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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport
(21-23 October 2003)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 21 October 2003

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|----|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/SC.2/199 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party | |
| | (a) Economic Commission for Europe | E/2003/37-E/ECE/1406 |
| | (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/152 |
| | | TRANS/SC.2/2003/1 |
| | (i) Safety and security in railway transport | TRANS/SC.2/2003/19
and Add.1 |

* 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-seventh 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. Delegates are, therefore, requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html>) and send it 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). Prior to the session delegates should get their identification badges at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit, Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page). In case of difficulties, telephone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72413).

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|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3. | Cooperation with the ECMT Group on Railways | TRANS/SC.2/2003/18 |
| 4. | Organization of demonstration trains
on Euro-Asian transport links | TRANS/WP.5/2003/3-
TRANS/SC.2/2003/3 |
| | | TRANS/WP.5/2003/4-
TRANS/SC.2/2003/4 |
| | | TRANS/WP.5/2003/5-
TRANS/SC.2/2003/5
TRANS/WP.5/2001/14 |
| 5. | Study of the situation of the railways in member
countries | TRANS/SC.2/2003/6
and Adds.1-3 |
| 6. | Determination of railway infrastructure capacity
including aspects related to the fee for the use
of the infrastructure | TRANS/SC.2/2003/7 |
| 7. | Productivity in rail transport | TRANS/SC.2/2003/8 |
| 8. | 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.2/2003/9 |
| | (b) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI
(South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region | |
| 9. | The role of railways in the promotion of combined transport | TRANS/SC.2/2003/10
TRANS/SC.2/2003/11
and Add.1 |
| 10. | 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.2/2003/12 |
| | (c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network | TRANS/SC.2/2003/13 |
| | (d) Safety provisions in long rail tunnels | TRANS/AC.9/8 |
| 11. | Trans-European Railway (TER) Project | TRANS/SC.2/2003/14 |
| 12. | Research activities in the field of railway transport | TRANS/SC.2/2003/15
and Adds.1-2 |
| 13. | Railway safety: risk assessment techniques | TRANS/SC.2/2003/16
and Adds.1-2 |
| 14. | Use of Global Positioning Systems
(GPS) in the railway sector | TRANS/SC.2/2003/17
and Adds.1-2
Informal documents
Nos.1-2 |

15. Application of summer time
16. Draft Programme of Work for 2004-2008
17. Other business
18. Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2004 and 2005
19. 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-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 4-6 March 2003.

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session, concerning such questions as the UNECE reform, major policy directions of UNECE's work, UNECE technical assistance, and cooperation and coordination with other organizations (E/2003/37-E/ECE/1406).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-fifth session in Geneva from 18 to 20 February 2003.

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. 69-80 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/152).

Following the request by the Working Party at its fifty-sixth session (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 7), the secretariat asked the European Commission to provide information on the progress made in further development of the Rail Market Monitoring Scheme (RMMS). The reply received by the European Communities will be circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/1.

The Working Party is invited **to discuss** the modalities of its potential contribution or collaboration in the provision of required information and data in the implementation of the project.

(i) Safety and security in railway transport

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the information on the work related to transport and security carried out by the UIC and the European Commission. This information is being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2003/19 and Add.1.

3. COOPERATION WITH THE ECMT GROUP ON RAILWAYS

Initiated by the exchange of letters of 24 April 2003, between Mrs. I. Durant, Chairperson of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and Mrs. B. Schmognerova, Executive Secretary of the UNECE, the secretariat of the ECMT and UNECE Transport Division were invited, among others, to consider forming inter-institutional working parties on particular topics like rail and combined transport. Following up the initiative of the Chairperson of the ECMT and the Executive Secretary of the UNECE, the ECMT's Group on Railways had, at its meeting on 4 June 2003, a first exchange of views about the feasibility, organizational and other practical issues regarding the possibility of having a joint meeting with the UNECE's Working Party on Rail Transport. The Group agreed that such a proposal should be elaborated in more detail and presented in a form of a joint paper to both the Working Party on Rail Transport and the ECMT Group on Railways. Such a proposal is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/18, prepared jointly by the ECMT and UNECE secretariats.

The Working Party may wish **to consider** and **discuss** the issues raised in the document and the possibility of having joint meetings of the two groups following the modalities and the framework as outlined in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/18.

4. ORGANIZATION OF DEMONSTRATION TRAINS ON EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

In connection with the question concerning the organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links the Working Party requested, at its fifty-sixth session (TRANS/SC.2/198, paras. 8-9), the representatives of Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and OSZhD **to inform** the Working Party about the results of the demonstration runs of block trains and activities related to further promotion of Euro-Asian railway corridors which have taken place since the last session of the Working Party. Replies are being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2003/3, TRANS/SC.2/2003/4 and TRANS/SC.2/2003/5.

Furthermore, at its fifty-sixth session, the Working Party asked the secretariat to provide information on Euro-Asian transport corridors as defined by the St. Petersburg Conference and adopted by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. This information was being circulated in document TRANS/WP.5/2001/14.

The Working Party may wish **to note** both documents and **discuss** possible ways and activities for further promoting the organization of demonstration train runs on Euro-Asian railway corridors.

5. STUDY OF THE SITUATION OF THE RAILWAYS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

In accordance with the decisions of the Working Party taken at its fifty-third and fifty-fifth sessions, Governments have been requested to provide information on the following questions (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 17; TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 16) which have an impact on the railways in member countries:

- (a) Data on past and future developments of rail passenger and goods traffic;
- (b) New developments to be observed subsequent to the reorganization of the rail sector with special attention to the setting-up of new railway companies;
- (c) Investments in (i) rail infrastructure and (ii) railway rolling stock.

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the replies which are being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/6 and Adds.1-3, **identify** the items to be examined in more detail in future and **decide** on which areas information might be assembled under this agenda item for future sessions.

6. DETERMINATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY INCLUDING ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEE FOR THE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the further request by the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 11), the European Commission was asked to report on progress made in the implementation of the EU Directive 2001/14/EC.

Reply by the European Commission is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/7 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

7. PRODUCTIVITY IN RAIL TRANSPORT

Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-sixth session (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 13), the secretariat had collected replies to a questionnaire containing a range of quality indicators of railway productivity for passenger and freight transport as referred to in document TRANS/SC.2/2002/15, section IV. Replies by member countries are being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/8.

The Working Party may wish **to examine** the information and comments provided by member countries and discuss which of the qualitative indicators might most appropriately reflect the productivity of railway operations.

8. 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), and number of trains with delay (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 15), 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.2/2003/9 **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 the secretariat of the progress made in the border-crossing facilitation project for international rail transport in the SECI region (TRANS/SC.2/198, para.17).

9. THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

In accordance with the Working Party's request at the last session (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 18), 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.2/2003/10 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Furthermore, the Working Party also invited member Governments (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 19) to report on new efforts by railways to provide high-quality services to combined transport in order to further promote the role of combined transport. Replies from member Governments are being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2003/11 and Add.1 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

10. 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 2002 (TRANS/SC.2/2003/12), as well as those adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-sixth session.

(c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network

At its fifty-sixth session, the Working Party requested Governments, if they had not done so, to provide data on total train traffic on the AGC network in 2000 (TRANS/SC.2/198, para. 28). The information received by the secretariat is being circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2003/13 **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 fourth meeting of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail) held from 26 to 27 June 2003 in Geneva, which considered the second draft of the Recommendations on safety in tunnels (rail). The report of the meeting is being circulated in the document TRANS/AC.9/8.

The Working Party may wish **to discuss** the relevant recommendations on safety in rail tunnels and provide comments to the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts.

11. 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.2/2003/14.

12. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF RAILWAY TRANSPORT

At its fifty-fifth session, the Working Party requested Governments and international organizations concerned to provide information, for its fifty-seventh session in 2003, on their research activities in the field of railway transport (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 53).

The information provided by Governments and international organizations concerned is being circulated in documents TRANS/SC.2/2003/15 and Adds.1-2. The Working Party may wish **to examine** this information and decide whether any other aspects should be included in the list in the future.

13. RAILWAY SAFETY: RISK ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES

In order to have a complete overview of risk assessment techniques, the Working Party at its fifty-fifth session (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 25) asked those Governments that had not yet done so, to provide information on this question. Replies received from member Governments are being circulated in document (TRANS/SC.2/2003/16 and Adds.1-2).

The Working Party may wish **to consider** replies and request an updated of the information for its session in 2005.

14. USE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS (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. Information related to the Galileo project will be circulated when available.

Replies received from member Governments on their experiences in using the GPS in the railway sector are being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/17 and Adds.1-2 and Informal documents Nos.1-2.

15. 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.

16. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2008

The Working Party may wish **to examine** its draft programme of work for 2004-2008, which is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2003/2.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party may wish **to decide** on the date for its next session. The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the fifty-eighth session to be held from 27 to 29 October 2004.

18. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY IN 2004 AND 2005

In accordance with the decision taken at the fifty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party may wish **to elect** the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for its sessions in 2004 and 2005.

19. 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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57th session, 21-23 October 2003**

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