



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Rail Transport

##### Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

###### Ninth session

Geneva, 30–31 October 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

###### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session<sup>1, 2</sup>

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 30 October 2014

#### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website [www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail ([sc.2@unece.org](mailto: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](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail ([sc.2@unece.org](mailto: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/2014/9

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

To agree on the explanatory legal provisions to be included into a new international legal railway regime, the Group of Experts undertook, at its eighth session, a second review of document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/8. This document evaluates relevant legal provisions of COTIF/CIM and SMGS as well as wording of provisions agreed upon at previous sessions and wording of provisions that need further negotiations to be agreed upon. This exchange of views was done article by article starting with proposed Article A (scope of application) and up to and including article KK (agreements concerning recourse) (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/8 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/7, paras. 4–46).

Following this second review of the conceptual and legal basis of articles A to KK, the Group of Experts may recall that during the last session they agreed that the issues that need further consideration were numerous and significant and that the October 2013 session did not allow enough time finalization. The Group of Experts had decided that a meeting of “friends of the Chair” should be organized before the next session in October 2014. This meeting was organized by the secretariat on 29 September 2014.

Based on the review and discussions undertaken and comments received during the eighth session and the meeting of “friends of the Chair” the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/11 for consideration and review by the Group.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/11

### **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 that at its previous session, some preliminary discussions on the identification of an appropriate management system for the new legal railway regime.

On the basis of 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 pertinent management issues of the new legal railway instrument.

**Documentation**

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**

Sessions of the Group of Experts are not foreseen so as to allow SC.2, at its forthcoming session on 24–26 November 2014, to consider progress made and provide guidance on possible future activities of the Group of Experts, as appropriate, for approval by the Inland Transport Committee in February 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.

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