

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON RAIL SECURITY

(Second session, Geneva, 1 October 2009)

I. Attendance

1. The Task Force held its second session in Geneva on 1 October 2009.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: France; Netherlands; Norway; Turkey; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The following agencies of the European Commission were represented: European Railway Agency; Joint Research Centre. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Community of European Railways and Infrastructure Managers (CER); European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM); International Union of Railways (UIC). A representative of the UNECE TER project also participated.

II. Introduction

3. The secretariat invited Task Force members to prepare a session on rail security during the UNECE Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum on 28-29 January 2010. Participants decided to discuss the invitation at the end of the session.

III. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Task Force adopted the agenda.

IV. Regulatory guidelines

5. Following the introduction by France, the task force discussed the paper on regulatory guidelines. Participants agreed that a broad-based definition security is preferable, the spectrum of protection ranging from low-level crimes to terrorist activity. Regulatory guidelines should be based on a modular 'block' structure while individual countries would decide which particular 'blocks' (i.e. standards) to use in the certification of operators. The identification of relevant 'blocks' should proceed in a stepwise manner. It was agreed that a harmonization of security standards across countries was neither practical nor necessary. However, it would be desirable to harmonize security management procedures across countries. It was not generally agreed whether security ought to be based on the precautionary principle or risk assessment.

V. Sharing good practices

6. Following the introduction by UIC, participants considered the joint UIC-EIM paper on the sharing of good rail security practices. The paper identified three topics as particularly relevant: (i) sharing of responsibility between States, railway companies and infrastructure managers; (ii) special needs of high speed rail; and (iii) secured exchange of the information pertaining to good practices. Some participants questioned the need for the second topic while others mentioned that two information-sharing platforms have been already set up by EU authorities. UIC stated that it has the necessary tools for a global information-sharing platform but lacks a well developed classification for relevant documents.

VI. The economics of rail transport security

7. United Kingdom delivered a presentation on key issues concerning the economics of rail security. Participants emphasized during the subsequent discussion that in addition to costs, government decisions are often influenced by current perceptions of security threats. The importance of the link between adequate security and quality of rail services, the danger posed by displacement risks as well as the need for more applied economic studies were also emphasized.

VII. Other contributions

8. Norway introduced secure architecture guidelines for railway project managers and the Chair introduced a paper on innovation strategies that was prepared by Switzerland. The Task Force took note of both contributions.

VIII. Draft report

9. The Task Force discussed extensively the main conclusions and recommendations of its report to the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2). It was agreed that the first draft of the report would be distributed by the secretariat by 9 October 2009 for comments. The final report should be posted on the SC.2 website by 9 November 2009. The report will be discussed by SC.2 on 18 November 2009 in Geneva.

IX. Conclusions and follow up

10. Participants agreed that the Task Force mandate will be fulfilled to the extent possible with the submission of its report to SC.2. Task Force members will organize a session on rail security during the UNECE Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum that will take place in Geneva on 28-29 January 2010. It was tentatively agreed that the session would include presentations pertaining to Task Force recommendations and the papers prepared by France, Norway, United Kingdom and UIC-EIM.