



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs****First session**

Geneva, 7–9 July 2021

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for the Group**Draft programme of work****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The present document sets out the draft programme of work for the Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs (the Group). The Group is invited to consider this programme at its current session. The Group will have the opportunity to adjust the document as needed.

II. Objective

2. The objective of the Group of Experts on International Passenger Rail Hubs is to:
- (a) Identify the technical and service parameters necessary for the definition of an “International railway passenger hub or hubs”;
 - (b) Identify which stations on the AGC network should be defined as an “International railway passenger hub” and its type as appropriate;
 - (c) Identify what legal instrument or tool should be used to define and implement these “International railway passenger hubs” and draft the necessary legal provisions;
 - (d) Analyse the legal framework governing international passenger transportation in order to identify restrictions hindering the development of international passenger transport by rail in East – West traffic and prepare recommendations for its improvement;
 - (e) Prepare a document (recommendations, joint action plan, UNECE ITC resolution) on measures to support international rail carriers in the context of the crisis caused by the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection COVID-19;
 - (f) Propose a way forward in the form of a report to the Working Party on Rail Transport for consideration.

III. Main activities

3. The Group will have a face-to-face meeting twice a year. The first meeting of the Group will include an initial section on official matters (election of chair, approval of terms of reference, etc.) but will then start working on the Group's main activities, which include:

- Identification of stations on the AGC network to be defined as an international passenger railway hub
- Identification of the technical and service parameters necessary for the definition of an international passenger railway hub
- Identification of the legal instrument or tool to be used for international railway passenger hub and draft the necessary legal provisions
- Analysis of the legal framework governing international passenger transportation
- Measures to support international rail carriers in pandemics.

IV. Timeline for tasks

4. The table below summarises the timeline for the Group. In the table, those areas identified as "one-off" will only appear in the agenda of the first meeting.

<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	
	<i>One off</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
First session (July 2021)	Election of Chair, Discussion on Background to the Group Adoption of Programme of work.	Agenda items 5-9 as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2021/1 and depending on time available with priority to items 5, 6 and 9
Second session (October/ December 2021)		Continued discussion on agenda items 5, 6 and 9 with initial discussion on other items set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2021/1
Third session (Spring 2022)		Initial identification of requirements as per agenda items 5 and 6 of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2021/1 and continued discussion on 7, 8 and 9
Fourth session (Autumn 2022)		Agenda items 5-9 as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2021/1 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of draft document on measures to support carriers in pandemics and analysis of the legal framework • Final drafting under items 5 and 6
Fifth session (Spring 2023)		Focus on the finalization of the legal provisions or tool under item 7
Sixth session (Autumn 2023)		Finalization of activities
SC.2 session (Autumn 2023)		Presentation of findings to SC.2