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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Fourth session

Geneva, 19 October 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 09.30 a.m. on Friday, 19 October 2012

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the third session.
3. Discussion on the Joint Declaration.
4. Review of work on General Terms and Conditions for Euro-Asian transport contracts (GTC EurAsia).

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail (sc.2@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). 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. 740 30). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

² 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/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (sc.2@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

5. Other business.
6. Date of next session(s).
7. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/4).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/4

2. Adoption of the report of the third session

The Group of Expert will formally adopt the report of its third session held on 2–3 July 2012.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/3

3. Discussion on the Joint Declaration

The Group of Experts is invited to consider the draft Joint Declaration prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/5) in accordance with the decisions made at its first (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/4, paras. 19–37), second (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/9, paras. 19–29) and third (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/3, paras. 12–13) sessions:

Progress has been made on a political document supporting the development of a strategic rail map which will establish legal conditions for railways equivalent with those existing for competing modes. This strategic rail map includes the development and the application of General Terms and Conditions for Euro Asia rail transport contracts (GTC EurAsia) which would be fully in line with the existing provisions of the Agreement on International Railway Freight Transportation (SMGS) and the Convention concerning International Transport by Rail-Uniform Rules Concerning the Contract of International Carriage of Goods by Rail (COTIF-CIM) Conventions and, as a first step towards unified railway law, would provide a contractual bridge between the two railway regimes complementing the already adopted common SMGS-CIM consignment note.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/5

4. Review of work on General Terms and Conditions for Euro-Asian transport contracts (GTC EurAsia)

In line with the UNECE position paper towards unified railway law for Euro-Asian transport corridors (ECE/TRANS/2011/3 and Corr.1) and the work plan of the UNECE

Group of Experts adopted at its first session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/4, para. 9), the Group of Experts may wish to review progress made on GTC EurAsia by railway experts under the auspices of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) in cooperation with Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

In the absence of progress made on GTC EurAsia, the secretariat may submit proposals allowing the Group of Experts and, subsequently, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) at its forthcoming session (8–9 November 2012), to arrive at short-term and tangible solutions that (a) could assist railway undertakings and the rail transport industry in the making out of Euro-Asian rail transport contracts compatible with the SMGS and COTIF-CIM Conventions and (b) could provide substantive value-added to the Joint Declaration allowing its signature by a large number of high-level representatives of Governments interested in Euro-Asian land transport linkages (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/6).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/6

5. Other business

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

6. Date of next session(s)

In 2011, SC.2 had agreed to extend the time schedule of the Group of Experts by one year to allow completion of step A of the UNECE Position Paper (ECE/TRANS/2011/3) in early 2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, para. 34). Therefore, sessions of the Group of Expert are not foreseen so as to allow SC.2, at its forthcoming session on 8–9 November 2012, to consider progress made and provide guidance on possible future activities of the Group of Experts, as appropriate, for approval by the Inland Transport Committee in February 2013.

7. Summary of decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session.
