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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport
(24-25 November 2005)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION*

to be held at the OECD Headquarters, Paris
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 24 November 2005

1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/SC.2/203

2. Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Economic Commission for Europe E/2005/37-E/ECE/1431
 - (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies ECE/TRANS/162

3. Safety and security in railway transport TRANS/SC.2/2005/1

4. Euro-Asian transport corridors
 - (a) Information on progress made in the UNDA project
on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages

* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Rail Transport. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Delegates are requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html>) and send it, at the latest, two weeks before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by e-mail (bernadette.healy@unece.org) and to the ECMT Secretariat either by fax (33-1) 45 24 97 42/45 24 13 22) or by e-mail: maryvonne.lebouc@oecd.org .

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| (b) Organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links | TRANS/WP.5/2005/4 |
| 5. Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport | |
| (a) Preparatory meeting for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing | TRANS/SC.2/2005/2 |
| (b) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport | TRANS/SC.2/2005/3 and Adds. 1-3 |
| (c) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region | TRANS/SC.2/2005/5 |
| 6. Study of the situation of railways in member countries | TRANS/SC.2/2005/6 and Adds. 1-4 |
| 7. Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure | TRANS/SC.2/2005/7 |
| 8. Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems | TRANS/SC.2/2005/8 and Add. 1 |
| 9. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) | |
| (a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC | |
| (b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement | TRANS/SC.2/2005/9
TRANS/SC.2/2005/10 |
| (c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network | TRANS/SC.2/2005/11 |
| 10. Productivity in rail transport | TRANS/SC.2/2005/12 and Adds. 1-2 |
| 11. Trans-European Railway (TER) Project | TRANS/SC.2/2005/13 |
| 12. Draft Programme of Work for 2006-2010 | TRANS/SC.2/2005/14 |
| 13. Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2006 and 2007 | |
| 14. Other business | |
| 15. Adoption of the report | |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

2. ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

The sixtieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 22 to 25 February 2005.

The Working Party **will be informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its sixtieth session, concerning such questions as the UNECE reform, follow-up to the global and regional conferences, major policy issues of the UNECE and their impact on the UNECE programme of work, and the UNECE technical cooperation activities (E/2005/37-E/ECE/1431).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-seventh session in Geneva from 15 to 17 February 2005.

The Working Party **will be informed** about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to its work areas as contained in paras. 87-93 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/162).

3. SAFETY AND SECURITY IN RAILWAY TRANSPORT

At its fifty-eighth session, the Working Party invited member Governments to consider and discuss, at the next session, the need for convening an International Conference on Transport Security and Safety. In this connection, the Working Party may wish **to note** that the Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-seventh session, endorsed the proposal by its Bureau to organize a multi-disciplinary Round Table on Transport Security in conjunction with its sixty-eighth session in February 2006 and agreed not to convene a conference on transport and security (ECE/TRANS/162, para. 20).

The Working Party may also wish **to consider** the note containing a review of relevant international Agreements and other legal instruments in the area of rail safety and security, prepared by the secretariat following the request by the Working Party at its fifty-eighth session. This information is circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/1.

4. EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

(a) Information on progress made in the UNDA Project on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages

The Working Party **will be informed** about the further progress made in the implementation of the UNDA joint UNECE/UNESCAP Project on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages.

The members of the Working Party are also invited to **exchange information** about other relevant activities concerning the development of Euro-Asian transport links.

(b) Organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links

In connection with the question concerning the organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links the Working Party requested, at its fifty-eighth session (TRANS/SC.2/202, para. 9-10), the representatives of Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and OSZhD **to inform** the Working Party about the results of the demonstration runs of block trains and activities related to the further promotion of Euro-Asian railway corridors, which have taken place since the last session of the Working Party. Replies are being circulated **for consideration** by the Working Party in document TRANS/WP.5/2005/4.

5. FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

(a) Preparatory meeting for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing

At its sixty-seventh session, the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) supported the preparatory activities carried out so far, by the UNECE secretariat, the OSZhD, involved countries and international organizations aimed at convening an International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing (ECE/TRANS/162, para.91).

A small Working Group, which was established in order to draft (i) a new Annex 9 to the 1982 International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods ("Harmonization Convention") and (ii) a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in the International Railway Passenger Traffic, has had two sessions. The Working Party may wish to **take note, discuss and provide comments on** both drafts. The Report, containing the draft of the Annex to the Harmonization Convention and the draft of the new Convention on facilitation of international passenger railway traffic is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/2.

(b) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-eighth session (TRANS/SC.2/202, para. 13), a questionnaire containing the information on the monitoring of border crossing stopping times was submitted to all member countries where the border stations are located on AGC lines, in order to compile the information on compliance with the Inland Transport Committee's resolution No. 248 of 1999, which calls for the reduction of the border stopping time of shuttle trains in international traffic to 60 minutes.

The replies received are reproduced in TRANS/SC.2/2005/3 and Add. 1-2 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

(c) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region

In accordance with the request made at its last session, the Working Party **will be informed** by the secretariat of the progress made in the border-crossing facilitation project for international rail transport in the SECI region (TRANS/SC.2/202, para. 14). This information is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/5.

6. STUDY OF THE SITUATION OF RAILWAYS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

In accordance with the decisions of the Working Party taken at its fifty-seventh session, Governments have been requested to provide information on the following questions (TRANS/SC.2/200, para. 12) which have an impact on the railways in member countries:

- (a) Data on past and future developments of rail passenger and goods traffic;
- (b) New developments to be observed subsequent to the reorganization of the rail sector with special attention to the setting-up of new railway companies;
- (c) Investments in (i) rail infrastructure and (ii) railway rolling stock.

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the replies which are being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/6 and Add. 1-4, **identify** the items to be examined in more detail in future and **decide** on which areas information might be assembled under this agenda item for future sessions.

7. DETERMINATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY INCLUDING ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEE FOR THE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the request by the Working Party, the European Commission was asked to report on progress made in the implementation of the Directive 2001/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and the levying of charges for the use of railway infrastructure and safety certification. The reply by the

European Commission is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/7 **for consideration** by the Working Party. Further information on this topic is available in Informal documents 1 and 2.

8. INTEROPERABILITY AND HARMONIZATION OF CONDITIONS OF DIFFERENT RAIL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

In accordance with the Working Party's request at its fifty-eighth session (TRANS/SC.2/202, para. 18), the European Community was invited to report on the status of implementation of the EU Directive 2001/16/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 on the Interoperability of the trans-European conventional rail system. The reply received from the European Commission will be circulated, when available, in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/8 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Furthermore, the secretariat invited OTIF and OSZhD to report on their activities at the Working Party's next session. The information from OTIF and OSZhD is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/8/Add.1, **for consideration** by the Working Party.

9. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY LINES (AGC)

(a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC

The Working Party may note that the following countries are at present Parties to the AGC, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 24: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina (succession); Bulgaria; Croatia (succession); Czech Republic (succession); France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Republic of Moldova (succession); Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia and Montenegro (succession); Slovakia (succession); Slovenia (succession); The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession); Turkey; Ukraine.

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** by delegations and the secretariat about the intention of Governments to become Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

(b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement

The Working Party may wish **to take note** of the updated version of Annex I of the AGC Agreement prepared by the secretariat that includes all the amendments which entered into force by 30 June 2005 (TRANS/SC.2/2005/10), as well as those adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-eighth session.

The Working Party will also **be informed** about the proposal for amendment to Annex I of the AGC Agreement by the Government of Hungary. The Working Party may wish **to discuss** the proposal which is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/9.

(c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network

At its fifty-seventh session, recalling the UNECE resolution No. 66, (Recommendations concerning the system of marshalling yards of major European importance (TRANS/SC.2/165/Rev. 2)), which requests the periodical inclusion of the question of the implementation of this resolution in the agenda of the Working Party on Rail Transport, the Working Party agreed to include this question in the agenda of its 2005 session. To this end, the secretariat circulated the above-mentioned resolution No. 66, Revision 2 to all member countries, and requested Governments to provide updated information on marshalling yards on the AGC network. The information received by the secretariat is being circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2005/11, **for consideration** by the Working Party.

10. PRODUCTIVITY IN RAIL TRANSPORT

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party taken at its fifty-eighth session, the secretariat prepared a summary document containing the most recent productivity indicators for railways. The Working Party may wish to **take note** of the information circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2005/12 and Add.1, and **discuss** questions regarding the future collection of data on productivity indicators.

11. TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) PROJECT

The TER Project Manager will provide the Working Party with **information** about the progress made in activities carried out by the TER project, which is being circulated as document TRANS/SC.2/2005/13.

12. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2010

At its fifty-eighth session, the Working Party agreed to initiate a thorough review of its programme of work and, to that end, asked the member Governments to submit in writing their proposals regarding the present programme of work to the secretariat and the Chairman who will prepare a revised programme of work to be discussed at the next session of the Working Party.

The Working Party may wish **to examine** its draft programme of work for 2006-2010, which is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2005/14.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY IN 2006 AND 2007

In accordance with the decision taken at the fifty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party may wish **to elect** the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for its sessions in 2006 and 2007.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

According to the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session (TRANS/SC.2/200, para. 7) and the decision of the ECMT Group on Railways, back-to-back meetings of the two bodies were agreed for 2004 and 2005 on a trial basis. In order to be able to

adequately plan future meetings, the Working Party needs **to decide** whether it wishes to continue with the current arrangement involving two secretariats or to make other arrangements. The Working Party may also wish **to decide** on the date for its next session. The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the sixtieth session to be held from 15 to 17 November 2006.

15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the Working Party's decision at its fifty-second session, the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting, **for adoption** by the Working Party. This list will later be incorporated into the report of the session which will be prepared by its Chairman and its Vice-chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.



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