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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventy-second session

Geneva, 21-23 November 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Draft decisions

1. Adoption of the agenda

Decision: The Working Party adopted the revised agenda.

2. Election of officers

Decision: The Working Party elected Mr. Krzysztof Kulesza as Chair of the Working Party on Rail Transport and Mr. Hinne Groot and Mr. Akiva Rom as Vice Chair of the Working Party. For the 72nd and 73rd sessions.

3. Workshop on “Innovation in railways”

Decision: the Working Party put renewed efforts into discussing how to foster innovation in the railways following the Workshop “Innovation in the Railways: Making the railways of the future for the region” and, as a basis for this, requested that the secretariat to prepare a summary document of the workshop in order to continue discussion on this topic at future sessions of the Working Party.

4. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

Decision: The Administrative Committee of the AGC noted that the amendments agreed in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/6 had been notified to the depository and that they had entered into force as no objections had been received. It asked the secretariat to send the amendments included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/6 and previously agreed at the sixty-ninth session to the depository and to prepare a formal document containing the modifications proposed by the Russian Federation for the next session. Finally the AC asked the secretariat prepare an

updated consolidated version of the AGC to reflect these most recent changes and have it ready for the seventy-third session of the Working Party.

5. Rail Security

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the results of the Workshop on Rail Security as well as the updating of the Rail Security Observatory and asked the secretariat to keep it informed of developments in this area. The Working Party also reminded member States to notify the Secretariat of focal points in relation to rail security.

6. Euro-Asian rail transport

Decision: The Working Party reiterated its support for the EATL project and encouraged the rail sector to get increasingly involved in related discussions. It also asked the secretariat to add to this agenda item, in future discussions, the ERAI Index.

7. Trans-European Railway project

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the work carried out within the TER project encouraged member States to intensify their work in this area.

8. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the progress to date in preparing unified railway law and asked member States and railway undertakings to intensify their work in preparing and finalising the pilot tests. The Working Party asked the secretariat to add the additional material discussed at the session as an annex to the report of SC.2

9. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships

Decision: The Working Party noted the information provided in relation to railway infrastructure financing.

10. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the information provided in relation to High-Speed Rail Masterplan and asked the secretariat to update the working party on progress at its next session.

11. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail

Decision: the Working Party welcomed progress on the new convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail. It supported the activities of WP.30 to work towards the adoption of the final text of the convention at its February session and transmit the final text to ITC for adoption.

12. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport

Decision: the Working Party put renewed efforts into discussing how to foster innovation in the railways following the Workshop “Innovation in the Railways: Making the railways of the future for the region” and, as a basis for this, requested that the secretariat to prepare a summary document of the workshop in order to continue discussion on this topic at future sessions of the Working Party.

13. Productivity in Rail Transport

Decision: the Working Party asked the secretariat to resend the questionnaire early in 2019 to facilitate the gathering of information and in order to update the work in this area before the next session of SC.2.

14. Climate Change and Rail Transport

Decision: the Working Party took note of the information provided in this area and requested that the secretariat continue to provide information on this going forward, given its importance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. Railway Reform

Decision: the Working Party welcomed the update on railway reform provided by the secretariat and delegates and asked that this topic remain on the agenda for future discussions.

16. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region

- (a) Decision: the Working Party asked the secretariat to update it on developments in relation to the Harmonization Convention at the 73rd session of the Working Party.
- (b) Decision: the Working Party asked the secretariat to update it on developments in relation to the Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems at the 73rd session of the Working Party.

17. Rail Review

Decision: the Working Party thanked UIC and the secretariat for its work in relation to the rail review and asked the secretariat to supplement the data received with publicly available information, in order to prepare a database and GIS information to provide member States with easily accessible information on rail infrastructure.

18. Rail Statistics

Decision: the Working Party welcomed progress on rail accident data gathering, the Glossary and other activities of the Working Party on Transport Statistics as well as in relation to level crossings data and asked to be kept informed of developments in this area going forward.

19. Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings

Decision: the Working Party agreed that, given the safety data that is currently being gathered through the working party on transport statistics is wider than just on level crossings, and that safety is a topic of significant importance to the railways, that this agenda item be widened to cover all aspects of rail safety. Furthermore, the Working Party agreed that the 73rd session should extend this agenda item to include a mini-workshop on international coordination in recovering from emergencies that affect railways.

20. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Decision: the Working Party noted the update provided by the secretariat on activities of the ITC and welcomed developments in relation to the new ITC strategy.

21. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport

Decision: the Working Party noted the updated information provided by the European Commission and asked that it continues to update member States on news from the European Union at future sessions of SC.2.

22. Activities of international organizations in rail transport

Decision: the Working Party noted the update provided by CIT and OTIF and asked that they continue to update member States on developments at future sessions of SC.2.

23. Other business

Decision: the Working Party agreed that the workshop for the 73rd session of the Working Party should be on making freight more competitive and the coordinated development of the rail network with reference to the Euro Asian Transport Linkages. The Working Party also agreed that the workshop for the 74th session of the Working Party in 2020 should be on the development international rail passenger transport in the context of ITC Resolution 264. The Working Party confirmed that both of these sessions would be for a full day.

24. Date and venue of next session

Decision: the Working Party noted the dates for the next session to be held from 25 to 27 November 2019 in Geneva.

25. Adoption of decisions

Decision: the Working Party adopted the draft decisions and asked the Chair to prepare the report of the session with the assistance of the secretariat.
