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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on Rail Transport**  
**(16 - 18 October 2002)**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION\***

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 16 October 2002

1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/SC.2/197
2. Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party
  - (a) Economic Commission for Europe E/2002/37-E/ECE/1395
  - (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies ECE/TRANS/139  
TRANS/SC.2/2002/4
3. Follow-up to the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment

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\* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party on Rail Transport. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations at Geneva (room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Therefore, delegates are requested to complete one of the attached registration forms (which are also available from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html>) and to transmit the completed form **at the latest two weeks before the session** to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail ([bernadette.healy@unece.org](mailto:bernadette.healy@unece.org)). Prior to the session delegates are requested to collect their identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page). In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (int. 72458).

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| 4.  | Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure   | TRANS/SC.2/2002/1<br>TRANS/SC.2/2002/11 and Add.1 |
| 5.  | Productivity in rail transport  | TRANS/SC.2/2002/14<br>TRANS/SC.2/2002/15          |
| 6.  | Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport   |   |
|     | (a) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport  | TRANS/SC.2/2002/8 and Add.1                       |
|     | (b) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region   |   |
| 7.  | The role of railways in the promotion of combined transport   | TRANS/SC.2/2002/3 and Add.1<br>TRANS/SC.2/2002/9  |
| 8.  | European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)  |   |
|     | (a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC  |   |
|     | (b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement   | TRANS/SC.2/2002/12                                |
|     | (c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network  | TRANS/SC.2/2002/7 and Add.1                       |
|     | (d) Safety provisions in long rail tunnels  | TRANS/AC.9/2 and Adds.1-2                         |
| 9.  | Trans-European Railway (TER) Project  | TRANS/SC.2/2002/13                                |
| 10. | Harmonization of conditions of different legal rail transport systems   | TRANS/SC.2/2001/1<br>TRANS/SC.2/2002/10           |
| 11. | Information on developments in various railway fields   | TRANS/SC.2/2002/5 and Adds. 1-4                   |
|     | (a) Environmental questions related to railway operations   |   |
|     | (b) Safety in railway transport   |   |
|     | (c) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes |   |
| 12. | Presentation of the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in the railway sector   |   |
| 13. | Application of summer time  |   |
| 14. | Draft Programme of Work for 2003-2006   | TRANS/SC.2/2002/2                                 |
| 15. | Other business  | TRANS/SC.2/2002/14                                |
| 16. | Adoption of the report  |   |
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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

### 2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

#### (a) Economic Commission for Europe

The fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 8 to 11 May 2002.

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, concerning such questions as the functioning of the principal subsidiary bodies, strengthening of the Organization, and UNECE technical assistance. (E/2002/37-E/ECE/1395).

#### (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-fourth session in Geneva from 18 to 21 February 2002.

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to the work areas as contained in paras.73-79 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/139).

Following the request by the Working Party at its fifty-fifth session (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 9), the secretariat asked the European Commission to provide information on the progress made in the execution of the Rail Market Monitoring Scheme (RMMS). The reply received by the European Communities is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/4.

The Working Party is invited **to discuss** the modalities of its potential contribution to the implementation of the project.

In connection with the question concerning the organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links the Working Party requested, at its fifty-fifth session (TRANS/SC.2/196, paras. 5-7), the representative Turkey **to inform** the Working Party about the results of the demonstration runs of block trains which have taken place up to now on the route Istanbul-Almaty.

### 3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Working Party **will be informed** about the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL) and the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL), and the decisions taken at the High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (5 July 2002).

Other questions related to transport and environment are being addressed under item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda.

#### 4. **DETERMINATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY INCLUDING ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEE FOR THE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE**

In reply to a request of the Working Party, the secretariat, together with the Forum Train Europe (FTE), the Community of European Railways (CER) and the European Infrastructure Managers (EIM), convened an Informal Ad hoc meeting on 22 April 2002. The meeting dealt with: (i) technical aspects of the optimization of railway timetables and their efficient use; (ii) limits of Governments' regulations in setting up international timetables, and (iii) organizational problems of capacity allocation and infrastructure management at international level and considered the future work in this area (TRANS/SC.2/196, para.22).

The report of this meeting is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/1 **for consideration** by the Working Party. The Working Party may wish **to discuss** the conclusions of the Informal meeting.

In addition, following the further request by the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 23), the European Communities member countries were asked to report on progress made in the implementation of the EU Directive 2001/14/EC.

Replies by member Government are being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2002/11 and Add.1 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

#### 5. **PRODUCTIVITY IN RAIL TRANSPORT**

Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-fourth session (TRANS/SC.2/194, para. 23) in 2000, the secretariat, in cooperation with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSZhD), had collected the productivity figures from all UNECE member countries, which are being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/14.

The Working Party may wish **to examine** the data provided and discuss which additional qualitative indicators might more appropriately reflect the productivity of railway operations.

As requested by the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/194, para. 23), the secretariat is preparing a proposal outlining possible approaches to the issue of productivity in rail transport. The proposal will be circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/15 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

## 6. FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

### (a) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

Following the decision of the Working Party, a questionnaire containing a monitoring system on border crossing stopping times, as defined in Annex 3 of its report on the fifty-fourth session (TRANS/SC.2/194), and additional questions on the principle reasons which caused delays related to customs, police and railway controls at border crossings (TRANS/SC.2/196, paras. 28-30) was submitted to those countries where the following border stations are located: Ruse, Kulata, Svilengrad (Bulgaria), Promachon (Greece), Lököshaza (Hungary), Curtici and Giurgiu nord (Romania), Suzemka (Russian Federation), Kapikule (Turkey) and Zernovo (Ukraine).

The replies received are reproduced in TRANS/SC.2/2002/8 and Add.1 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

### (b) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region

In accordance with the request made at its last session, the Working Party **will be informed** by its Chairman about the progress made in the border-crossing facilitation project for international rail transport in the SECI region (TRANS/SC.2/196, para.32).

## 7. THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

In accordance with the Working Party's request at the last session (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 38), the secretariat invited the European Community to report on the status of implementation of the EU Directive 2001/16/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 on the Interoperability of the trans-European conventional rail system. The reply received from the European Commission is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/9 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Furthermore, the Working Party also invited EU member Governments (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 38) to report on their experiences in applying the same Directive. Replies from member Governments are being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2002/3 and Add.1 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

## 8. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY LINES (AGC)

### (a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC

The Working Party may note that the following countries are at present Parties to the AGC, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 24: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and

Herzegovina (succession); Bulgaria; Croatia (succession); Czech Republic (succession); France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Republic of Moldova (succession); Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia (succession); Slovenia (succession); The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession); Turkey; Ukraine; Yugoslavia.

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** by delegations and the secretariat about the intention of Governments to become Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

(b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement

The Working Party may wish **to take note** of the updated version of Annex I of the AGC Agreement prepared by the secretariat that includes all the amendments which entered into force by 31 December 2001 (TRANS/SC.2/2002/6), as well as those adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-fifth session.

The Working Party will also **be informed** about the proposal for amendment to Annex I of the AGC Agreement by the Government of Slovenia. The Working Party may wish **to discuss** the proposal which is being circulated in the document TRANS/SC.2/2002/12.

(c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network

At its fifty-fifth session, the Working Party requested Governments to provide data on total train traffic on the AGC network in 2000 (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 45). The information received by the secretariat is being circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2002/7 and Add.1 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

(d) Safety provisions in long rail tunnels

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** about the conclusions of the first meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail) held from 27 to 28 June 2002 in Geneva, which focused on rail tunnels and which are being circulated in documents TRANS/AC.9/2 and Add.1.

Following the invitation of the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-fourth session, the Working Party may wish **to consider** the question of safety provisions in long rail tunnels in light of the first meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail) and transmit its report to the next session of the Inland Transport Committee.

## 9. **TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) PROJECT**

The TER Project Manager will present the progress report on activities carried out by the TER project, which is being circulated as document TRANS/SC.2/2002/13.

## 10. HARMONIZATION OF CONDITIONS OF DIFFERENT LEGAL RAIL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

At its fifty-fourth session in 2000, the Working Party asked OTIF to report on further developments, taking into account the implementation of the new COTIF Convention (TRANS/SC.2/194 para.59).

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the information received from OTIF which is being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2001/1 and TRANS/SC.2/2002/10.

## 11. INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS

At its fifty-fifth session, the Working Party requested Governments and international organizations concerned to provide information on new developments in the following fields: (a) environmental questions related to railway operations; (b) safety in railway transport; and, (c) introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 57).

The information provided by Governments and international organizations concerned is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/5 and Adds 1-4. The Working Party may wish **to examine** this information and decide whether any other aspects should be included in the list in the future.

## 12. PRESENTATION OF THE USE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS (GPS)

The Working Party may wish **to note** that two presentations are envisaged of projects concerning the use of a global positioning system (GPS) in the railway sector.

Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-fifth session (TRANS/SC.2/196, paras. 60-61), the secretariat invited the European Commission to inform the Working Party on the potential use of the Galileo satellite radio-navigation system in the railway sector, and the Czech Ministry of Transport to present information on its project concerning the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) for the identification of trains. Information related to the two presentations will be circulated when available.

## 13. APPLICATION OF SUMMER TIME

The Working Party **will be informed** about changes in the application of summer time in member countries in comparison to the EU Directive on summer time arrangements (summer time starts at 1 a.m. UT on the last Sunday of March and ends at 1 a.m. UT on the last Sunday of October) when relevant information has been made available to the secretariat.

Governments may also wish **to inform** the Working Party during the session of any changes that may have occurred regarding the application of summer time in their respective countries.

**14. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2003-2006**

The Working Party may wish **to examine** its draft programme of work for 2003-2006, which is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/2.

**15. OTHER BUSINESS**

**16. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

In accordance with the Working Party's decision at its fifty-second meeting, the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting, for adoption by the Working Party. This list will later be incorporated into the report of the session which will be prepared by its Chairman and its Vice-chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.

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