Progress towards the Unified Railway Law

Agenda item 4.5
Leveling the playing field

ROAD

MARITIME
- Hague-Viaby and Hamburg Rules

AIR
- Chicago Convention and other treaties (Warsaw, Montreal Conventions)

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

RAIL
- COTIF Convention
- SMGS Agreement
- Many other regional and National agreements

Unified Railway Law

We create a level playing field for Railway freight!
Unified Railway Law

COTIF/CIM
- 1 contract of carriage (CIM)
- 1 consignment note (CIM)
- 1 liability system (CIM)

SMGS
- 1 contract of carriage (SMGS)
- 1 consignment note (SMGS)
- 1 liability system (SMGS)

Unified Railway Law
- 1 contract of carriage
- 1 consignment note (CIM/SMGS)
- 1 liability regime

Reconsignment Point
- 2 contracts of carriage (CIM+SMGS)
- 2 consignment notes (CIM+SMGS)
- 2 liability systems
A draft new Convention prepared by the Group of Experts in 2014

In 2016 ITC requested:
  - all additional documents be prepared and
  - pilot tests be carried out

Corridors identified in 2016

Virtual pilot test in 2017

ITC in 2018 extended the work for a further 2 years
Main activities for the group:

- Monitor the finalisation of the necessary documents
- Monitor the performance of real pilot tests
- Draft a document (or system of documents) on URL to be adopted as a legally binding instrument which shall:
  - take into account the draft legal provisions on the contract of carriage already prepared;
  - include the necessary formal provisions eg: depository, management, secretariat, etc.;
  - be structured in a way which allows to easily supplement it with provisions.
• Real pilot test carried out on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars line. The test was successful and showed that the URL worked.
• The group discussed whether to move to the next phase working towards a convention.
• The group recommended that SC.2 should consider an extension to the mandate of the group of 1 year to finalise this work.
• SC.2 to decide on next steps at its 73rd session next week.
• Workshop on Innovation in the railways in 2018 and on rail freight competitiveness in 2019
• Updating of AGC
• Further discussions on rail security and productivity.
• Safety in the railways
• Rail financing and PPPs
• New Convention on the transport of passengers and baggage

Next session 25-27 November 2019
Thank you!

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