

Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)
Seventy-fifth session
Geneva, 17-19 November 2021

Items for decision under silence procedure

Decisions submitted to silence procedure following the formal session of SC.2 with remote participation

| <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Decision No.</i> | <i>Document No (link)</i> | <i>Decision</i> |
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| 1 | 1a | https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE-TRANS-SC2-235e.pdf | The Working Party adopted the revised agenda as contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/225 and Corr 1. |
| 1 | 1b | | The Working Party regretted that its current session suffered from a considerable reduction in the allocation of the conference service by the United Nations Office in Geneva versus the previously accepted service level. SC.2 stressed the importance the official intergovernmental deliberations have to the promotion of railway transport and to increasing sustainability in countries of the ECE region. To this end, SC.2 expressed dissatisfaction that the cuts impacted its deliberations. It expressed a hope that such situation would not be repeated in the future. |
| 2 | 2 | | The Working Party welcomed discussions at the Workshop “Railways at the centre of the post-pandemic recovery – Connectivity through the railways” and requested that the secretariat prepare a summary document of the workshop in order to continue discussion on this topic at future sessions of the Working Party |
| 3 | 3a | | The Working Party welcomed the updated information on the AGC including on accession and additional steps taken in the modernisation of the Agreement. |
| 3 | 3b | https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/ECE-TRANS-SC2-2021-02e.pdf https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2020/sc2/ECE-TRANS-SC2-2020-04e.pdf | The Working Party noted that the amendments agreed in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2020/4 had been notified to the depository and that they would enter into force in 2021 as no objections had been received. It asked the secretariat to send the amendments included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2021/2 to the depository |
| 4 | 4 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC.2 welcomed work done by the Group of experts towards Unified Railway Law (URL). Considering all the positions and views expressed, SC.2 agreed that decisions on the way forward on URL are up to SC.2 to decide. To this end, it agreed on the conclusion of the mandate by the group of experts. • As regards the development of a URL legally binding instrument, SC.2 noted the valuable material and analyses produced by the Group of Experts. It also recognized at the same time that no consensus was reached for the preparation of a document on URL which could be adopted as a legally binding instrument. |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC.2 noted the view expressed by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the European Commission participating in the seventy-fifth session who favour a step-by-step approach for the development of URL, and the finalisation and adoption, as a first step, of an interface law convention on contract for international carriage of goods by rail between COTIF/CIM and SMGS to fill a gap in the international regulations when neither the COTIF/CIM nor SMGS apply over the entire journey (traffic on Euro-Asian corridors); document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2021/3 produced by the Group of Experts contains the consolidated text of a draft Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail as a possible first Convention of a system of Unified Railway Law (URL) Conventions. • SC.2 also noted the view expressed by the Russian Federation on its position regarding URL as a single set of unified legal rules for any cross-border rail transport in the Euro-Asian area replacing the existing systems of CIM and SMGS and only being put in force after all annexes (e.g. infrastructure, rolling stock, wagon law, transport of dangerous goods, etc.) are adopted. • SC.2 agreed to hold the consultations of Member States and other stakeholders such as OSJD and OTIF managed by the Chair with support of the secretariat on URL till the seventy-sixth session in November 2022. • SC.2 further noted the efforts of OSJD and OTIF to establish OSJD-OTIF consultations. SC.2 invited OSJD and OTIF to provide input from any relevant OSJD-OTIF consultations. <p>SC.2 also empowered its Chair to hold a meeting of friends of the Chair, should he find the need to do so for facilitating the consultations identified in paragraph 5.</p> |
| 5 | 5 | | The Working Party noted that the developments in the work of the Group of Experts on the permanent identification of railway rolling stock and encouraged experts to continue their excellent work. |
| 6 | 6 | | The Working Party noted that the developments in the work of the Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs and encouraged experts to continue their excellent work. |
| 7 | 7 | | The Working Party thanked HUPAC and CCTT for their presentations and noted that the developments in EATL and SITCIN. The Working Party noted the request from the Russian Railways that consultations be held on coordination of Corridor 1 with OSJD prior to the next meeting of the Inland Transport Committee. The Working Party asked that this information be transmitted to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5). |
| 8 | 8 | | The Working Party took note of the information provided by the TER project manager and welcomed the continued progress on the delivery of its mandate. |
| 9 | 9 | | The Working Party welcomed the presentations from EIB. |
| 10 | 10 | | The Working Party thanked UIC and RailPol for their interventions and requested that the secretariat keep it updated on developments in this area and on the UNECE rail security observatory at future meetings. |
| 11 | 11 | | The Working Party asked the secretariat to update it on progress with the rail innovation observatory at its next session and to continue efforts tied to the ITS Road Map in relation to rail. |
| 12 | 12 | https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/ECE- | The Working Party thanked UIC and the secretariat for undertaking this analysis and requested that the analysis be continued on a biannual basis. |

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| | | TRANS-SC2-2021-04e_0.pdf | |
| 13 | 13 | | The Working Party thanked the secretariat for the updates on climate change and rail transport and asked that it be updated on this at future meetings. |
| 14 | 14 | | The Working Party reminded member States that they may want to update participants on similar reforms in respective countries at future meetings. |
| 15 | 15a | | The Working Party thanked WP.30 and the secretariat for the preparation of a survey on border crossing procedures for rail movements and asked the secretariat to send the amended survey to SC.2 delegates for completion. |
| 15 | 15b | | The Working Party asked OSJD and ERA to update it on their harmonization efforts at future meetings. |
| 16 | 16 | | The Working Party noted the important work done at previous sessions on rail review including a dedicated publication. It noted that many of the issues here are closely related to the developments under the agenda item on rail reform and decided to merge these two agenda items for future sessions. |
| 17 | 17 | | The Working Party noted the developments in rail statistics as set out by the secretary of WP.6 and asked that the secretariat is kept informed at future sessions of SC.2. |
| 18 | 18 | | The Working Party welcomed progress in the preliminary work in the updating of the CTU Code and asked that the secretariat is kept informed on this and other safety related issues at future sessions of SC.2. |
| 19 | 19 | | The Working Party noted the activities of the ITC with a specific focus on rail transport. |
| 20 | 20 | | The Working Party noted the update provided by the European Commission. |
| 21 | 21 | | The Working Party thanked CIT and OTIF for their interventions. |
| 22 | 22 | https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE-TRANS-SC.2-2021-03e.pdf | The Working Party adopted the updated Programme of work for 2022-2023. |
| 24 | 23 | | The Working Party thanked Mr. Kulesza for his 14 years of Chairmanship of the Working Party on Rail Transport during which he contributed significantly to the advancement of the rail sector. The Working Party elected Mr. Hinne Groot from the Netherlands has been elected as Chair of the Working Party on Rail Transport for 2022 and Vice-Chair for 2023 and Mr. Jakub Kapturzak from Poland as Vice-Chair for 2022 and Chair for 2023. |
| 25 | 24 | | The Working Party confirmed the dates of 16 to 18 November 2022 for the next session of SC.2 hoping that by then the restrictions on room availability and interpretation will have been removed. |

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| 26 | 25 | | The Working Party adopted its list of decisions which, as per recent EXCOM decision, would be subject to a 72-hour silence procedure in the event of technical connection difficulties of member State representatives. |