



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Rail Transport

##### Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

###### Twelfth session

Geneva, 14–16 October 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

###### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth session<sup>1, 2</sup>

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 14 October 2015

#### 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.
4. Other business.
5. Date of next session.

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<sup>1</sup> 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/index.php?id=39689](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39689). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

<sup>2</sup> Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: [https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Zl\\_avk](https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Zl_avk). 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. 72403). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html).

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/2015/8

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

To agree on the legal provisions to be included into a new international legal railway regime, the Group of Experts undertook several reviews of a document prepared by the secretariat which served as a basis for the discussion for all the Group of Experts' sessions. This document provided a comparison of provisions in COTIF/CIM and SMGS which were also briefly evaluated in the context of other international legal documents such as the CMR and the Montreal Convention. Furthermore, it included draft wording of legal provisions as agreed in the Group of Experts, as well as other elements which could form part of a legal instrument for Euro-Asian rail freight transport. The experts reviewed and amended the document so that the provisions would cover the needs of all participating stakeholders.

Based on the reviews and, in particular, those of the eleventh session of the Group (Geneva, 10–12 June 2015), the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/10 for consideration and review by the Group.

The Russian Federation and the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) secretariat submitted document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/11 which includes the new SMGS agreement as adopted by OSJD members, that came into force on 1 July 2015, for consideration by the experts.

In order to finalize the provisions of this new legal instrument, two main tasks remain:

- (a) fine-tuning the wording substantively and settling all open issues;
- (b) fine-tuning the wording linguistically in three languages (English, French and Russian).

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/10, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/11

### **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 the discussions at its previous sessions on identifying an appropriate management system for the new legal railway regime. The Group of Experts may also wish to recall that a decision on an appropriate management system for URL is one of the main tasks of this Group of Experts.

On the basis of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/12, Informal documents SC.2/GEURL Nos. 2, 3 and 9 (2014), the Group of Experts may wish to continue discussions on the management of the new legal railway instrument.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2015/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/12, Informal documents SC.2/GEURL Nos. 2, 3 and 9 (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**

Sessions of the Group of Expert are not foreseen so as to allow SC.2, at its forthcoming session on 23–25 November 2015, to consider the progress and provide guidance on possible future activities of the Group of Experts, as appropriate, for approval by the Inland Transport Committee in February 2016.

**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.

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