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Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts on Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

First session

Geneva, 2–4 September 2020

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Summary of decisions

List of decisions PIRRS

Submitted by the secretariat

1. Agenda

The Group of Experts adopted the agenda for the meeting.

2. Election of officers

The Group of Experts elected Mr. Konstantin Grigoriev from the Russian Federation as Chair for the Group of Experts and asked member States to send nomination letters for the Vice-Chair position to the secretariat before 31 December 2020 to allow for the effective planning of the next meeting.

3. Background to the Group

The Group welcomed the background information provided by the Rail Working Group to the Luxembourg Rail Protocol of the Cape Town Convention and the Russian Federation. It agreed to include the suggestions of the Russian Federation on the six principles, as well as the suggestions of the Rail Working Group on the matter in the report. The Group agreed to reflect further on these two proposals. The Group subsequently discussed and clarified the role of the supervisory authority and its secretariat following the suggestions provided by the Russian Federation. It was agreed by the Group that the URVIS number was not to replace existing running numbers on rolling stock.

4. Programme of Work

The Group adopted the draft programme of work as amended to reflect the addition requested by OTIF to look at the actual use and placing of the URVIS number on rolling stock.

5. Development of the Unique Rail Vehicle Identification System

(a) Best practice in, and national requirements for, rolling stock marking

The Group thanked the Rail Working Group and the European Union Agency for Railways for their presentations on best practice and national requirements for rolling stock marking and asked that other member States share their experiences at future meetings to provide further input into the analysis. Any input documents to this analysis should be provided to the secretariat by 31 January 2021.

(b) Technological component

The Group thanked European Union Agency for Railways for its presentation and asked that other member States share their views on the technological component at future meetings to provide further input into the analysis.

The Group asked the secretariat to contact the International Registry for Aircraft pursuant to the Aircraft Protocol to the Cape Town Convention in order to prepare an input document for this agenda item for the following session. The Rail Working Group agreed to provide the Group of Experts with a document on the numbering and registration of containers.

The Group asked member States to provide the next meeting with presentations on national or supranational examples in relation to maritime vessel registries.

Any input documents to this analysis should be provided to the secretariat by 31 January 2021.

(c) Identification of possible solutions

The Group thanked delegates for their contributions during the discussion on possible solutions and asked the secretariat, in collaboration with the Rail Working Group, to prepare an initial list of possible solutions for discussion at the next session. The Group also encouraged delegates to submit their proposals on possible solutions.

The Rail Working Group agreed to compile a list of what to consider as rolling stock for the purpose of the affixing of the URVIS number.

[CER pointed out the need to identify the specific use case for the URVIS number.] –
NOT PART OF THE DECISIONS

(d) Testing of possible solutions

The Group agreed to change the title of this agenda item to “Evaluation of possible solutions”.

(e) Selection of solutions

Discussion on the selection of possible solutions was postponed to future sessions.

(f) Development of recommendations and standards

The Russian Federation agreed to prepare a formal document on possible approaches to potential model rules relating to the permanent marking of unique identification of railway rolling stock. The Group requested that other member States also provide information and possible solutions to the development of model rules.

6. Other business

The Group regretted that its current meeting suffered from a considerable reduction in allocation of the conference service by the United Nations Office in Geneva versus the previously accepted service level. The Group emphasized that any such reduction in the future will undermine the timely implementation of its terms of reference. It requested the Chair and the secretariat to share this concern with its parent bodies.

Moreover, the Group stressed the importance that official intergovernmental deliberations in three languages ensure the success of the intergovernmental processes. To this end, the Group denounced the cuts to services supporting these intergovernmental deliberations.

7. Date of next session

The Group agreed to hold its second (formal) session 5–7 May 2021. Any documentation to be discussed at this session will need to be submitted to the secretariat by 31 January 2021 to ensure it is translated in time. Participants would be contacted in relation to the holding of informal consultations on 14–15 December 2020 and therefore the Group asked that participants keep the dates blocked in their diaries.

8. Summary of decisions

The Group of Experts adopted the draft list of decisions as amended. The Chair, in conjunction with the Secretariat, will prepare the Report of the session and circulate it for comment to participants. The Group requested that delegates provide their comments within 10 days of receiving the draft report in order to allow sufficient time for the finalisation and submission for translation.
