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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Rail Transport

##### Seventy-second session

Geneva, 21-23 November 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Revised annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-second session<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 November 2018

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Workshop on “Innovation in railways”.
4. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.
5. Rail Security.
6. Euro-Asian rail transport.

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\* 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). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email ([sc.2@un.org](mailto:sc.2@un.org)). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

\*\* Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=TMdwBP>. 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 2432) or by email ([sc.2@un.org](mailto:sc.2@un.org)). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html).

7. Trans-European Railway project.
8. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors.
9. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships.
10. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains.
11. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.
12. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport.
13. Productivity in Rail Transport.
14. 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 the For Future Inland Transport Systems' tool of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
15. Railway Reform.
16. 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.
17. Rail Review.
18. Rail Statistics.
19. Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings.
20. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
21. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
22. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
23. Other business.
24. Date and venue of next session.
25. 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.2/229

## 2. Election of officers

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chair and possibly (a) Vice-Chair(s) for its sessions in 2018 and 2019.

## 3. Workshop on “Innovation in railways”

The Working Party may wish to consider the topics discussed in the workshop on “Innovation in railways”. The railways across the ECE region have evolved significantly in recent years as a result of the continued innovation in the sector. This innovation has occurred on infrastructure, on rolling stock and also in the way in which passengers travel and freight is moved on railways.

A summary of the workshop will be prepared following the session on the findings from the workshop.

### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/1

## 4. 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 about 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.3),<sup>1</sup> a map of the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards and the relevant Depository Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.

Further information will be provided at the session about the notification of changes to the AGC agreed on at previous sessions of the Working Party.

## 5. Rail Security

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session, it had been informed about the “Workshop on Rail Security”, organized in collaboration with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the International Transport Forum (ITF) to be held at the ITF Annual Summit in Leipzig, Germany in May 2018. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the workshop and its conclusions.

The Working Party may also wish to be informed about progress in developing the electronic space on rail security. Working Party delegates may wish to provide relevant information for the electronic space.

### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/2

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<sup>1</sup> [www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2\\_AGC\\_text.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html).

## **6. Euro-Asian rail transport**

In accordance with previous practice, the Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss:

(a) New developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement in developing the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, including the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts of EATL that took place during in 2018;

(b) The “International Conference on Making Euro-Asian Transport Corridors Operational” that was held during the thirtieth session of the Working Party on Trends and Economics on 3 September 2018.

## **7. Trans-European Railway project**

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities in 2018: the concrete results achieved, 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 and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/4

## **8. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors**

The Working Party may wish to recall that the Inland Transport Committee at its eightieth session (23 February 2018) and the Executive Committee approved the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law for two more years under new terms of reference (ECE/TRANS/2018/13/Rev.1 and ECE/TRANS/274, para. 69).

The Group of Experts held two meetings in 2018 (seventeenth session, 9-11 July 2018 and eighteenth session, 29-31 October 2018). The Group, during this phase, focuses its work on the following issues:

(a) Monitor the finalization of necessary documents in order to perform international rail transport under URL including a standard model for the consignment note for the new provisions and its manual;

(b) Monitor the performance of a substantial number of real pilot tests to be carried out by the railway companies involved in the Group along the corridors agreed and along other corridors if proposed by governments in order to ensure the operational validity and effectiveness of the legal provisions prepared;

(c) Draft a document (or systems of documents) on URL which could be adopted as a legally binding instrument; the document (or systems of documents) shall:

(i) Take into account the draft legal provisions on the contract of carriage already prepared;

(ii) Include the necessary formal provisions such as depository, management, secretariat, administrative committee, amending procedures, voting rights, etc.;

(iii) Be structured in a way which allows to easily supplement it with provisions on other issues related to international rail freight transport where the Group considers it appropriate to do so.

(d) Discuss other relevant issues related to international rail freight transport with a view to adding, where appropriate, provisions to the document referred to in point (c); these issues may include:

- (i) Common provisions on dangerous goods;
- (ii) Common provisions on the use of freight wagons;
- (iii) Common provisions on rail infrastructure;
- (iv) Common provisions on rolling stock.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the outcomes of these meetings and discuss how to further facilitate the work of the Group.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/274, ECE/TRANS/2018/13/Rev.1

### **9. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships**

The Working Party may wish to recall the presentations at previous session on Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships including interventions from the UNECE Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Centre of Excellence.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in this topic.

### **10. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session, the final version of Phase 1 of the TER High-Speed Master Plan was presented. The Working Party may wish to be informed about progress on Phase 2 of the Master Plan and its planned dissemination.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/3

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it considered the draft convention on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for passengers, luggage (Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2017)). The Working Party took note of the advanced stage of the text of the draft convention, which reflects the achievements of the discussion on the issue that took place in WP.30 during 2017. The Working Party may also recall that it asked WP.30 to take further steps towards finalizing the adoption of the draft convention for the purpose of submitting it for approval to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC).

Delegates from SC.2 were invited to continue discussions on the draft convention at the 149th meeting of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) on 13 June 2018. The Working Party will be informed about progress in preparing the convention and discussions at the sessions of WP.30, as well as other drafting meetings that

were held in parallel. The Working Party may wish to discuss the next steps of the convention.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/6/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/19, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/228

## **12. 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 (Railway Reform in the ECE Region “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility”, 2012), the Working Party will discuss innovation in rail transport at its workshop as part of agenda item 3. 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 next steps in relation to this area.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/1, “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility” (UNECE, 2012)

## **13. 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 on the basis of Government’s comments and approved as amended their revision, and reviewed the rail productivity indicators results as provided by railway undertaking (Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2016)).

Following discussion at the seventieth session, the secretariat agreed to send the updated questionnaire to operators in 2017. The Working Party may wish to be informed about progress in this area.

**Documentation**

Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2016)

## **14. Climate Change and Rail Transport**

### **(a) Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for 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 for 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.

**(b) Climate Change mitigation: Presentation of the For Future Inland Transport Systems' tool of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

The Working Party will be informed about the developments during 2018 of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project. The project aims to develop and implement a monitoring and assessment tool for carbon dioxide emissions in inland transport, including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation. The Working Party may wish to discuss the role that the ForFITS tool can play in railways.

**15. Railway Reform**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the developments on railway reform and the finalisation and dissemination of the publication "Railway Reform in the ECE Region" prepared following the workshop on this subject at the seventy-first session of the Working Party.

**Documentation**

"Railway Reform in the ECE Region" (UNECE, 2018)

**16. 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 the last session, it 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 about developments.

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

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the Organisation for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) about 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 (European Union Agency for Railways) Working Group on Interoperability.

**17. 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. At its seventy-first session, the Working Party noted that the questionnaire covered a number of areas in other agenda items in relation to, for example railway reform, productivity, PPPs and infrastructure. The Working Party also noted that some data had been received already on productivity and a publication is planned with detailed information covering question 2 of the rail review questionnaire on reform.

As a result, the secretariat, in collaboration with UIC, sought to gather information for question 2 of the questionnaire. This information is available in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/3. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the next steps for this agenda item.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/3

**18. Rail Statistics**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat about the work currently ongoing in rail statistics and its relevance to the Working Party, in particular, the work of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6).

**19. Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat about the final report of the Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings which could not be addressed at the seventy-first session. The Working Party may also wish to be informed by the secretariat about the data that has been gathered by WP.6 on this subject.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2017/4

**20. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

The Working Party will be informed about activities of ITC, its Bureau, subsidiary bodies and other United Nations organizations on matters of interest to the Working Party. In particular, the Chair will brief the Committee about the latest developments in preparing a strategy for the ITC until 2030, which involves the Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees under the purview of ITC.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/274

**21. 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**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/7

**22. 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.

**23. Other business**

The Working Party may wish to decide on the workshop for the seventy-third session. A shortlist of possible subjects is provided in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/5.



**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/5

**24. Date and venue of next session**

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 25 to 27 November 2019 in Geneva.

**25. 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(s), will draft a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.

**III. Tentative timetable**

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Wednesday, 21 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 1-3
	3-6 p.m.	Item 3
Thursday, 22 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 4-8
	3-6 p.m.	Items 9-14
Friday, 23 November	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Items 15-21
	2.30-5.30 p.m.	Items 22-25

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