

Annex II

Terms of reference of the Group of Experts on “International railway passenger hubs”¹

Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. The Group of Experts will focus its work on the following issues:
 - (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, ECE 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.

Methods of Work

2. The Group of Experts should take into consideration legal instruments, standards and guidelines already in place for the identification of different station types by the European Union Agency for Railways, OSJD, UIC, rail operators and infrastructure managers as well as industry experts. It should also look at good practice examples from other sectors with a particular focus on the aviation sector.
3. The Group of Experts will be established and function in accordance with the ECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.
4. The Group of Experts is expected to meet twice in 2021, at least twice in 2022 and at least twice in 2023 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (when necessary also in hybrid form), before concluding its activities with the transmission of a report to the Working Party on Rail Transport at its seventy-seventh session (November 2023, Geneva).
5. Preparation of documents (at least 4 per session), translation of documents in the official languages of ECE and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by ECE for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
6. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to all concerned United Nations member countries and experts. Concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as concerned railway administration authorities and companies, passenger associations and related entities are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

Secretariat

7. ECE will provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts.

¹ Reproduced from the Annex of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/3/Rev.1.