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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-third session
Geneva, 18-20 November 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 November 2009^{1, 2}

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines:
 - (a) Status of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines;

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html>>. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (carole.marilley@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>>. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail (carole.marilley@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 740 30 or 734 57). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>>.

- (b) Amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines;
 - (c) The E-rail traffic census.
- 3. Task Force on Rail Security.
- 4. Trans-European Railway Project.
- 5. Euro-Asian rail traffic trends.
- 6. Facilitation of international rail transport:
 - (a) Legal instruments for border-crossing facilitation;
 - (b) Progress of the common consignment note project;
 - (c) Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems;
 - (d) Towards a unified railway law in the pan-European region.
- 7. Investment in railway infrastructure and rolling stock:
 - (a) Railway infrastructure investment trends in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
 - (b) Financing of railway infrastructure and rolling stock.
- 8. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party on Rail Transport:
 - (a) Inland Transport Committee;
 - (b) Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics;
 - (c) Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports;
 - (d) Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links.
- 9. Biennial evaluations and new programme of work (2010-2014).
- 10. Directorate-General for Transport and Energy report on the implementation of the first railway package and the European Rail Traffic Management System deployment plan.
- 11. Workshop on passenger accessibility of heavy rail systems:
 - (a) Introduction;
 - (b) Invited presentations;
 - (c) Conclusions.

12. Election of officers for the 2010 and 2011 sessions of the Working Party on Rail Transport.
13. Biennial evaluation 2008-2009.
14. Other business.
15. Date of next session.
16. Adoption of the report.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/211

1. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Working Party on Rail Transport is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 2. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

(a) Status of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

2. The Working Party may note that the following countries are at present Parties to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC), bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 27: Albania; Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey and Ukraine.

3. The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the official letters sent by the Executive Secretary to competent national authorities, inviting them to accede to the AGC Agreement.

(b) Amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/2

4. Following consultations with competent national authorities, the secretariat has prepared amendments to the AGC network in the two documents mentioned above. Following a discussion of these proposals, delegates representing the Contracting Parties will decide whether to adopt them.

5. Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement, a map of the AGC network, an inventory of standards stipulated in the AGC and European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and

Related Installations (AGTC) as well as relevant Depository Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.³

(c) The E-rail traffic census

Documentation: Informal documentation

6. The Working Party may wish to take note of the results of the 2005 E-rail traffic census and invite all member governments to participate in the 2010 E-rail traffic census.

Item 3. Task Force on Rail Security

Documentation: Informal documentation

7. The Chair of the Task Force on Rail Security will table a progress report with proposals on issues to be addressed in the final report on security.

Item 4. Trans-European Railway Project

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/3

8. The Trans-European Railway (TER) project manager will inform the Working Party of the activities implemented in 2009 and plans for subsequent years (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/3). The Working Party may wish to discuss how to enhance its cooperation in the TER project.

Item 5. Euro-Asian rail traffic trends

Documentation: Informal documentation

9. Representatives of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), Turkish Railways (TCDD) and Russian Railways (RZD) were asked to inform the Working Party of recent traffic trends and projections on Euro-Asian rail corridors.

Item 6. Facilitation of international rail transport

(a) Legal instruments for border-crossing facilitation

Documentation: Informal documentation

10. The Working Party will be informed about recent developments concerning the proposed Annex 9 on railway border crossings to the 1982 International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods as well as some other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) legal instruments aiming to facilitate border-crossing procedures.

³ <<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html>>.

(b) Progress of the common consignment note project

Documentation: Informal documentation

11. A representative of the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) will inform the Working Party of the progress achieved in the common consignment note (CIM/SMGS) interoperability project.

(c) Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems

Documentation: Informal documentation

12. The secretariat invited the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and (OSJD) to submit a report on their joint activities aiming to harmonize conditions of different rail transport systems. In addition, OSJD was invited to submit a report on its cooperation with the European Railway Agency (ERA), aiming to improve technical interoperability of the railway systems situated on both sides of the EU borders with countries of Eastern Europe. If available, members of the Working Party may wish to consider these reports.

(d) Towards a unified railway law in the pan-European region

Documentation: Informal documentation

13. Following an introduction by the secretariat, the Working Party may wish to discuss how to achieve the strategic International Transport Committee (ITC) objective of a unified railway law that would resolve the present separation between the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and the Agreement on International Railway Communications (SMGS) (ECE/TRANS/166, paras. 95-96). A position paper on this issue could be prepared by an informal expert group for the 2010 meeting of SC.2.

Item 7. Investment in railway infrastructure and rolling stock

(a) Railway infrastructure investment trends in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/4

14. The secretariat will submit a report on railway infrastructure investment trends in various parts of the UNECE region.

(b) Financing of railway infrastructure and rolling stock

Documentation: Informal documentation

15. The Working Party may wish to consider an invited presentation on public-private partnerships for financing of railway infrastructure and rolling stock in the post-crisis period.

Item 8. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies of interest to the Working Party

(a) Inland Transport Committee

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/208, ECE/TRANS/2009/6, ECE/TRANS/2009/7, ECE/TRANS/2009/8

16. The seventy-first ITC session took place in Geneva on 24-26 February 2009. The Working Party will be informed about the Committee's decisions relevant to its work.

(b) Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/125

17. The Working Party will be informed about recent activities of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

(c) Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports

Documentation: Informal documentation

18. The secretariat will introduce the UNECE draft report on hinterland connections of seaports.

(d) Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links

Documentation: Informal documentation

19. The Working Party will be informed about the progress made in the implementation of Phase II of the Euro-Asian Transport Links project.

Item 9. Biennial evaluations and new programme of work (2010-2014)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/5

20. The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its sixty-first session in November 2007, it had approved indicators of achievement for the measurement of its expected accomplishments in 2008 and 2009 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/208, para. 27). The Working Party may wish to evaluate its accomplishments on the basis of these indicators and review whether they are still appropriate for the 2010-2011 evaluation period. It is also expected to review its programme of work for the five-year period 2010-2014.

21. To facilitate discussions, the secretariat has prepared a document that provides available results of the mandated evaluation process and considers performance indicators for SC.2 activities in 2010 and 2011 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/5). The document also contains proposals

for updating the present SC.2 programme of work. The performance indicators and work programme proposals adopted by the Working Party will be transmitted to the ITC at its sixty-second session (23-25 February 2010).

Item 10. Directorate-General for Transport and Energy report on the implementation of the first railway package and the European Railway Traffic Management System deployment plan

Documentation: Informal documentation

22. Following a request by the Working Party, a representative Directorate-General for Transport and Energy (DG TREN) of the European Commission will inform the Working Party about the progress made in the implementation of the first railway package and the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) deployment plan.

Item 11. Workshop on passenger accessibility of heavy rail systems

(a) Introduction

23. The Working Party decided at its meeting in November 2008 to hold a workshop on passenger accessibility of heavy rail systems during its sixty-third session. The Workshop was prepared by the UNECE Transport Division in cooperation with the UNECE Population Unit and International Transport Forum (ITF). Since the majority of elderly and disabled passengers benefiting from accessible rail cars and train stations are women, the workshop can be considered as the SC.2 contribution to gender mainstreaming in ITC work.

(b) Invited presentations

Documentation: Informal documentation

24. The Working Party may wish to consider presentations by invited experts on selected aspects of passenger accessibility in the rail sector.

(c) Conclusions

25. The Working Party may wish to adopt conclusions that reflect the presentations and subsequent discussions of workshop participants.

Item 12. Election of officers for the 2010 and 2011 sessions of the Working Party

26. The Working Party will elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for its sessions in 2010 and 2011.

Item 13. Biennial evaluation 2008-2009

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/6

27. One of the ITC biennial performance indicators for rail transport is the “level of satisfaction as expressed in surveys” of participants in SC.2 sessions (Bureau Informal document No. 11 (2008), p. 5). The secretariat will introduce a questionnaire aiming to evaluate the session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/6) and invite delegates to complete it. The responses to the questionnaire will provide a valuable input to the estimation of the performance indicator mentioned above.

Item 14. Other business

Documentation: Informal documentation

28. A representative of the Ferroworld project will inform the Working Party of planned project activities.

Item 15. Date of next session

29. The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva on 17-19 November 2010.

Item 16. Adoption of the report

30. In accordance with the Working Party’s decision taken at its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 6), the secretariat will draft a list of decisions taken at the meeting for adoption by the Working Party. This list will be incorporated into the report of the session which will be prepared later by its Chairperson and its Vice-Chairperson with the assistance of the secretariat.
