



# 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

###### Nineteenth session

Geneva, 2-4 April 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

###### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth session<sup>\*</sup>, <sup>\*\*</sup>

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 April 2019

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Execution of the Mandate of the Group of Experts.
3. Other business.
4. Date of next session.
5. Summary of decisions.

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\* Delegates are requested to register online at the following address:

<https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=uSwHJc>.

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 24 32). 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).

\*\* 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 ECE 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 Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law (Group of Experts) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/1

### **2. Execution of the Mandate of the Group of Experts**

The Group of Experts adopted its work plan containing detailed action plan at the seventeenth session (Geneva, 9-11 July 2018). In accordance with this work plan and further to the decisions taken at the eighteenth session, the Group of Experts is expected to further advance its work on specific tasks, as follows:

(a) Monitoring of the finalization of necessary documents:

Railway undertakings will be invited to report on their teleconference at which: (i) they should have considered and made proposals for changes to the ad hoc consignment note for the real pilot tests regarding open issues as provided in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/5, point 6 (a) (ii); and (ii) they should have provided feedback whether or not articles 28, 23-34 require further explanation.

The secretariat will present ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/3 containing a list of documents on the contract of carriage which may require adjustments to the provisions of Unified Railway Law (URL). The secretariat established this list based on information collected from experts.

The secretariat and the Organization for Cooperation between Railways will report on the translation of the ad hoc consignment note respectively into ECE official languages and into Chinese.

The Group of Experts will be invited to consider the report from the railway undertakings and the list of documents and agree on the next steps in updating or adjusting the documents.

(b) Monitoring of performance of a substantial number of real pilot tests:

At its previous session the Group of Experts agreed that the URL tests should be preferably performed along four corridors:

- (i) Germany-Poland-Belarus-Russian Federation;
- (ii) Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan;
- (iii) Turkey-Iran (Islamic Republic of)-Turkmenistan; and
- (iv) Austria-Slovakia-Ukraine-Russian Federation-Kazakhstan-People's Republic of China.

The Group requested the secretariat to invite the countries and their railway undertakings on the four corridors to perform the tests by sending a letter to ministers of transport and directors general of the railways from the ECE Executive Secretary. The letter was to be supported by the URL dossier (draft URL provisions, ad hoc consignment note and URL explanatory document).

The secretariat will inform the Group of Experts on its correspondence with the specific countries.

The countries will be invited to inform about their action in performing first tests or on preparations to such tests providing parameters such as time schedule, type of cargo, places of departure and destination for the tests.

The Group of Experts will be invited to consider this information and agree on further way forward.

(c) Scope of URL and its conversion into a legally binding instrument:

The Group of Experts requested the secretariat at the eighteenth session to update ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/6 by adding information on CMR and on adopted practices for modifications to legal instruments and their technical annexes through amendments as well as by correcting or updating information on CIM in cooperation with OTIF. To this end the secretariat will present ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/6/Rev.1.

The Group of experts agreed at the eighteenth session that it will continue its discussion during the current session on what should be the preferred content of URL (framework convention covering various railway issues versus convention on contract for carriage of goods by railway in international traffic). This discussion will be supported by analyses on pros and cons and impact analyses for both approaches. To this end, the Russian Federation and the European Commission will present ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/4 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/5 containing the analyses respectively for URL as framework convention and URL as contract of carriage convention.

OTIF will present ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/6 showcasing based on COTIF the links between operational matters and administrative system.

The Group of Experts will be then expected to choose one from the two approaches and to continue its work solely on that approach.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/6/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/3,  
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/5,  
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/6

### **3. Other business**

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

### **4. 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 9 to 11 July 2019.

### **5. 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.