



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Eleventh session

Geneva, 10–12 June 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 June 2015

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Unification of international railway law with the objective of allowing rail carriage under a single legal regime.
3. Identifying an appropriate management system for unified railway law based on the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport.

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (sc.2@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 740 30). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

² For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (sc.2@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

4. Other business.
5. Date of next session.
6. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/5

2. Unification of international railway law with the objective of allowing rail carriage under a single legal regime

To agree on the legal provisions to be included into a new international legal railway regime, the Group of Experts undertook several reviews of a document prepared by the secretariat which served as a basis for the discussion for all the Group of Experts' sessions. This document provided a comparison of provisions in COTIF/CIM and SMGS which were also briefly evaluated in the context of other international legal documents such as the CMR and the Montreal Convention. Furthermore, it included draft wording of legal provisions as agreed in the Group of Experts, as well as other elements which could form part of a legal instrument for Euro-Asian rail freight transport. The experts reviewed and amended the document so that the provisions would cover the needs of all participating stakeholders.

Based on the reviews and, in particular, those of the tenth session of the Group, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/7 for consideration and review by the Group.

In order to finalize the provisions of this new legal instrument, two main tasks remain:

- (a) fine-tuning the wording substantively and settling all open issues;
- (b) fine-tuning the wording linguistically in three languages (English, French and Russian).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/7

3. Identifying an appropriate management system for unified railway law based on the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport

The Group of Experts may wish to recall the discussions at its previous sessions on identifying an appropriate management system for the new legal railway regime. The Group of Experts may also wish to recall that a decision on an appropriate management system for URL is one of the main tasks remaining.

On the basis of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/12, Informal documents SC.2/GEURL Nos. 2, 3 and 9 (2014), the Group of Experts may wish to continue discussions on management of the new legal railway instrument.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/12, Informal documents SC.2/GEURL Nos. 2, 3 and 9 (2014)

4. Other business

At present, there are no proposals under this item. Proposals can be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat (sc.2@unece.org).

5. Date of next session

The next session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 14 to 16 October 2015.

6. Summary of decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will draft the final report.
