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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventy-third session

Geneva, 25–27 November 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-third session^{*,}**

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Room XI
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 25 November 2019

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop: “Making rail freight more competitive and the coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on EATL”.
3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.
4. Railway financing and Public-Private Partnerships.

* 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 ECE Sustainable Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (sc.2@un.org). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=ZRMoJA>. 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 email (sc.2@un.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

5. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors.
6. Rail Security.
7. Euro-Asian rail transport.
8. Trans-European Railway project.
9. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains.
10. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.
11. Innovation in 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 and the For Future Inland Transport Systems tool.
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. Improving safety in Rail Transport.
19. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
20. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
21. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
22. Programme of work for 2020–2021.
23. Election of officers.
24. Other business.
25. Date and venue of next session.
26. 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.2/231

2. Workshop: “Making rail freight more competitive and the coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on EATL”

The Working Party may wish to consider the workshop on “Making rail freight more competitive and the coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on EATL”. A competitive freight railway is fundamental to ensuring the growth in East-West trade is captured by the railway and moved away from other modes of transport to reduce delivery time, decrease the negative environmental effects of transport and capture new markets. This workshop will discuss competitiveness and coordinated development aimed at facilitating the growth of rail freight and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

A summary of the workshop will be prepared following the session on the findings.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/3

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

Status of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines and 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.4),¹ a map of the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards and the relevant Depository 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, as well as ongoing work aimed at the modernisation of AGC and improving its accessibility.

The Administrative Committee of the AGC will be called to decide on the amendment to Annex I of AGC from the Russian Federation initially presented at the previous session (Informal document No. 2 (2018)) and included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/9.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/9, ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.4

4. Railway financing and Public-Private Partnerships

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the Luxembourg Protocol to the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment aimed at facilitating the finance of railway rolling stock worldwide including a proposal by the Government of Luxembourg to create of Group of Experts unique identifiers of railway rolling stock (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/10).

¹ www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html.

The Working Party may also wish to be informed about other developments including the UNECE Guiding Principles for People-First Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/10

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eightieth session (20 to 23 February 2018, Geneva) and the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe had approved the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law for two years under new terms of reference (ECE/TRANS/2018/13/Rev.1 and ECE/TRANS/274, para. 69).

The Group of Experts held three meetings in 2019 and progressed with the work on URL. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the outcomes of these meetings and discuss the next steps in preparing URL.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/274, ECE/TRANS/2018/13/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/8, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/2

6. Rail Security

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session, it had been informed about the outcome of the “Workshop on Rail Security”, organized in collaboration with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the International Transport Forum (ITF) to be held at the ITF Annual Summit in May 2018 in Leipzig, Germany.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the work of the secretariat in this area and other developments in rail security.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/2

7. Euro-Asian rail transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement in developing the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project, including the results of the recent meetings covering EATL.

Following on from the decision of the Working Party at its seventy-second session, the Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in the Eurasian Rail Alliance Index (ERAI).

8. Trans-European Railway project

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities in 2019: the concrete results, the plan for subsequent years

(including the revision of the project's work plan) and the efforts to increase the number of participating countries.

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.2/2019/11

9. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-second session, the final version of Phase 1 of the TER High-Speed Master Plan was presented. The Working Party may wish to be informed about progress on Phase 2 of the TER Master Plan and its planned dissemination.

Documentation

Publication: ECE/TRANS/263 (High speed Masterplan for the TER region Phase I)

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 welcomed the progress on the new convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail, and supported the work of Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) to adopt the final text of the convention at its February session and transmission to ITC for adoption during its eighty-first session (19–22 February 2019, Geneva).

The convention was adopted 22 February 2019, and the opening for signature in Geneva was announced on 4 April 2019.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/6/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/19,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/228, C.N.126.2019. TREATIES-XI.C.7,
C.N.127.2019. TREATIES-XI.C.7

11. Innovation in Rail Transport

In line with the ECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012–2020 ("Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility", 2012), the Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session a workshop had been organized on innovation in railways. A publication summarising the workshop was prepared in 2019 and available on our website ("Making the railways of the future for the region").

The Working Party may wish to discuss document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/5 prepared by the secretariat on continuing work in this area. The Working Party may wish to continue work by creating a rail innovation observatory aimed at sharing with member States best practice innovations that could further help develop the competitiveness of the railways and assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/1, “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility” (ECE, 2012), ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/5, “Making the railways of the future for the region”

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, as well as reviewed the rail productivity indicator results as provided by railway undertaking (Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2016)).

Following discussion at the seventieth session, the secretariat agreed to send the updated questionnaire to operators in 2019. The Working Party may wish to be informed about progress and particularly about the information that has been gathered as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/6.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/6

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.

(b) Climate Change mitigation: Presentation of the For Future Inland Transport Systems’ tool of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Working Party will be informed about the developments in 2019 of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project. The aim is 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 ForFITS and railways.

14. Railway Reform

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the developments on railway reform, building on the workshop held at the seventy-first session of the Working Party.

Documentation

“Railway Reform in the ECE Region” (ECE, 2018)

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

(a) Facilitation of rail border crossings

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in the new annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on facilitating rail border crossings in the pan-European region.

(b) Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) about improvements in the 1,435 mm 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 seventy-second session, it had expressed its gratitude to UIC for assisting in collecting the information for the completion of this task. The Working Party also asked the secretariat to supplement the data received with publicly available information, to prepare a database and GIS information, and to provide member States with easily accessible information on rail infrastructure.

The Working Party may wish to review the work of the secretariat as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/7.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/7

17. Rail Statistics

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the ongoing work in rail statistics and its relevance to the Working Party, in particular, the work of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6).

18. Improving safety in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session it had decided to widen the scope to safety at level crossings and to cover all relevant areas of rail safety.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in this area also based on the data provided in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/8.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/8

19. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Working Party will be informed about activities of ITC, its Bureau, subsidiary bodies and other United Nations organizations on matters of interest to the Working Party. The secretariat will brief the Working Party on the ITC strategy to 2030. Document

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/2 has been prepared on how the activities of the Working Party could be more closely aligned with the new strategy.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/274, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/2

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. Programme of Work for 2020–2021

This preparation of a Programme of Work is no longer required due to a change in reporting requirements to ITC. As no alternative process has been requested the secretariat believes that this document may still be relevant for programming and monitoring reasons and has, in lieu of official direction from ITC, prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/1 setting out the draft programme of work for the next two years.

The Working Party may wish to discuss this document in its current format and suggest whether to continue producing it in its current format or with a different approach and/or timeframe.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/1

23. Election of officers

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chair and possibly Vice-Chair(s) for its sessions in 2020 and 2021.

24. Other business

The Working Party may wish to discuss other business.

25. Date and venue of next session

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 18 to 20 November 2020 in Geneva.

26. 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 briefly summarise the decisions at the end of the session. Following the session, the secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair(s), will draft a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.

III. Tentative timetable

Monday, 25 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 1-2
	3-6 p.m.	Item 2
Tuesday, 26 November	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Items 3-5
	3-6 p.m.	Items 5-10
Wednesday, 27 November	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Items 11-17
	2.30-5.30 p.m.	Items 18-25
