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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-ninth session

Geneva, 23–25 November 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 23 November 2015^{1, 2}

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Workshop on “Rail Safety: Trends and Challenges”.
3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement):
 - (a) Status of the AGC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals;
 - (b) Amendment proposals (Updating and extending the AGC network);
 - (c) Amendment proposals (Minimum infrastructure and performance standards).

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 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).

² Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=PR43OG. 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 (+41 22 917 4030) or by email (sc.2@unece.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

4. Rail Security.
5. Euro-Asian rail transport.
6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project.
7. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships.
8. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains.
9. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors.
10. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.
11. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport.
12. Productivity in Rail Transport.
13. Climate Change and Rail Transport:
 - (a) Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for transport networks and nodes;
 - (b) Climate Change mitigation: Presentation of UNECE ForFITS tool;
 - (c) Diesel engine exhausts.
14. Railway Reform.
15. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region:
 - (a) Facilitation of rail border crossings;
 - (b) Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems.
16. Rail Review.
17. Group of Experts on improving Safety at Level Crossings.
18. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
19. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
20. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
21. Draft programme of work, biennial evaluation and draft work plan:
 - (a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017;
 - (b) Draft work plan for 2016–2020.
22. Election of Officers.
23. Other business.
24. Date and venue of next session.
25. Adoption 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.2/223

2. Workshop on “Rail Safety: Trends and Challenges”

The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) considered first the issue of security and safety while implementing the February 2002 decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) that requested its subsidiary bodies to identify the differences between “security” and “safety” concepts and the relevant concrete questions that could be addressed in this respect (ECE/TRANS/139, para. 19).

After an in-depth discussion at its fifty-sixth session in October 2002, the Working Party decided to adopt the definition of railway safety as “the socially required level of absence of risk of danger in the rail transport system where risk relates to personal accident, injury or material damage” and the following definition of railway security: “the protection of human beings, transport means and transport infrastructure against unauthorized and unexpected actions of any kind.”

Following the rail security workshop organized by the Working Party during its sixty-seventh session and its concrete conclusions and recommendations, the Working Party organizes this international workshop on rail safety to:

- (a) identify all areas that deal with rail safety;
- (b) address the trends and challenges that international rail transport faces in terms of passengers and cargo safety;
- (c) identify areas where the working party and other interested stakeholders could take some concerted actions.

The programme of the workshop is available on Working Party’s website (Informal document No. 1).

Following the discussions, the Working Party may wish to draw conclusions on increasing safety levels of passengers and cargo in international rail transport and reflect on concrete follow-up activities for SC.2 at the pan-European level.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement)

(a) Status of the AGC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat on its activities to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.1), a map on the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards as well as relevant Depository Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.³

Further information will be provided at the session.

(b) Amendment proposals (Updating and extending the AGC network)

The Working Party may wish to note that, at its sixty-fourth session, it had considered the status of amendment proposals from Denmark, Germany and Sweden and had decided to await the results of the consultations between them. The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session and given the time that has passed since the original proposal of the amendments, had agreed that it would discuss ways to move forward on these amendments at its next session even if no further information is provided.

The Working Party will be informed about any developments on these issues and may wish to decide on these amendment proposals in accordance with article 11 of the AGC Agreement.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/1

(c) Amendment proposals (Minimum infrastructure and performance standards)

The Working Party may wish to recall that it had been informed by the Secretariat that the secretariats of SC.2, WP.24 and the European Railway Agency (ERA) had prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1 containing amendment proposals of possible new minimum infrastructure, performance standards as well as parameters for inclusion into annex II to the AGC Agreement.

The Working Party and the administrative committee of the AGC agreement decided to postpone decision on amendment proposals to the AGC agreement based on official document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1. They requested the secretariat to revise the proposed amendments based on comments received by the Russian Federation and OSJD and submit them for consideration by the Working Party at its next session. To that extend, the Working Party requested the Russian Federation and the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) to submit their proposals to the secretariat.

The Working Party may wish to consider and approve the proposals (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/1).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2014/1–ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2014/1,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2010/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/1,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/218

4. Rail Security

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session, it had adopted the proposal made by the secretariat following the conclusions and recommendations of the

³ www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html.

workshop organized during its sixty-seventh session (23–25 October 2013) on the development of an electronic space on rail security. The electronic space on rail security will be an advanced web-based platform which will operate as an international observatory on rail security issues and stakeholders will have the opportunity and possibility to:

- (a) disseminate ad hoc knowledge and best/good practices;
- (b) exchange information about projects and other initiatives/proposals;
- (c) seek cooperation on specific rail security projects/tasks/studies and researches agreed upon during SC.2 sessions and other events and focus on the development of definitions.

The Working Party may wish to review the pilot online platform on, for example, rail security developed by the secretariat and provide guidance on steps to be taken for its finalization.

5. Euro-Asian rail transport

In accordance with the decision of its sixty-ninth session, the Working Party may wish to be informed and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement on developing the Euro-Asian linkages project (EATL) including the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts of EATL that took place on June and October 2015.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/28

6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities undertaken in 2015; concrete results achieved and plan for subsequent years, including the revision of project's work plan, the efforts to increase the number of participating countries and the development of a master plan on high speed trains in cooperation with the Working Party.

The Working Party may wish to review the results achieved and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/2

7. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session a presentation was made on the UNECE PPP Centre of Excellence for railways and of:

- (a) the possibilities for synergies between the Centre of Excellence and the Working Party; and
- (b) the hosting on the Working Party's website of an online tool for the evaluation of financing of rail infrastructure projects within PPP schemes. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a formal document addressing the above mentioned issues for consideration by the Working Party at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/3 within the above-mentioned proposals and provide guidance on how to proceed with this issue.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/3

8. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session approved the revised methodology as prepared and presented by the secretariat and the TER Project Manager on the development of a high-speed trains master plan. It also requested the secretariat and the TER project manager to inform the working party of any developments on this issue at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to take note of the information provided by the secretariat and the TER project manager on the development of a master plan on high speed trains in UNECE and TER regions.

9. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session it had been understood that more time was needed for the finalization of the unified railway law. What remained to be done was fine-tuning of the wording both substantively and linguistically in three languages (English, French and Russian) as well as reaching a decision on an appropriate management system for the unified railway law. Hence the request for an extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts for one more year was requested.

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat on developments in the work of the Group of Experts during 2015 (February, June and October). Furthermore it may wish to review and approve the draft of relevant legal provisions as finalized by the experts in their last session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/4) to be included into a new international legal railway regime for transmission to the forthcoming session of the Inland Transport Committee (23–25 February 2016) as well as the principles of an appropriate management system (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/5) for unified railway law.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/5

10. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail

The ITC at its seventy-sixth session in February 2014 was informed about the proposal made by the Russian Federation and supported by several other governments and national railways, for the development of a new convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail. The ITC welcomed the setting up of an Informal Group of Experts to facilitate further work in this area and thanked the Committee of the OSJD for offering to host the first meeting of the informal group.

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the representative of OSJD and the secretariat on developments with this new convention and the results of the meetings took place during 2015 (Poland, Russian Federation).

11. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport

In line with the UNECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012–2020 (UNECE publication, ITS for sustainable mobility, 2012), the Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making rail transport systems attractive and “seamless” among different modes of transport. The Working Party may also address the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders focusing on the role of Governments and regulatory authorities in providing the necessary framework conditions for discriminatory-free access to information by all parties in rail and intermodal transport chains.

The Working Party may wish to consider activities, on monitoring of ITS and other technological applications developments in rail transport and to provide a platform for the exchange of information and best practices.

Documentation

UNECE publication, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility (2012)

12. Productivity in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the revised and fine-tuned rail productivity indicators based on Government’s comments. The Working Party decided to await feedback from national experts and from the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) before approving the revised rail productivity indicators. It requested that the secretariat provide information on this issue at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to consider information provided by the secretariat on feedback provided by national experts and by the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6).

13. Climate Change and Rail Transport

(a) Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation to transport networks and nodes

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the continuation of the work of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation to transport networks and nodes and especially about the work to be done which is relevant to rail transport.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in adaptation issues and railways.

Documentation

UNECE publication

(b) **Climate Change mitigation: Presentation of UNECE ForFITS tool**

The Working Party will be informed about the developments during 2015 of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project. The project aims at developing and implementing a monitoring and assessment tool for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in inland transport, including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation. The Working Party may wish to discuss and consider implementation of ForFITS tool in Rail transportation/Terminals/Stations.

(c) **Diesel engine exhausts**

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the continuation of secretariat's work on diesel engines and the update of the relevant discussion paper prepared by the secretariat.

The Working Party may wish to consider the discussion paper and provide guidance on how it would be possibly updated by considering issues relevant to rail transport. The Working Party may also wish to be informed on locomotive technology development and locomotive emissions.

Documentation

UNECE Discussion Paper

14. Railway Reform

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, it had considered railway reform an important part of railway development and considered presentations from experts. The Working Party may wish to consider presentations on railways reform to be delivered by experts.

15. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region

(a) **Facilitation of rail border crossings**

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session took note of the information provided by the secretariat and OSJD on the replies to the questionnaire sent as part of the actions of possible implementation mechanisms of the provisions in the new Annex 9 to the "Harmonization Convention" for the facilitation of rail border crossings in the pan-European region.

The Working Party may wish also to recall that at its sixty-sixth session (Geneva, 8–9 November 2012) it had adopted a plan on implementing monitoring mechanisms and requested the secretariat:

- (a) to prepare and distribute the proposed questionnaire;
- (b) to prepare a background document – action plan based on the replies from the questionnaire and on information received from different international organizations.

The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/6 which includes the action plan for the implementation of Annex 9 based on the replies from the questionnaire and on information received from different international organizations and provide guidance to the secretariat of future steps to be taken.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/6

(b) Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems

The Working Party may wish to be informed by OSJD on progress in improving the technical interoperability between the 1,435 mm standard and the 1,520 mm broad gauge railway systems and about the results of the work of the OSJD/ERA Working Group on Interoperability.

16. Rail Review

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its sixty-seventh session, it had approved the draft questionnaire for the rail review publication which would be sent to countries and rail authorities for the collection of the appropriate data.

The Working Party may wish to be informed for any developments on this issue.

17. Group of Experts on improving Safety at Level Crossings

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat on the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts on improving Safety at Level Crossings that took place on the 29–30 January 2015 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/8), 15–16 June 2015 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/10) and 5–6 November 2015 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/12).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/8, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/10, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/12

18. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Working Party will be informed about the main decisions of the seventy-seventh session of the ITC (24–26 February 2015) on issues of interest to the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/248).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/248

19. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport

In line with standard practice, the Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of the European Commission (DG Move) in rail transport.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

20. Activities of international organizations in rail transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of other international organizations and stakeholders in the field of rail transport.

21. Draft programme of work, biennial evaluation and draft work plan

(a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its sixty-seventh session Geneva, 23–25 October 2013, it had approved indicators of achievement for measuring its expected accomplishments in 2014 and 2015 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/220, paras. 86–87). In accordance with the decision of the ITC to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being in 2016, the Working Party may wish to review and adopt its programme of work for 2016–2017 as well as the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation. The draft programme of work for 2016–2017 and the expected accomplishment indicators are contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/7.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/7

(b) Draft work plan for 2016–2020

As requested by the ITC Bureau on 20 June 2011, the Working Party should review and approve its 4-year work plan for 2016–2020, in addition to the programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016–2017 (see above).

Document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/8 has reproduced the work plan adopted by the Working Party on 25 October 2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/220, paras. 88–89) and approved by the ITC on 27 February 2014 (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 105), indicating also proposed deletions, modifications and additions, as appropriate.

The Working Party may wish to review its work plan for 2016–2020 for adoption and transmission to the ITC.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/8

22. Election of Officers

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chair and possibly (a) Vice-Chair(s) for its sessions in 2016 and 2017.

23. Other business

At present, there are no proposals under this item.

24. Date and venue of next session

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 22 to 24 November 2016 in Geneva.

25. Adoption of decisions

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 6) and established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken at the end of the session. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 23 November	10.00 a.m. – 13.00 p.m.	Items 1, 3–6
	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Items 7–11
Tuesday, 24 November	10.00 a.m. – 13.00 p.m.	Item 2 (Workshop)
	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Item 2 (Workshop)
Wednesday, 25 November	09.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Items 12–15
	2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Items 16–24