



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2020

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventy-fourth session

Geneva, 18–20 November 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-fourth session^{*}

**

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Room XI
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 November 2020

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop: “The development of international passenger rail transport in the context of ITC Resolution No.264”.
3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.
4. Railway financing and Public-Private Partnerships.

* 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. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (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=zQpRQi>.
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). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website:
www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

5. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors.
6. Rail Security.
7. Euro-Asian rail transport.
8. Trans-European Railway project.
9. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains.
10. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.
11. Innovation in Rail Transport.
12. Productivity in Rail Transport.
13. Climate Change and Rail Transport:
 - (a) Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes;
 - (b) Climate Change mitigation and the For Future Inland Transport Systems tool;
 - (c) Green logistics, eco-scoring and related matters.
14. Railway Reform.
15. 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.
16. Rail Review.
17. Rail Statistics.
18. Improving safety in Rail Transport.
19. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
20. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
21. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
22. Programme of Work and Terms of Reference.
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.2/233

2. Workshop: “The development of international passenger rail transport in the context of ITC Resolution No.264”

The Working Party may wish to consider the workshop on “The development of international passenger rail transport in the context of ITC Resolution No.264”. International passenger transport by rail remains fundamental to the movements across borders. In current times, with increased attention on the environmental impact of aviation travel leading to many travellers switching to rail, as well as in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic international rail travel is of increased importance. This workshop will discuss the role of the rail sector in international passenger transport with a focus on how to recover post-COVID-19 and how to further increment its market share by incentivising its use. Background statistical information has been prepared by the secretariat in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/5.

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

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/5

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

Status of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and amendment proposals

The Working Party may wish to 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.4),¹ a map of the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards and the relevant Depositary 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 at previous sessions of the Working Party, as well as ongoing work aimed at the modernisation of AGC and improving its accessibility (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/4).

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the preparation of a document setting out the background, benefits and accession requirements for the AGC as requested by delegates at the seventy-third session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/2).

The Working Party may also wish to discuss a proposal to extend the AGC to include main passenger railway hubs of international importance to further facilitate the growth in international passengers by rail (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/3)

The Working Party will be updated on efforts being undertaken to update the joint AGC-AGTC online tool on technical parameters for operation on the E-Rail network.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/3,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/4

¹ www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html.

4. Railway financing and Public-Private Partnerships

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-third session it approved the creation of the Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock. This has subsequently been approved by ITC (ECE/TRANS/294, para. 101) and by EXCOM. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the work to date of the Group of Experts.

The Working Party may also wish to be informed about other developments including the UNECE Guiding Principles for People-First Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as well as the role of Public-Private Partnership projects being undertaken in the rail sector.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/294

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eighty-second session (25 to 28 February 2020, Geneva) and the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe had approved the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law for one more year to complete the work (ECE/TRANS/294, para. 100).

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the progress of meetings in 2020 and discuss the next steps in preparing URL noting that the first meeting for 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions leading to a postponement of discussions which will now run into 2021.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to discuss the status of the 2006 Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail under cover of SMGS Consignment Notes. The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport noted that this Convention has not attracted much attention from countries and at the moment has no contracting party (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308). SC.2, through the Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law has discussed at length the combined CIM-SMGS consignment note based on other legal instruments, it may wish to discuss this issue further in the working party session and identify reasons why there have been no contracting parties to this Convention.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/294, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308

6. Rail Security

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the developments in rail security, including updates on the Rail Security Observatory.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/2

7. Euro-Asian rail transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-third session a workshop was held on: “Making rail freight more competitive and the coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on EATL”. Following the seventy-third session a summary publication was prepared by the secretariat and is available on the Working Party Webpage.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement in developing the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, including the results of the recent meetings covering EATL and developments in relation to the “Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators”.

Following on from the decision of the Working Party at its seventy-second session, the Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in the Eurasian Rail Alliance Index (ERAI).

Documentation

Publication: Making rail freight more competitive: The coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on EATL

8. 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 2020: the concrete results, the plan for subsequent years and the efforts to increase the number of participating countries.

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.2/2020/6

9. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-second 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 finalisation of Phase 2 of the TER Master Plan and its planned dissemination.

Documentation

Publication: ECE/TRANS/263 (High speed Masterplan for the TER region Phase I), High speed Masterplan for the TER region Phase 2

10. 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 welcomed the adoption of the Convention by ITC on 22 February 2019, and the opening for signature in Geneva was announced on 4 April 2019. The Working Party may wish to discuss next steps on this subject in light of discussions on international passenger transport under agenda item 2.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/232, C.N.126.2019. TREATIES-XI.C.7,
C.N.127.2019. TREATIES-XI.C.7

11. Innovation in Rail Transport

In line with the ECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012–2020 (“Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility”, 2012), the Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session it discussed document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/5 prepared by the secretariat on continuing work in this area.

The Working Party may wish to recall that it agreed to the creation of a rail innovation observatory aimed at sharing with member States best practice innovations that could further help develop the competitiveness of the railways, assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and work towards the achievement of technology pillar of the ITC Strategy. The Working Party may wish to be updated on the creation of the observatory.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/5

12. Productivity in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its last session, it welcomed the productivity data provided in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/6 gathered through a questionnaire and through publicly available data provided by UIC. The Working Party also asked the secretariat to renew efforts on gathering information for 2021. The Working Party may wish to discuss the updated questionnaire set out in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/7.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/6, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/7

13. 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 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.

(b) Climate Change mitigation and the For Future Inland Transport Systems tool

The Working Party will be informed about the developments in 2019 of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project. The aim is 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 ForFITS and railways.

(c) **Green logistics, eco-scoring and related matters**

As per the decision on this agenda item at the seventy-third session, the Working Party will may wish to be informed about the interactions of the secretariat and UIC on this issue. It may also wish to discuss aspects related to green logistics, eco-scoring and related matters.

14. **Railway Reform**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the developments on railway reform, building on the workshop held at the seventy-first session of the Working Party.

Documentation

“Railway Reform in the ECE Region” (ECE, 2018)

15. **Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region**

(a) **Facilitation of rail border crossings**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in the new annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on facilitating rail border crossings in the pan-European region. Member States may wish to share best practice in implementing the Harmonization Convention at the session.

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

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and/or the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) about improvements in the 1,435 mm and the 1,520 mm broad gauge railway systems, and about the results of the work of the OSJD/ERA Working Group on Interoperability.

16. **Rail Review**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-third session, it had discussed document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/7 setting out investment related data on projects and the mapping of this information on a GIS platform.

The Working Party may wish to discuss this topic further.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/7

17. **Rail Statistics**

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

18. **Improving safety in Rail Transport**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-second session it had decided to widen the scope to safety at level crossings to cover all relevant areas of rail safety. The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in this area.

In line with discussions at the seventy-third session of SC.2, the Working Party may also wish to discuss developments related to the Code of Practice on the Packing of Cargo Transport Units administered by the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics.

19. 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.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/294

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. Programme of Work and Terms of Reference

The Programme of Work for 2020 and 2021 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/1) and the document on the Implementation of the ITC Strategy (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/2) were adopted at the seventy-third session of the Working Party. The Working Party asked the secretariat to prepare an updated draft of the Terms of Reference for the Working Party based on these two documents.

The Working Party may wish to discuss document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/1 containing a draft of the updated Terms of Reference and may wish to adopt them.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/1

23. Other business

The Working Party may wish to discuss other business.

24. Date and venue of next session

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 17 to 19 November 2021 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 briefly summarise the decisions at the end of the session. Following the session, the secretary, 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

Wednesday, 18 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 1-2
	3-6 p.m.	Item 2
Thursday, 19 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 3-7
	3-6 p.m.	Items 7-13
Friday, 20 November	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Items 13-18
	2.30-5.30 p.m.	Items 19-25
