



Actions of the inland transport sector to
join the global fight against climate change

85th Session

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE



UNECE

Rail transport at UNECE

85th session of the Inland Transport Committee

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Transport (SC.2)

23 | 02 | 2023, Geneva

The impact of climate change on the railways: how to protect, adapt and mitigate



- 130 participants
- The workshop discussed the impacts of climate impacts on the railways.
- Speakers shared good practice in how to minimise disruption and reduce safety risks resulting from extreme weather, as well as identified technological developments and procedural innovations to mitigate these harmful effects on the railways.

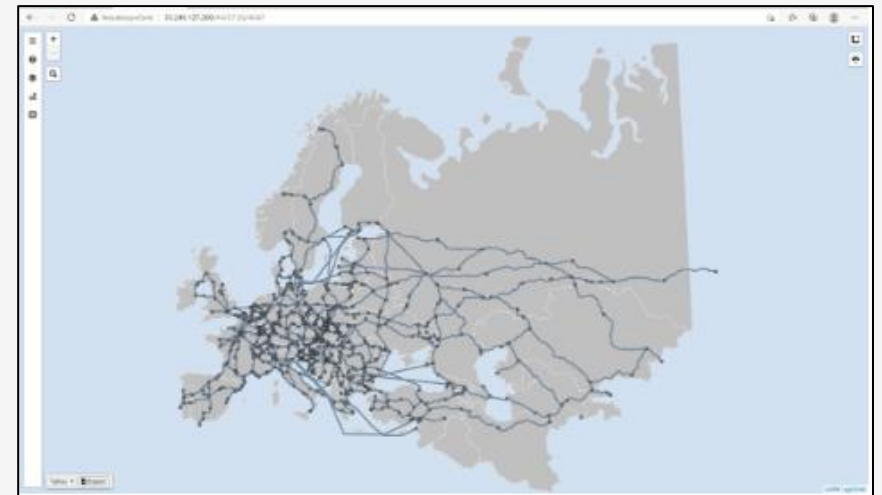


Working Party on Rail Transport

Key points from 76th Session



- European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)
 - Updating of the Agreement continued
 - Amendment proposals from 2021 (Georgia) entered into force and new amendments agreed for Lithuania.
- The new AGC/AGTC online GIS tool has been completed allowing for the identification of optimal routes across ECE.



Working Party on Rail Transport

Key points from 76th Session



- Activities continued on work related to:
 - Railway financing
 - Rail security
 - Innovation in railways
 - Climate change and rail transport
 - Rail reform
 - Harmonization Convention Survey
 - Contribution to the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages work managed by WP.5
 - Statistics for the rail sector
 - Safety in the sector
- Terms of reference and Rules of Procedure of SC.2 agreed and now in line with ITC TORs and ROPs. (ECE/TRANS/2023/9 Annexes I and II)

Unified Railway Law



- Decided on 'Approach A' for the development of the first Convention in the System of URL Conventions (***Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail***)

Approach A envisages the creation of unified rules for rail transport on Euro-Asian corridors in areas where they are urgently needed by the industry – i.e. the contract of carriage – while leaving unaffected the two existing rail organizations and the legal rules applicable for the transport of goods within their respective territories (interface law). It aims to fill a gap in international rail regulations where neither CIM nor SMGS rules apply over the entire journey.

- Chair to manage the finalization process for the first Convention – review of provisions with focus on provisions related to transport negotiability document (Chapter 4a) and final provisions (Chapter 6)
- 2023 to be the year of an important milestone for the URL system

SC.2 Groups of Experts

Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock



- Mandate of the Group successfully completed.
- SC.2 welcomed the hard work done by the Group and agreed to:
 - the creation of the “Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock” (ECE/TRANS/2023/37) – requests ITC to adopt the Model Rules as its 60th legal instrument
 - the need for a Revisions Committee to review and maintain the Model Rules – requests ITC to adopt the Terms of Reference for the new Revisions Committee (DOC 9 Annex III)
 - the need for a Guidance Note to be published to support the Model Rules – requests ITC to adopt the Guidance Note (ECE/TRANS/2023/38)

SC.2 Groups of Experts

International Railway Passenger Hubs (1)



Mandate of the Group ongoing. Current progress:

- Agreed a definition for an “international railway passenger hub”
- Working towards finalizing a list of stations on the AGC to be selected as Hubs
- Working towards finalizing what technical and service parameters will be necessary in those Hubs
- Agreed that changes should be introduced as amendments to the AGC

SC.2 Groups of Experts

International Railway Passenger Hubs (2)



- Analysis of the legal framework completed within the framework of an OSJD study
- A publication has been prepared on support to international rail carriers in the context of the pandemic:

“Railways at the centre of a post-pandemic recovery: Measures to support international rail carriers”



Conclusions and decisions



Decisions:

- Requests the adoption of documents ECE/TRANS/2023/37, ECE/TRANS/2023/38 and Annex III of ECE/TRANS/2023/9 on PIRRS.
- Requests the adoption of updated Terms of Reference and ROP both now in line with ITC TORs and ROPs. Doc 9 (Annexes I and II)
- Welcomes the decision on URL.
- 77th session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (in-person only):

15-17 November 2023, Geneva



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Thank you

Mr. Jakub Kapturzak | Mr. Hinne Groot
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Date 23 | 02 | 2023, Geneva