



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 May 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Eight session

Geneva, 10–11 July 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eight session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 10 July 2014

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Unification of international railway law with the objective of allowing rail carriage under a single legal regime.
3. Identifying an appropriate management system for unified railway law based on the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport.

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website 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 (sc.2@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). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

² 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 www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (sc.2@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).

4. Other business.
5. Date of next session.
6. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/6

2. Unification of international railway law with the objective of allowing rail carriage under a single legal regime

In order to arrive at a common understanding on the concepts and explanatory legal provisions to be enshrined into a new international legal railway regime, the Group of Experts undertook at its sixth and seventh sessions a first review of columns 3 and 4 of secretariat documents ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/9 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/5 containing an evaluation of relevant legal provisions of COTIF/CIM and SMGS as well as first elements and a possible wording of some specific legal provisions that could be included into a legal instrument for Euro-Asian rail freight transport. This exchange of views was performed article by article starting with newly proposed Article A (scope of application) and up to article KK (agreements concerning recourse) (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/8, paras. 17–39 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/2, paras. 9–53).

Based on this review of the conceptual and legal basis of a new international railway regime, the secretariat was requested to reflect on the specific suggestions made at the previous sessions and comments received by the experts and prepare a revised version of document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/5 for consideration and review by the group.

The Group of Experts may wish to continue its review based on ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/8.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2014/8

3. Identifying an appropriate management system for unified railway law based on the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport

The Group of Experts may wish to recall that at its previous session, the secretariat presented an overview of a management system in order to facilitate discussions on identification of an appropriate management system for the new legal railway regime. This overview did not formulate any proposal but simply outlined the different actors and functions that exist and that could be used. Three main functions that would lead to an efficient management system were presented and analysed: (a) a depositary function, (b) an administrative function and (c) a secretariat support function.

On the basis of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/12, Informal document SC.2/GEURL No. 2 (2014) and Informal document SC.2/GEURL No. 3 (2014) the Group of Experts may wish to continue discussions on pertinent management issues of the new legal railway instrument.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/12, Informal document SC.2/GEURL No. 2 (2014), Informal document SC.2/GEURL No. 3 (2014)

4. Other business

At present, there are no proposals under this item. Proposals can be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat (sc.2@unece.org).

5. Date of next session

The next session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 30–31 October 2014.

6. Summary of decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will draft the final report.
