



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
16 March 2016

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Rail Transport

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

###### Thirteenth session

Geneva, 8–10 June 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

###### Adoption of the agenda

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

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 8 June 2016

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Mandate: Inland Transport Committee Resolution No. 263 on Unified Railway Law.
4. UNECE Group of Experts: Administrative arrangements.
5. Other business.
6. Date of next session.
7. Summary of decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <http://tiny.cc/zq429x>. 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 40 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 Sustainable Transport Division's website [www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

## **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/2016/1

### **2. Election of Officers**

The Group of Experts may wish to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

### **3. Mandate: Inland Transport Committee Resolution No. 263 on Unified Railway Law**

The Group of Experts may wish to recall that during the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee a resolution (ECE/TRANS/2016/17) on Unified Railway Law was considered and adopted.

ITC by adopting this resolution welcomed the work undertaken and report prepared by the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law, having managed, in three years, to prepare legal provisions towards the Unified Railway Law. These provisions included the contract of carriage and took into consideration good practices already implemented by the Uniform rules concerning the Contract of Carriage of Goods by Rail (CIM-COTIF Convention) and SMGS Agreement as well as other International Transport Conventions.

Furthermore, ITC:

(a) Invited Governments to disseminate these legal provisions to all key stakeholders in their countries,

(b) Encouraged Railways Undertakings and International Organizations for railways to test these legal provisions, whenever possible, in practice,

(c) Invited the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law to work in order to prepare the necessary documents for rail transport following the legal provisions prepared as well as to monitor results of pilot tests and prepare recommendations accordingly,

(d) Requested that further development and progress in the application of the above mentioned activities should be reported by the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law at the 70th session (2016) of UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2),

(e) Requested the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to report the results of the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law work as well as to suggest possible next steps of the work on Unified Railway Law at its 79th session (2017) for its consideration and approval.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2016/17

#### **4. UNECE Group of Experts: Administrative arrangements**

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Group of Experts were adopted at the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/2016/18). Operation and convening of the Group of Experts in 2016 with conference facilities and documentation services provided by UNECE is, however, still subject to approval by the UNECE Executive Committee.

In line with these ToR, the Group of Experts, at its forthcoming meeting, will have to adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation. In line with this mandate, the Group of Experts may wish to consider secretariat document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2016/3 containing a work plan, milestones and administrative arrangements that should allow accomplishment of the two objectives of the group for 2016, which are:

(a) The coordination of the preparation and/or the review of the already prepared necessary documents for rail transport by the relevant international associations in the railway sector meaning the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), following the draft legal provisions prepared during the previous phase of the group of experts,

(b) The monitoring of the results of pilot tests undertaken by Railway Undertakings and International Organizations for railways in order to test the provisions prepared in practice and the preparation of recommendations accordingly.

##### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2016/18, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2016/3

#### **5. Other business**

At present, there are no proposals under this item. Proposals can be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat (sc.2@unece.org).

#### **7. Date of next session**

The next session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 5 to 6 October 2016.

#### **8. Summary of decisions**

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will draft the final report.