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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventieth session

Geneva, 22–24 November 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventieth session

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 22 November 2016^{1, 2}

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Workshop on “International Rail Passenger Traffic on the route East-West”.
3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.
4. Rail Security.
5. Euro-Asian rail transport.
6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project.

¹ 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 Sustainable Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (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).

² Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=65UNLJ>. 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 (+41 22 917 4030) or by email (sc.2@unece.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

7. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships.
8. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains.
9. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors.
10. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.
11. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport.
12. Productivity in Rail Transport.
13. Climate Change and Rail Transport:
 - (a) Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for transport networks and nodes;
 - (b) Climate Change mitigation: Presentation of UNECE ForFITS tool;
 - (c) Diesel engine exhausts.
14. Railway Reform.
15. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region:
 - (a) Facilitation of rail border crossings;
 - (b) Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems.
16. Rail Review.
17. Group of Experts on improving Safety at Level Crossings.
18. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
19. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
20. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
21. Other business.
22. Date and venue of next session.
23. Adoption 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.2/225

2. Workshop on “International Rail Passenger Traffic on the route East-West”

During its last session (ECE/TRANS/254, para. 97) the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) requested SC.2 to hold a high-level conference concerning the current situation in, and taking a holistic approach on, international rail passenger traffic on the route East-West.

The railways play an important role in facilitating sustainable economic growth by connecting people and communities and providing a means of transport for people and goods. It has advantages over road on the haulage of heavy bulk freight like coal and aggregates. It compares well with road and air on fast, long-distance passenger journeys; and it is competitive with road on the distribution of goods in the intermodal sector.

The growth of demand for rail is driven partly by huge investment in infrastructure and services by governments and also by the industry’s own efforts to raise its standards. On the other hand, demand growth puts also pressure on existing networks’ capacity.

The Workshop will address the main challenges that International rail passenger traffic faces on the East-West route. Security, missing links, levels of service, cost of tickets, lack of cooperation among the railways in order to establish long trip services (one ticket, one time schedule), VISA and border crossing delays, interoperability and technological integration, and several legal regimes are some of the challenges that railway passenger traffic faces today.

The programme of the workshop is available on Working Party’s website (Informal document No. 1).

Following the discussions, the Working Party may wish to draw conclusions and recommendations on increasing Rail Passenger Traffic on the East-West route, reflect on concrete follow-up activities for SC.2 at the pan-European level and possibly request the secretariat to forward these conclusions and recommendations in the form of a resolution to the next session of ITC for adoption.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

Status of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and adopted amendment proposals

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat on its activities to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement).

Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.1), a map on the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards as well as relevant Depositary Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.³

Further information will be provided at the session.

³ www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html.

4. Rail Security

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session, it had adopted the proposal made by the secretariat following the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop organized during its sixty-seventh session (23–25 October 2013) on the development of an electronic space on rail security. The electronic space on rail security will be an advanced web-based platform which will operate as an international observatory on rail security issues and stakeholders will have the opportunity and possibility to:

- (a) disseminate ad hoc knowledge and best/good practices;
- (b) exchange information about projects and other initiatives/proposals;
- (c) seek cooperation on specific rail security projects/tasks/studies and research agreed upon during SC.2 sessions and other events and focus on the development of definitions.

The Working Party may wish to review the pilot online platform on rail security developed by the secretariat and provide guidance on steps to be taken for its finalization.

5. Euro-Asian rail transport

In accordance with the decision of its sixty-ninth session, the Working Party may wish to be informed and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement on developing the Euro-Asian linkages project (EATL) including the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts of EATL that took place during 2016.

6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities undertaken in 2016; concrete results achieved and the plan for subsequent years, including the revision of the project's work plan, the efforts to increase the number of participating countries and the development of a master plan on high speed trains in cooperation with the Working Party.

The Working Party may wish to review the results achieved and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2016/1

7. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session a presentation was made on the UNECE PPP Centre of Excellence for railways and of:

- (a) the possibilities for synergies between the Centre of Excellence and the Working Party; and
- (b) the hosting on the Working Party's website of an online tool for the evaluation of financing of rail infrastructure projects within PPP schemes. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a formal document addressing the above mentioned issues for consideration by the Working Party at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to be informed on developments regarding this topic.

8. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session approved the revised methodology as prepared and presented by the secretariat and the TER Project Manager on the development of a high-speed trains master plan. It also requested the secretariat and the TER project manager to inform the working party of any developments on this issue at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to take note of the information provided by the secretariat and the TER project manager on the development of a master plan on high speed trains in UNECE and TER regions.

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session it took note and approved as amended the draft Inland Transport Committee (ITC) resolution on Unified Railway Law (Informal document No. 9 (2015)) and requested the secretariat to transmit it to ITC for consideration and adoption. Furthermore, the Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Group of Experts based on the tasks in the ITC resolution and submit it to ITC for its approval. The Group of Experts should accomplish its tasks in one year and report at the seventieth session of SC.2 in 2016.

The Working Party may wish to be informed on the adoption of the ITC resolution and the ToR of the group of experts by the ITC and the Executive Committee as well as for the work done by the group during 2016.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/2016/18, ECE/TRANS/2016/17

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

The ITC at its seventy-eighth session in February 2016 welcomed the progress of the informal Group of Experts on a new convention concerning the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail and thanked the Group for its work. The Committee invited WP.30 and SC.2 to organize an ad hoc meeting in 2016 in cooperation with interested ITC participants and relevant stakeholders in order to finalize the draft of the Convention and consider the development of a compendium of guiding good practices (using the format of work that was used for the elaboration of Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention) for future adoption by the Committee and opening for signature by interested countries and to report to the ITC session of 2017 on the progress achieved.

The Working Party may wish to be informed on the last session of the informal group of experts which took place on the 26–27 July 2016 where it reviewed all raised comments and, in parallel, prepared a revised draft. The secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2016/2, which, in Annex, transmits the report of the session of the informal Group of Experts by the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD). At that session, the group, analysed all comments received so far from various stakeholders and, therefore, in the view of the secretariat, the report provides a full reflection of the current state of play of the draft new Convention.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2016/2

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

In line with the UNECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012–2020 (UNECE publication, ITS for sustainable mobility, 2012), the Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making rail transport systems attractive and “seamless” among different modes of transport. The Working Party may also address the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders focusing on the role of Governments and regulatory authorities in providing the necessary framework conditions for discriminatory-free access to information by all parties in rail and intermodal transport chains.

The Working Party may wish to consider activities, on the monitoring of ITS and other technological applications developments in rail transport and to provide a platform for the exchange of information and best practices.

Documentation

UNECE publication, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility (2012)

12. Productivity in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its last session, it took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the revised and fine-tuned rail productivity indicators based on Government’s comments and approved as amended their revision.

The Working Party may wish to consider the analysis of rail productivity indicators results as provided by railway undertaking (Informal document No. 2).

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

13. Climate Change and Rail Transport

(a) Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation to transport networks and nodes

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the continuation of the work of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation to transport networks and nodes and especially about the work to be done which is relevant to rail transport.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in adaptation issues and railways.

Documentation

UNECE publication, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/22

(b) **Climate Change mitigation: Presentation of UNECE ForFITS tool**

The Working Party will be informed about the developments during 2016 of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project. The project aims at developing and implementing a monitoring and assessment tool for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in inland transport, including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation. The Working Party may wish to discuss and consider implementation of ForFITS tool in Rail transportation/Terminals/Stations.

(c) **Diesel engine exhausts**

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the continuation of secretariat's work on diesel engines and the update of the relevant discussion paper prepared by the secretariat.

The Working Party may wish to consider the discussion paper and provide guidance on how it would be possibly updated by considering issues relevant to rail transport. The Working Party may also wish to be informed on locomotive technology development and locomotive emissions.

Documentation

UNECE Discussion Paper

14. **Railway Reform**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, it had considered railway reform an important part of railway development and considered presentations from experts. The Working Party may wish to consider presentations on railways reform to be delivered by experts.

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

(a) **Facilitation of rail border crossings**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session took note of the information provided by the secretariat and approved the action plan on possible implementation mechanisms of the provisions in the new Annex 9 to the "Harmonization Convention" for the facilitation of rail border crossings in the pan-European region.

The Working Party may wish to be informed on developments on this issue.

(b) **Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by OSJD on progress in improving the technical interoperability between the 1,435 mm standard and the 1,520 mm broad gauge railway systems and about the results of the work of the OSJD/ERA Working Group on Interoperability.

16. **Rail Review**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its sixty-seventh session, it had approved the draft questionnaire for the rail review publication which would be sent to countries and rail authorities for the collection of the appropriate data.

The Working Party may wish to be informed for any developments on this issue.

17. Group of Experts on improving Safety at Level Crossings

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat on the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts on improving Safety at Level Crossings that took place on the 21–22 March 2016 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/17) and on the 1–2 June 2016 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/19).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/17, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/19

18. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Working Party will be informed about the main decisions of the seventy-eighth session of the ITC (23–26 February 2016) on issues of interest to the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/254).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/254

19. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport

In line with standard practice, the Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of the European Commission (DG Move) in rail transport.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3

20. Activities of international organizations in rail transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of other international organizations and stakeholders in the field of rail transport.

21. Other business

At present, there are no proposals under this item.

22. Date and venue of next session

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 27 to 29 November 2017 in Geneva.

23. Adoption of decisions

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 6) and established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken at the end of the session. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair

and Vice-Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.

III. Tentative timetable

Tuesday, 22 November	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 1, 3–6
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 7–11
Wednesday, 23 November	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 2 (Workshop)
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 2 (Workshop)
Thursday, 24 November	09.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Items 12–15
	2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Items 16–23
