



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/205  
23 August 2006

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixtieth session  
Geneva, 15-17 November 2006

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTIETH SESSION\***

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 15 November 2006

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda ECE/TRANS/SC.2/205
2. Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

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\* 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](mailto:bernadette.healy@unece.org)). Prior to the session delegates should get their identification badges at the new premises of the Identification Unit which is located at the Pregny Gate. If there are any problems, please telephone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72413).

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|-----|--|---|
| (a) | Preparatory work for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing       | ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/1<br>ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/13<br>ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/14 |
| (b) | Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport |   |
| 3.  | Euro-Asian transport corridors   |   |
| (a) | Information on progress made in the UNDA project on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages       |   |
| (b) | Organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links                                 | ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/2<br>ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/3                              |
| 4.  | Safety and security in railway transport   |   |
| 5.  | 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  | ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/4<br>ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/5                              |
| 6.  | Draft Programme of Work for 2007-2011  | ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/6   |
| 7.  | Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party  |   |
| (a) | Economic Commission for Europe   | E/2006/37-E/ECE/1444  |
| (b) | Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies   | ECE/TRANS/166   |
| 8.  | Information on developments in various railway fields  | ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/7<br>and Adds.1-5                                       |
| (a) | Environmental questions related to railway operations  |   |
| (b) | Safety in railway transport  |   |

- (c) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes
9. Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/8
10. Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/9  
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/10
11. Productivity in rail transport ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/11
12. Trans-European Railway (TER) Project ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/12
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the report
- Annex: Conference registration form

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## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Working Party is invited to adopt its agenda.

### Item 2: Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

- (a) Preparatory work for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing
2. At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Party on Rail Transport asked the secretariat of the UNECE to request comments on the final drafts of (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, from all member countries, as well as the views regarding their possible accession to the two Conventions at an International Conference (ECE/TRANS/204, para. 16).

3. At the same time, the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) was also requested by the Committee on Inland Transport to provide its comments on the two draft Conventions.

4. The Working Party may wish to **take note** of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/1 which summarizes comments from member Governments and international organizations, and **discuss and provide further comments on** both drafts. The draft of the new annex to the Harmonization Convention is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/13, and the draft of the new Convention on facilitation of international passenger railway traffic is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/14.

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

5. Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-ninth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/204, para. 17), the secretariat **will inform** the Working Party about the possibility for compilation of border stopping information in collaboration with the International Union of Railways (UIC).

6. The Working Party is invited to **consider** the outcome of this inquiry and **discuss** the relevance of the future continuing collection of the border stopping times in view of the available alternatives.

**Item 3: Euro-Asian transport corridors**

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

7. 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.

8. 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

9. In connection with the question concerning the organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links the Working Party, at its fifty-ninth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/204, para.13), asked the secretariat to prepare an information note containing major conclusions regarding the experiences gained through organization of demonstration runs of container block trains. This information will be circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/2. In addition, the Working Party will have before it, for information, the note on experiences with organization of demonstration runs of container block trains from several member Governments (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2006/3).

10. The Working Party may wish to **discuss** how it could further contribute to member Governments which intend to organize demonstration runs of container block trains and benefit from this activity considered to be a convenient way of showing the potential advantages of railways on selected routes.

#### **Item 4: Safety and security in railway transport**

11. At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Party decided to revert back to the question of safety and security at its next session, and consider its possible course of action in the light of the outcome of the Round-Table: "Transport Security in the Pan-European Context: Selected Issues and Options" held in February 2006 during the sixty-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). Following the above-mentioned Round Table, the Bureau of the ITC also decided to ask chairpersons of the Committee's subsidiary bodies for their views on possible approaches to security and how this question could be further considered within the competencies of their respective bodies.

12. In the discussion following the Round Table, the Committee noted the activities of its subsidiary bodies in this field of activity. It recognized the importance and necessity of intensifying work in the area of inland transport security. The Committee considered that a minimum level of regulations or standards was necessary at international level and again invited all its subsidiary bodies to accelerate work already in progress, as well as to consider any new activities in this field and to report on the results of such work at its sixty-ninth session. In this context, the Committee invited subsidiary bodies to involve security experts in the respective specialized fields of activity and to take into consideration work already done or in progress in relevant international bodies as well as at regional or national level.

13. Bearing in mind the above-mentioned information, the Working Party may wish to **consider and discuss** ways in which it can further contribute to consolidating the diverse views and developing common and harmonized approaches to safety and security aspects in international rail transport.

#### **Item 5: European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)**

##### (a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC

14. The Working Party may note that the following countries are at present Parties to the AGC, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 26: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina (succession); Bulgaria; Croatia (succession); Czech Republic (succession); France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova (succession); Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia (succession); Slovakia (succession); Slovenia (succession); The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession); Turkey and Ukraine.

15. 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

16. 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 2006 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/4), as well as those adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-ninth session.

17. The Working Party will also **be informed** about the proposal for amendment to Annex I of the AGC Agreement by the Government of Latvia. The Working Party may wish **to discuss** the proposal which is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/5.

**Item 6: Draft Programme of Work 2007-2011**

18. At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Party decided to continue a thorough review of its programme of work at its next session.

19. The Working Party may wish **to examine** its draft programme of work for 2007-2011, which is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/6.

**Item 7: Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party**

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

20. The sixty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 21 to 23 February 2006.

21. The Working Party **will be informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its sixty-first 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/2006/37-E/ECE/1444).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

22. The Committee held its sixty-eighth session in Geneva from 7 to 9 February 2006.

23. The Working Party **will be informed** about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to its work areas as contained in paras. 77-84 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/166).

**Item 8: Information on developments in various railway fields**

24. At its fifty-eighth session in 2004, the Working Party decided to request member Governments to report on developments in various railway fields every second year (TRANS/SC.2/202, para.26). The Working Party is invited to **take note** and **consider** information circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/7 and Add.1-5, submitted by member Governments on developments in the following three areas:

- (i) Environmental questions related to railway operations;

- (ii) Safety in railway transport;
- (iii) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes.

**Item 9: Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure**

25. Following the request by the Working Party, the European Commission was asked to report on progress made in the implementation of 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 ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/8 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

**Item 10: Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems**

26. In accordance with the Working Party's request at its fifty-ninth session (TRANS/SC.2/204, para. 22), the European Community was invited to report on new developments regarding interoperability and the relevant work on various technical and legal aspects of interoperability. The reply received from the European Commission will be circulated, when available, in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/9 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

27. Furthermore, the secretariat invited OTIF and OSJD to report on their activities on harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems, at the Working Party's next session. The information from OTIF and OSJD is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/10 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

**Item 11: Productivity in rail transport**

28. In accordance with the decision of the Working Party taken at its fifty-ninth 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 ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/11 and **discuss** questions regarding the future collection of data on productivity indicators.

**Item 12: Trans-European Railway (TER) Project**

29. 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 in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/12.

**Item 13: Other business**

30. At the time of drafting this provisional agenda there were no proposals under this item.

**Item 14: Adoption of the report**

31. 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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Annex



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA**

**Conference Registration Form**

Date

Please fax this completed form to the Host Secretariat and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva. An additional form is required for spouses.

Title of the Conference

**Working Party on Rail Transport, 15-17 November 2006**

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Family name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date of Birth:</b> /    /    (dd/mm/yyyy)	

Participation category

Head of Delegation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Observer Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Participation</b>
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