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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventy-first session

Geneva, 27-29 November 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-first session^{1, 2}

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 27 November 2017

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop on “Railway reform across the ECE region”.
3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.
4. Rail Security.
5. Euro-Asian rail transport.
6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project.
7. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships.

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 Sustainable 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). 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: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=eUMneM>. 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 2432) or by e-mail (sc.2@unece.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

8. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains.
9. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on 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 the 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. Rail Statistics.
18. Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings.
19. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
20. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
21. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
22. Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2018-2019.
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.2/227

2. Workshop on “Railway Reform across the ECE region”

Railways across the ECE region have changed significantly in recent years, in order to understand the main changes and to identify good practices within the region the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) will be discussing railway reform across the region building on discussions held on this topic at previous sessions of SC.2.

A publication will be prepared following the session to summarise the findings from the workshop, background information for this publication is included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/2.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/2

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

Status of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and adopted amendment proposals

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about its activities to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement).

Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.3³), a map of the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards and the relevant Depositary Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.

Further information will be provided at the session about the notification of changes to the AGC agreed at previous sessions of the Working Party.

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 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 research agreed upon during SC.2 sessions and other events, and focus on developing definitions.

The Working Party may wish to note that, following discussions at the seventieth session of SC.2, the secretariat has sent out a letter to member States requesting the nomination of a focal point to upload information on the electronic space.

Working Party delegates may wish to provide relevant information for the electronic space.

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

5. Euro-Asian rail transport

In accordance with the decision of its sixty-ninth session, the Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss:

(a) New developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement in developing the Euro-Asian Transport Links project (EATL), including the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts of EATL that took place during in 2017;

(b) The workshop “Transport Infrastructure Corridors along Europe and Asia” that was held during the thirtieth session of the Working Party on Trends and Economics on 4 September 2017.

6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the TER project about the activities in 2016: the concrete results achieved, the plan for subsequent years (including the revision of the 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 and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/1

7. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships

The Working Party may wish to recall the presentation from its sixty-ninth session on the UNECE Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Centre of Excellence, and railways and discuss:

(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 with PPP schemes. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a formal document that addresses the above issues for consideration by the Working Party at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in this topic.

8. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session, the consultant for the TER High-Speed Master Plan presented the state of play of the document. The document about Phase 1 of this work has been finalized, and the Working Party may wish to be informed about the outcomes of Phase 1 and the plans for Phase 2. An Executive Summary of the document is in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/3.

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 the ECE and TER regions.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/3

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, Governments took note that the organization and implementation of the pilot tests is a time-consuming process that has to be developed in a manner that is structured, and commonly agreed upon by the main stakeholders. It therefore agreed to request that the mandate of the Group of Experts be extended for one more year. The Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-ninth session (21-24 February 2017) and the Executive Committee at the session in April 2017 agreed to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts for one more year on the same terms of reference (ITC Resolution No.263, ECE/TRANS/2016/18).

The Group of Experts held two meetings in 2017 and reviewed progress with the virtual and actual pilot tests, and possible modifications that result from these tests. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the outcomes of these meetings and discuss the next steps in preparing unified railway law.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/2016/18, ECE/TRANS/2016/17, ITC Resolution No.263, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2017/2

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it had agreed on a road map for discussions on the finalisation of the new convention. Furthermore, ITC in Resolution No. 264, at its seventy-ninth session in 2017 had invited "... interested countries to take action and finalize the draft Convention as well as to inform the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat for their willingness to sign and ratify this new Convention when finalized."

Delegates from SC.2 were invited to continue discussions on the draft Convention at the 146th meeting of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) on 15 June 2017. The Working Party will be informed about progress in preparing the Convention and discussions at the 145th, 146th and 147th sessions of WP.30, and other drafting meetings that were held in parallel. The Working Party may wish to discuss the next steps of the Convention.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2016/2, ECE/TRANS/270, ITC Resolution No. 264, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/226

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” in 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 the 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, it took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the revised and fine-tuned rail productivity indicators on the basis of Government’s comments, and approved as amended their revision, and reviewed the rail productivity indicators results as provided by railway undertaking (Informal document No. 2 of 2016).

Following discussion at the seventieth session, the secretariat agreed to send the updated questionnaire to operators; this was done in 2017. The Working Party may wish to be informed about progress in this area.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2 (2016)

13. Climate Change and Rail Transport

(a) Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for 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 for 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, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.3/22

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

The Working Party will be informed about the developments during 2017 of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project, in particular, the model runs that were undertaken as part of the Environmental Performance Review. The project aims to develop and implement a monitoring and assessment tool for carbon dioxide 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 the ForFITS tool in the sector.

(c) **Diesel engine exhausts**

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the continuation of the secretariat's work on diesel engines and on the discussion paper. The Working Party may also wish to be informed about developments in locomotive technology and locomotive emissions.

14. Railway Reform

The contents of this agenda item will be discussed in agenda item 2. The Working Party may wish to consider any additional aspects that were not covered under agenda item 2 here.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/2

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 the last session, it took note of the information provided by the secretariat and approved the action plan on 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 to be informed on developments on this issue.

(b) **Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the Organisation for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) about 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 (European Union Agency for Railways) 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 about any developments on this issue.

17. Rail Statistics

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat about the work currently ongoing in rail statistics and its relevance to the Working Party, in particular, the work of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6). At its June 2017 session, WP.6 held a workshop on data sources for rail statistics. A summary is in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/4.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/4

18. Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat about the final report of the Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings, about the questionnaire that has been sent out on this topic by WP.6 to collect relevant data to form a basis for future policy development.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2017/4

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

The Working Party will be informed about the main decisions of the seventy-ninth session of ITC (21-24 February 2017) on issues of interest to the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/270), including the ITC Resolution No. 264 on International Rail Passenger Traffic on the route East-West (ECE/TRANS/2017/17) and the draft strategy for the ITC.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/270, ECE/TRANS/2017/R.1, ECE/TRANS/2017/17

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2018-2019

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its sixty-ninth session (Geneva, 23-25 November 2015), it had approved, as amended, the draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2016 and 2017 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/224, paras. 65-67). In accordance with the decision of the ITC to review its programme of work every two years, the next period starting in 2018, the Working Party may wish to review and adopt its programme of work for 2018-2019 and the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation. The draft programme of work for 2018-2019 and the expected indicators of accomplishment are available in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/5.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2017/5

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 21 to 23 November 2018 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, 27 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 1 and 2
	3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Items 3-7
Tuesday, 28 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 8-12
	3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Items 13-17
Wednesday, 29 November	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Items 18-22
	2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	Items 23-25
