



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Rail transport at UNECE

84th session of the Inland Transport Committee

Hinne GROOT

Chair, Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)

24 | 02 | 2022, Geneva

Railways at the centre of the post-pandemic recovery – Connectivity through the railways



- 100 participants
- Discussed the role of railways on the COVID-19 post-pandemic recovery highlighting various actions that had already been taken and others that were being considered for the immediate future.



Working Party on Rail Transport

Key points from 75th Anniversary Session



- European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)
 - Updating of the Agreement continued
 - Amendment proposals from 2020 (Serbia) entered into force and new amendments agreed for Georgia.
 - Work continues on the modernization of the AGC.
- Cooperation continued on rail security with multiple stakeholders building on the decision at ITC in February 2021.
- Rail transport productivity indicators were updated with recent information and delegates reiterated the importance of this work going forward.
- Building on the work of WP.30, member States at SC.2 agreed to send out a questionnaire on annex 9 of the Harmonization Convention. The survey has been sent out and responses are to be received by 31 March 2022.

Working Party on Rail Transport

Key points from 75th Anniversary Session



- Activities continued on work related to:
 - Railway financing
 - Innovation in railways
 - Climate change and rail transport
 - Rail reform
 - Contribution to the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages work managed by WP.5
 - Statistics for the rail sector
 - Safety in the sector

SC.2 Groups of Experts

Unified Railway Law



- SC.2 (75th session) considered the report of the Group of Experts on the finalization of its mandate on URL
- SC.2 noted:
 - The valuable material produced by the Group
 - The Group reached no consensus on a document on URL which could be adopted as a legally binding instrument
- The Group had not identified in unanimous way any specific issue related to international freight transport for which unified rules would need to be developed in addition to contract of carriage
- SC.2 agreed that the Group concluded its mandate
- SC.2 agreed that decisions on the way forward on URL are up to SC.2 to decide
- SC.2 agreed to hold 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 76th session in Nov. 2022. SC.2 also empowered its Chair to hold a meeting of friends of the Chair, should he find the need to do so for this purpose.

SC.2 Groups of Experts

PIRRS and HUBS



UNECE

- **Permanent Marking or Railway Rolling Stock (PIRRS)**
 - Activities progressed extensively notwithstanding the significant reduction in interpretation resources
 - Substantial progress made in agreeing the form in which rolling stock will be marked and its location
 - The Group also agreed that a key component of this work was the development of model rules for the permanent identification of railway rolling stock
 - Work towards the finalization of these aspects will continue in 2022.
- **International Railway Passenger Hubs (HUBS)**
 - Work commenced in 2021 on the identification of international railway passenger hubs
 - Experts focused discussions on how to identify these hubs, how to specify possible minimum parameters for these hubs, what legal instrument to adopt once this identification has been completed, the review of current legal instruments in rail passenger transport and the identification of what incentives have been provided to operators during the pandemic

Conclusions



- Delegates thanked **Mr. Krzysztof Kulesza** from Poland for his 14 years of chairmanship of SC.2 and elected Mr. Hinne Groot from the Netherlands 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.

- 76th session of the Working Party on Rail Transport:

16-18 November 2022, Geneva



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Thank you!

Hinne GROOT

Chair, Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)

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