

Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)

Mr. Krzysztof KULESZA

CHAIR Working Party
on Rail Transport

Minister's Counsellor,
Railway Department,
Polish Ministry of
Infrastructure

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- A. At the **Seventieth session** of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/226);
- a. **RAIL SECURITY**: The **International Observatory on Rail Security** was presented. The secretariat should request all Governments to nominate focal points and start using the observatory;
 - b. **PPP in RAILWAYS**: the draft standards on best practice for the management of PPP programmes in the rail sector were presented;
 - c. **HIGH SPEED MASTER PLAN**: The first draft of the High Speed Rail Master Plan for the TER project region was presented [TER region (2016-2017) and the ECE region (2018-2019)];
 - d. **RAILWAY REFORM**: the working party addresses this topic by having every year railway undertakings presenting their good practices;





A **high-level workshop** took place during the first day of the session (22 November 2016) and took stock of the main challenges that **international rail passenger traffic faces on the East-West route**: security, missing links, levels of services, cost of tickets, lack of cooperation among the railways so that through trip services cannot be established (i.e. one ticket, one time schedule), visa and border crossing delays, interoperability and technological integration as well as several legal regimes are the main challenges that railway passengers face today.

The Working Party considered that the conclusions and recommendations of this workshop were crucial for the development of international rail passenger traffic from east to west and decided to adopt them as a **resolution** and submit it to ITC for its adoption (ECE/TRANS/2017/17).



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

The Working Party took note of the information provided by the secretariat and relevant stakeholders. It agreed that further improvement of the text (editorial and substantive) is needed.

The Working Party agreed on the following **road map** for the finalization of the new Convention:

- (a) First substantial review of the draft by WP.30: February 2017;
- (b) Circulation of an amended draft by the secretariat to WP.30 and to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in New York: March 2017;
- (c) Finalization of the draft by WP.30: June 2017;
- (d) Circulation of the final text to WP.30 and SC.2: July 2017;
- (e) Adoption of the final text by WP.30: October 2017;
- (f) Adoption of the final text by SC.2: November 2017;
- (g) Endorsement of the final text by the ITC: February 2018.



The road (rail) map

Activities	Time Schedule	Mandate
Identification of Corridors	October to December 2016	Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), November 2016
1. Russian Federation-Belarus-Poland- Germany		
2. Turkmenistan-Iran (Islamic Republic of)-Turkey		
3. Lithuania-Belarus-Poland ¹		
Coordination among the involved to the above mentioned corridors railway undertakings	November 2016 to February 2017	ITC, February 2017
<i>Virtual Tests²</i>		
1. Use of proposed questionnaire, customized in order to reflect corridors special needs		Executive Committee, April 2017
2. Finalization of questionnaire	15 February 2017 (deadline)	
3. Analysis of replies by secretariat	February to April (Virtual Tests)	
4. Presentation of results to the Group of Experts		
5. Option: Virtual long distance tests (e.g. Spain-China or Mongolia-Germany)	June 2017	First meeting, June 2017
<i>Real Tests</i>		
1. Decision on necessary measures (e.g. Memorandum, letter of intent, fixing the date for implementation, procedure for assessing the results, etc.)		
2. Interaction with clients and customs		

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

Based on the **resolution** (ECE/TRANS/2016/17) and **terms of reference** (ECE/TRANS/2016/18) adopted by ITC last year, the Group should in one year coordinate the preparation and/or review the current documents for rail transport on the draft legal provisions, as well as monitor the results of pilot tests performed by interested stakeholders and prepare recommendations.

The Group of Experts prepared and agreed a **road (rail) map** in order to ensure the successful completion of these pilot tests.

The Group of Experts and the Working Party agreed that the organization and implementation of the pilot tests is a time-consuming process therefore request ITC to approve the **extension of Group's mandate** for one more year.

¹ To be confirmed by involved stakeholders.

² At every stage of Virtual and Real tests, the results should be assessed and evaluated.



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