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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

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agenda item 4)

RELEVANCE OF RAILWAYS IN THE TRANSPORT MARKET

Transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC)

At its fifty-third session, the Working Party asked the representative of the Union of International Railways (UIC) to present a contribution on the relevance of railways in the transport market, comparing the concepts of market-share and modal split (TRANS(SC.2/192, para. 16).

The UIC has accepted this request and has agreed to make a presentation on this issue. The synopsis of the presentation has been transmitted to the secretariat and is reproduced below as a guide for the delegates.

SYNOPSIS - RAIL'S "MARKET SHARE"

The concept of rail's "market share" is used widely both inside and outside the rail transport industry. However the concept is not only unhelpful, it is actually very misleading and is based on invalid figures.

The concept of "modal split" is still a very useful tool for the analysis of transport and transport economics. However it needs to be used with care.

Are there more productive ways of analysing and understanding how transport, and particularly rail transport works, so that more robust, more realistic, and more achievable transport policies can be produced?
