



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Special session

Geneva, 10-12 July 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the provisional agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the special session^{*}, ^{**}

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Salle IX
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 10 July 2023

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
2. Finalisation of the provisions of the Convention on Unified Railway Law.
3. Other business
4. Summary of Decisions and reading of the Draft Report.

* Session documents may be downloaded from the website <https://unece.org/info/Transport/Rail-Transport/events/377974>. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (sc.2@un.org).

** Participation is possible only in person. Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002190>. 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: <https://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/240

2. Finalisation of the provisions of the Convention on Unified Railway Law

At its seventy-sixth session, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) decided to select Approach A for the development of Unified Railway Law, and therefore decided to finalise the text of the Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail on the basis of the draft text reproduced in the Note issued by the secretariat “Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail as a first Convention of a system of Unified Railway Law Conventions” (document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2021/3) (hereafter referred as Convention).

SC.2 also decided that in the finalisation process the following issues be addressed:

- provisions on negotiable documents based on those contained in the Note; and
- provisions for an appropriate management system.

Finally, SC.2 decided that the SC.2 Chair with support of the secretariat shall manage the process of the Convention’s finalisation.

Further to the SC.2 decisions, the secretariat prepared a mechanism for the review of the existing provisions of the Convention at the request of the Chair. Member States were then invited to use this mechanism, which was shared with them accompanied by a letter of 28 February 2023, to review, provision by provision, the draft text of the Convention, indicate if any adjustment was necessary, and provide a text proposal for the adjustments. In line with the decision at SC.2, these adjustments were to be proposed solely in the context of the agreed Approach A for the development of the Convention. Member States were also asked to thoroughly review the provisions on the transport document negotiability and the final provisions, which had not been discussed in the meetings of the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law.

Member States comments and proposals for adjustment of specific provisions, as they have been shared with the secretariat before the end of April 2023, have been consolidated by the secretariat in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2023/1.

Against the above background, SC.2 is invited during its special session to review ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2023/1 and finalise those provisions of the draft Convention on which comments and/or proposals for adjustments have been provided.

SC.2 may also discuss on its further steps in finalisation of the provisions of the Convention if and as appropriate.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2023/1

3. Other business

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

4. Summary of Decisions and reading of the Draft Report

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will read through the draft report of the session highlighting the main decisions.

III. Tentative Timetable

Monday, 10 July	10 am-1 pm and 3pm to 6pm	Items 1 and 2
Tuesday, 11 July	10 am-1 pm and 3pm to 6pm	Items 2 cont'd
Wednesday, 12 July	10 am-1 pm and 3pm to 6pm	Items 2 cont'd, Item 3 and 4
