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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Eighteenth session

Geneva, 29-31 October 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth session*, **

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 29 October 2018

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Execution of the Mandate of the Group.
3. Other business.
4. Date of next session.
5. Summary of decisions.

* Delegates are requested to register online at the following address:

<https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=vUuRIu>.

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 40 30). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

** 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. During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

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/2018/4

2. Execution of the Mandate of the Group

Documentation : ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/6, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/7

The Group may wish to recall that at its previous session it adopted its work plan which was amended with a very detailed action plan. The action plan included tasks to be undertaken by several stakeholders and the experts not only during the sessions of the Group but also between those sessions.

During its eighteenth session the Group should:

(a) monitor the finalization of the ad hoc consignment note and other ad hoc relevant documents as appropriate; DB/PKP/RZD should disseminate the final versions of those ad hoc documents that should be used for the real pilot tests;

(b) be informed by the secretariat on the formal invitation to OSJD to work towards the finalization of documents (OSJD ministerial conference);

(c) be informed by CIT/OSJD/Railways Undertakings about other relevant documents to be used and how to adapt them to URL needs and requirements;

(d) be informed by the Governments and Railways Undertakings, where applicable, about the state of play of domestic procedures necessary to allow the performance of a substantial number of real pilot tests with URL being applied in a legally binding manner;

(e) be informed by the Railway Undertakings about the parameters (time schedule, type of cargo, places of departure and destination, etc.) and framework conditions in place to run pilot tests (determine the corridors on which real pilot tests would be performed) on corridors under discussion;

(f) be informed by the secretariat on its efforts to contact key Railway Undertakings for the performance of the real pilot tests, such as from Belarus, Georgia and the Turkmenistan;

(g) discuss document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/6 prepared by the secretariat which includes options available for converting URL into a legally binding instrument including the different management systems;

(h) discuss document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/7 which was submitted by the Russian Federation and includes proposals for the different tasks of the Group as well as for the legally binding document;

(i) consider issues related to Articles 32, 33 and 34 of the draft URL Legal Provisions and related to using a formal report with regard to Article 28 "Notice of damage";

(j) perform a scoping discussion on other relevant issues related to international rail freight transport with a view to adding, where appropriate, provisions to the legally binding document as well as on the organization of a workshop.

3. Other business

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

4. Date of next session

The next session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 2 to 4 April 2019.

5. Summary of decisions

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