



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/SC.2/201
30 June 2004

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport
(27-29 October 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 27 October 2004

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/SC.2/201 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party | |
| | (a) Economic Commission for Europe | E/2004/37-E/ECE/1416 |
| | (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/156 |
| | (i) Safety and security in railway transport | TRANS/SC.2/2004/2 and
Add.1 |

* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the fifty-eight session of the Working Party on Rail Transport. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations at Geneva (room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are, therefore, requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html>) and send it at the latest two weeks before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by e-mail (bernadette.healy@unece.org). Prior to the session delegates should get their identification badges at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit, Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page). In case of difficulties, telephone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72413).

3. Organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links TRANS/WP.5/2004/4
TRANS/SC.2/2004/6
4. Euro-Asian transport corridors TRANS/SC.2/2004/3
5. Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport
 - (a) Preparatory meeting for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing TRANS/SC.2/2004/7
 - (b) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport TRANS/SC.2/2004/8
 - (c) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region
6. Productivity in rail transport TRANS/SC.2/2004/1
7. Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure TRANS/SC.2/2004/5
8. Interoperability and Harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems TRANS/SC.2/2004/9
9. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)
 - (a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC
 - (b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement TRANS/SC.2/2004/10
 - (c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network TRANS/SC.2/2004/11
TRANS/SC.2/2004/12
10. Trans-European Railway (TER) Project TRANS/SC.2/2004/13
11. Information on developments in various railway fields TRANS/SC.2/2004/4
 - (a) Environmental questions related to railway operations
 - (b) Safety in railway transport
 - (c) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes
12. Draft Programme of Work for 2005-2009 TRANS/SC.2/2004/14
13. Other business
14. Adoption of the report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

The fifty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 24 to 26 February 2004.

The Working Party **will be informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session, concerning such questions as the UNECE reform, follow-up to the global and regional conferences, and the UNECE technical cooperation programmes ([E/2004/37-E/ECE/1416](#)).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-sixth session in Geneva from 17 to 19 February 2004.

The Working Party **will be informed** about the Strategic Objectives ([TRANS/2004/18](#) and [TRANS/2004/19](#)) adopted by the Committee and may wish **to discuss** implications for its programme of work. Furthermore, the Working Party will be informed about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to the work areas as contained in paras. 78 - 84 of the Committee's report ([ECE/TRANS/156](#)).

(i) Safety and security in railway transport

At its sixty-sixth session, the Inland Transport Committee emphasized the urgency of providing tangible results in the fields of transport and security. The Committee, therefore, requested its subsidiary bodies to accelerate work already in progress and consider new activities in this field of work ([ECE/TRANS/156](#), para. 25). The Working Party may wish **to consider and discuss** the note and the proposal on its possible contribution to work in this area contained in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/2](#). In addition, it may also wish **to consider** the information on the work related to transport and security carried out by the UIC ([TRANS/SC.2/2004/2/Add.1](#)), the European Commission and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT).

3. ORGANIZATION OF DEMONSTRATION TRAINS ON EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

In connection with the question concerning the organization of demonstration trains on Euro-Asian transport links, the Working Party requested, at its fifty-seventh session ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 9-10), the representatives of Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and OSZhD **to inform** the Working Party about the results of the demonstration runs of block

trains and activities related to the further promotion of Euro-Asian railway corridors, which have taken place since the last session of the Working Party. Replies are being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/6](#).

4. EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

At its fifty-sixth session, the Working Party asked the secretariat to provide information on Euro-Asian transport corridors as defined by the St. Petersburg Conference in 2000 and adopted by the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics at its fourteenth session in 2001. This information was circulated in document [TRANS/WP.5/2001/14](#). Updated information on activities related to further developments along Euro-Asian transport corridors is being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/3](#).

The Working Party may wish to **note** both documents and **discuss** possible ways and activities for further promoting the organization of demonstration train runs on Euro-Asian railway corridors.

5. FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

(a) Preparatory meeting for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing

At its sixty-sixth session, the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) welcomed the initiative by the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSZhD) to further advance the preparation of an International Conference on the Facilitation of Border Crossing in Railway Transport ([ECE/TRANS/156](#), para. 84). In this context, the ITC noted the relevance of the Declaration adopted by the Sixth Interdepartmental Meeting of the Representatives of border police, customs and railways, as well as Ministries of Transport of the OSZhD member countries, which called for the convening of an International Conference on facilitation of railway border crossing procedures under the UNECE auspices ([TRANS/2004/13](#)).

The first Preparatory Meeting, hosted by the OSZhD, was held from 15-16 June 2004 under the aegis of the UNECE. The report of the Preparatory Meeting is submitted to the Working Party **for consideration**. The Working Party was also asked to submit its **recommendation** concerning the convening of an international conference and the plan of action for its preparation. The report of the Preparatory Meeting and the plan of activities for preparation of an International Conference on Railway Border Crossing is circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/7](#).

(b) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 18), a questionnaire containing the information on monitoring of border crossing stopping times was submitted to all member countries where the border stations are located on AGC lines, in order to compile the information on compliance with the ITC's

resolution No. 248 of 1999 which calls for the reduction of the border stopping time of shuttle trains in international traffic to 60 minutes.

The replies received are reproduced in [TRANS/SC.2/2004/8](#) **for consideration** by the Working Party.

(c) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region

In accordance with the request made at its last session, the Working Party **will be informed** by the secretariat of the progress made in the border-crossing facilitation project for international rail transport in the SECI region ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 21).

6. PRODUCTIVITY IN RAIL TRANSPORT

Following the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 17), the secretariat convened an informal meeting attended by the representatives of the UIC and the UN TER Project Central Office. The report of this meeting is being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/1](#).

The Working Party may wish **to note** the conclusion of the informal meeting and is invited **to discuss** the options for its future activity in this domain including which approach to indicators might most appropriately reflect the productivity of railway operations.

7. DETERMINATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY INCLUDING ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEE FOR THE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the request by the Working Party ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 14), the secretariat asked the European Commission to provide the report of the task force composed of representatives from eight EU Member States which attempted to identify the best practice concerning the implementation of the provisions on infrastructure charging that other member States could follow. This information is being circulated in Informal document No. 1.

Following the further request by the Working Party, the European Commission was asked to report on progress made in the implementation of the EU Directive 2001/14/EC. The reply by the European Commission is being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/5](#) **for consideration** by the Working Party.

8. INTEROPERABILITY AND HARMONIZATION OF CONDITIONS OF DIFFERENT RAIL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

In accordance with the Working Party's request at its fifty-seventh session ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 24), the secretariat invited OTIF and OSZhD to report on their activities at the Working Party's next session. The information from OTIF and OSZhD is being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/9](#) **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Furthermore, the European Community was also invited to report on the status of the implementation of the EU Directive 2001/16/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 on the Interoperability of the Trans-European conventional rail system. The reply received from the European Commission is being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/9](#) **for consideration** by the Working Party.

9. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY LINES (AGC)

(a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC

The Working Party may note that the following countries are at present Parties to the AGC, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 24: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina (succession); Bulgaria; Croatia (succession); Czech Republic (succession); France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Republic of Moldova (succession); Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia (succession); Slovenia (succession); The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession); Turkey; Ukraine; Serbia and Montenegro (succession).

The Working Party may wish **to be informed** by delegations and the secretariat about the intention of Governments to become Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

(b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement

The Working Party may wish **to take note** of the updated version of Annex I of the AGC Agreement prepared by the secretariat that includes all the amendments which entered into force by 31 December 2003 ([TRANS/SC.2/2004/10](#)), as well as those adopted by the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session.

(c) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network

At its fifty-seventh session, the Working Party requested Governments, if they had not already done so, to provide data on total train traffic on the AGC network in 2000 ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 28). The information received by the secretariat is being circulated in [TRANS/SC.2/2004/11](#), **for consideration** by the Working Party.

At the same session, the Working Party also asked the secretariat to provide a summary document on total traffic on the AGC network in 2000 for all countries that have reported so far. This information is being circulated **for consideration** by the Working Party in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/12](#).

10. TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) PROJECT

The TER Project Manager will **inform** the Working Party about the progress in activities carried out by the TER project, which is being circulated as document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/13](#).

11. INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS

In accordance with the decisions of the Working Party taken at its fifty-sixth session ([TRANS/SC.2/198](#), para. 32), Governments have been requested to provide information on the following questions:

- (a) Environmental questions related to railway operations;
- (b) Safety in railway transport;
- (c) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes.

The Working Party may wish **to consider** the replies which are being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/4](#), **identify** the items to be examined in more detail in future and **decide** on which areas information might be assembled under this agenda item for future sessions.

12. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2005-2009

The Working Party may wish **to examine** its draft programme of work for 2005-2009, which is being circulated in document [TRANS/SC.2/2004/14](#).

13. OTHER BUSINESS

According to the decision of the Working Party at its fifty-seventh session ([TRANS/SC.2/200](#), para. 7) and the decision of the ECMT Group on Railways, the next joint session will be hosted by the the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and held in Paris. The Working Party may wish **to decide** on the date for its next session. The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the fifty-ninth session to be held from 25 to 27 October 2005.

14. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the Working Party's decision at its fifty-second session, the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting, **for adoption** by the Working Party. This list will later be incorporated into the report of the session which will be prepared by its Chairman and its Vice-chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.



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58th session, 27-29 October 2004**

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