choice of an arbitrator or arbitrators within three months after the request for arbitration, any of those Parties may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint a single arbitrator to whom the dispute shall be submitted for decision.
2. The award of the arbitrator or arbitrators appointed in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall be binding upon the Contracting Parties in dispute.