



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2024

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Revisions Committee to the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

Second session

Geneva, 2–4 September 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Update on the Luxembourg Protocol

The Luxembourg Rail Protocol

Submitted by the Rail Working Group

Background

1. The Luxembourg Protocol entered into force on 8 March 2024 after OTIF delivered its certificate to the Depository (UNIDROIT) confirming that the International Registry was fully operational in accordance with Article XXIII (1) (b) of the Protocol. This followed some intense work in the weeks leading up to that date refining and negotiating the regulations and procedures applicable to the International Registry, ensuring that the requirements set out in the Protocol and the mandate of the of the Preparatory Commission were correctly implemented whilst also taking into account the various practical and technical issues relating to the setting up of a new electronic asset registry.

2. On 8 March 2024, the Preparatory Commission formally ceased as its role came to an end and it was replaced by the Supervisory Authority, which constituted itself as a new intergovernmental body in accordance with the Protocol, tasked with supervising the operation of the International Registry. Contracting States are automatically represented on the Supervisory Authority but OTIF and UNIDROIT each nominated additional states as members of the Authority in accordance with Article XII (1) of the Protocol. Once constituted, the Supervisory Authority immediately took a number of decisions including:

- Adopting its rules of procedure and appointing a chair (representative from Spain)
- Issuing or approving Regulations and Procedures and a Fee schedule for the International Registry
- Approval of the Model Rules as amended on 15 November 2023 for the purposes of the Regulations for the International Registry for Railway Rolling Stock
- Appointing a Commission of Experts.

3. The International Registry then commenced operations. From that point its website, <https://rollingstockregistry.com/> was fully operational and it has also published its User Manual and Demonstration Videos.



4. Both just before and after the entry into force, the Rail Working Group ran industry workshops on the Protocol in Madrid and Stockholm, and it also continues to participate in the African Union's rail experts' group. In June a seminar on the Protocol was jointly organised by Université Clermont Auvergne and Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 in Lyon.
 5. Ratification of the Protocol has gone through all of the parliamentary steps in both South Africa and Paraguay. We expect the formal ratification to take place shortly.
 6. Work on the third edition of the Office Commentary on the Protocol, by the Professor Sir Roy Goode is almost complete and it is expected that this will be published in the coming weeks.
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