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Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Identification of the legal instrument or tool to be used for international railway passenger hub and draft the necessary legal provisions

Defining a legal instrument: Proposed amendments to the AGC

Submitted by the secretariat

I. Introduction

This document has been prepared in accordance with the decision at the fourth meeting of the Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2022/7, paragraph 22). It provides a list of amendments that the Group may wish to consider to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.4). This document is based on document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2022/10 and comments received following the fourth session of the Group including from the United Nations Treaty Section.

II. Possible amendments

1. In the Preamble, *replace*

Considering that, in order to strengthen relations between European countries, it is essential to lay down a co-ordinated plan for the development and construction of railway lines adjusted to the requirements of future international traffic.

With

Considering that, in order to strengthen relations between European countries, it is essential to lay down a co-ordinated plan for the development and construction of railway lines and stations adjusted to the requirements of future international traffic.

2. After Article 3, insert**Article 3bis**

1. The Contracting Parties adopt the proposed International Railway Passenger Hubs Network as described in annex III to this Agreement, as a co-ordinated plan for the harmonized provision of passenger services in key stations of major international importance.

2. The International Railway Passenger Hubs Network consists of a system of railway passenger stations of international importance. An International Railway Passenger Hub is a rail station on the network identified in annex I that provides passengers with connections to international destinations and can connect to national rail services, to other Hubs and to the services delivered by other modes.

3. International Railway Passenger Hubs are established to facilitate international rail travel through the provision of common services and facilities to passengers and operators. International Railway Passenger Hubs can be Primary or Secondary as defined by member States and depending on the level of service offered.

Article 3ter

International Rail Passenger Hubs as referred to in Article 3bis conform to the characteristics set out in annex IV to this Agreement or will be brought into conformity with the provisions of this annex in future improvement work to be carried out in conformity with national programmes.”

3. After Article 12, insert**Article 12bis**

1. Annex III to this agreement may be amended by the procedure specified in this article.

2. At the request of a Contracting Party, any amendment proposed by it to annex III to this Agreement shall be considered by the Working Party on Rail Transport of the Economic Commission for Europe.

3. If it is adopted by the majority of the members present and voting, and if this majority includes the majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting, the amendment shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the competent administrations of all the Contracting Parties for acceptance.

4. The amendment shall be accepted if, within a period of six months following the date of notification, less than one third of the competent administrations of the Contracting Parties notify the Secretary-General of their objection to the amendment.

5. Any amendment accepted shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to all the Contracting Parties and shall come into force three months after the date of its notification.

Article 12ter

1. Annex IV to this agreement may be amended by the procedure specified in this article.

2. At the request of a Contracting Party, any amendment proposed by it to annex IV to this Agreement shall be considered by the Working Party on Rail Transport of the Economic Commission for Europe.

3. If it is adopted by the majority of the members present and voting, and if this majority includes the majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting, the amendment shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the competent administrations of all the Contracting Parties for acceptance.

4. The amendment shall be accepted if, within a period of six months following the date of notification, less than one third of the competent administrations of the Contracting Parties notify the Secretary-General of their objection to the amendment.

5. Any amendment accepted shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to all the Contracting Parties and shall come into force three months after the date of its notification.

4. *After Annex II, insert*

Annex III – International Railway Passenger Hubs Network

[Text included in the annex to ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2023/3]

Annex IV – Technical parameters for International Railway Passenger Hubs of international importance

[Text included in the annex to ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2023/4]
