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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Rail Transport

##### Sixty-fifth session

Geneva, 3–4 November 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva  
starting at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 3 November 2011<sup>1, 2</sup>

#### I. Provisional agenda

Note: As indicated below, on 3 November 2011 (afternoon only), the session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) will be held jointly with that of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24). Both Working Parties will consider agenda items 2 (c) and 9. For more details on the WP.24 session: [www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html).

1. Adoption of the Agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail ([carole.marilley@unece.org](mailto:carole.marilley@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).

<sup>2</sup> Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website [www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html](http://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 ([carole.marilley@unece.org](mailto:carole.marilley@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 or 734 57). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

2. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement):
  - (a) Status of the AGC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals;
  - (b) Amendment proposals (updating and extension of the AGC network);
  - (c) Amendment proposals (minimum infrastructure and performance standards).
3. Task Force on Rail Security.
4. Trans-European Railway (TER) project.
5. Euro-Asian rail transport.
6. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport.
7. Productivity in rail transport.
8. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors.
9. Role of terminals and logistics centres for intermodal transport.
10. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region:
  - (a) Facilitation of rail border crossings;
  - (b) Harmonization of technical specifications of different railway systems.
11. Group of Experts on Safety at Level Crossings.
12. Positioning of Railways in the Global transport arena.
13. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
14. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
15. Activities of international organizations relating to rail transport.
16. Programme of work, biennial evaluation and terms of reference of the Working Party:
  - (a) Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2013;
  - (b) Work plan for 2012–2016;
  - (c) Terms of reference (ToR).
17. Election of officers.
18. Other business.
19. Date of next session.
20. Summary of Decisions.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the Agenda.

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/215

## 2. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement)

### (a) Status of the AGC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat on its activities to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.1), a map on the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards as well as relevant Depository Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.<sup>3</sup>

Amendment proposals to annex I to the AGC Agreement, adopted at the sixty-third session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/212, para. 4), which update and extend the geographical scope of the AGC network, have been submitted by the secretariat to the UN Treaty Section in New York for depositary action.

Further information will be provided at the session.

### (b) Amendment proposals (updating and extension of the AGC network)

The Working Party may wish to note that, at its sixty-fourth session, it considered the status of amendment proposals related to Denmark, Germany and Sweden and decided to wait for the consultations among the concerned Parties.

The Working Party will be informed of the results of these consultations and may wish to adopt these amendment proposals in accordance with article 11 of the AGC Agreement.

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/1

### (c) Amendment proposals (minimum infrastructure and performance standards)<sup>4</sup>

At its last session, the Working Party undertook a first review of the minimum infrastructure standards contained in the AGC Agreement on the basis of document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2010/1 prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/214, paras. 13–18).

The Working Party noted that the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI) applicable in the European Union were generally in line with the present minimum AGC and AGTC technical characteristics. However, the scope of the TSIs went well beyond the objective and the minimum requirements enshrined in the pan-European AGC and AGTC Agreements. Thus not all TSI parameters would necessarily need to be considered for inclusion into the AGC and AGTC Agreements.

The Working Party also invited UNECE member countries and, in particular, Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement, to transmit to the secretariat, possibly before 1 March 2011, written comments on the suitability of the infrastructure and performance standards and parameters in the AGC and AGTC Agreements. To date no comment has been received.

On the basis of the above secretariat document, the Working Party may wish to continue its review of the minimum infrastructure and performance standards and parameters in the AGC and AGTC Agreement with a view to their possible modification or amendment. Amendment proposals to the AGC Agreement, if any, could then be prepared by the secretariat for decision by the Working Party at a later session.

<sup>3</sup> [www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2\\_AGC\\_text.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html).

<sup>4</sup> Joint session with the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2010/1

### **3. Task Force on Rail Security**

To strengthen the activities and the contributions of the Task Force on rail security and following the valuable recommendations specified in the report on rail security (Informal document SC.2 No. 1, sixty-third session 2009) , the Working Party may wish to consider a possible study on the issue.

**Documentation:** Informal document available at the session

### **4. Trans-European Railway (TER) project**

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities undertaken in 2011; concrete results achieved and plan for subsequent years, including the updating of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and TER Master Plan.

The Working Party may wish to review the results achieved and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/1

### **5. Euro-Asian rail transport**

In accordance with the decision at its sixty-fourth session, the Working Party may wish to be informed and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement on the development of Euro Asian linkages project (EATL) including its activities, particularly, the evaluation for development rail services on the North South Corridor.

**Documentation:** Informal document available at the session

### **6. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport**

Based on its work plan, the Working Party may wish to consider activities towards monitoring of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and other technological applications developments in Rail Transport and to provide a platform for the exchange of information and best practices.

**Documentation:** Informal document available at the session

### **7. Productivity in rail transport**

The Working Party may wish to recall that in 2000, it had adopted a set of 10 rail productivity indicators. In accordance with the decision at its sixty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/210, para. 24) and following its considerations at the last session (ECE/TRANS/214, paras. 28–39), the Working Party may wish to consider a revised secretariat report on productivity indicators in rail transport on the basis of raw data provided by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and estimates calculated by the secretariat.

The Working Party may wish to consider these indicators and provide guidance on further work in these areas.

**Documentation:** Informal document available at the session

## 8. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its sixty-fourth session, it had adopted a position paper towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors (hereafter: Position Paper) (ECE/TRANS/2011/3). The Working Party agreed to transmit this document to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) with the understanding that the short-term actions under step (a) relating to general terms and conditions for Euro-Asian rail transport contracts should be launched and that, to that end and subject to approval by ITC, an official UNECE Group of Experts should be established in accordance with the provisions and time-frame provided in the position paper. The Working Party also agreed to review the results of the work of the Group of Experts at its next session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/214, paras. 31–37). In March 2011, ITC approved the Position Paper as well as the terms of reference for the UNECE Group of Experts towards unified railway law (ECE/TRANS/221, para. 55–57).

The Group of Experts held its first session on 6 May 2011 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/4) and will hold a second session on 7 October 2011. The main goal of the Group of Experts is to draft an Inter-Governmental Document as a policy framework for General Terms and Conditions for Euro-Asian Rail Transport Contracts (GTC EurAsia). GTC EurAsia shall be prepared by the railway industry and experts from the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF). The Working Party will be informed about the results of the Group of Experts.

The draft Inter-Governmental Document on GTC EurAsia is planned to be finalized at the session of the Group of Experts on 7 October 2011 and will be part of the report of the report of this session. It will be available by mid-October 2011 as document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/9 for consideration by the Working Party.

In accordance with the Position Paper, the Working Party may wish to review and approve the Inter-Governmental Document for transmission to the forthcoming session of ITC (28 February to 1 March 2012).

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/2011/3, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/9

## 9. Role of terminals and logistics centres for intermodal transport<sup>5</sup>

Based on its work plan, the Working Party may wish to analyze and discuss the role of terminals and logistics centres for intermodal and rail transport in collaboration with the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

The discussions have been prepared by an informal group of experts established by WP.24 and will be introduced by presentations followed by a moderated discussion.

The subjects to be discussed will address issues such as type and functions of terminals and logistics centres, optimal location of terminals, applicable regulatory framework as well as

<sup>5</sup> Joint session with the UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).

operational aspects. Also, the role of Governments and the private sector in the planning, construction and operation of efficient terminals will be discussed, as well as best practices derived from leading terminals and logistics centres in Europe.

As a basis for discussion, a background document has been prepared by the informal group of experts (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/2–ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/3).

Following the discussions, the Working Party may wish to draw up conclusions on the role of terminals and logistics centres to facilitate intermodal transport. It may also wish to reflect on concrete follow-up activities of WP.24 and SC.2 at the pan-European level.

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/2–ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/3

## **10. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region**

### **(a) Facilitation of rail border crossings**

The Working Party may wish to recall that ITC, in early 2006, had supported three strategic elements to improve border crossing procedures in pan-European rail transport (ECE/TRANS/166, para. 96). In addition to a unified railway law (see item 8 above), these included a unified rail Customs transit system, similar to the TIR regime for road transport, as well as internationally coordinated and mutually recognized border control procedures in rail transport.

Progress has been made towards a unified rail Customs transit system through the preparation, in 2006, of a Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for Carriage by Rail under Cover of SMGS Consignment Notes. Progress has also been made in the field of harmonized rail border controls through the adoption of a new Annex 9 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)<sup>6</sup> that will come into force, most likely, on 30 November 2011 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/18; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2010/1).

The Working Party will be informed of follow-up activities undertaken by other UNECE Working Parties in this field, in particular the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30).

The Working Party may wish to assist Governments to accede to the SMGS Customs Transit Convention. It may also wish to provide guidance on how to ensure rapid application of the provisions in the new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” to facilitate rail border crossings in the pan-European region.

### **(b) Harmonization of technical specifications of different railway systems**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by OSJD on progress made to improve technical interoperability between the 1,435 mm standard and the 1,520 mm broad gauge railway systems.

## **11. Group of Experts on Safety at Level Crossings**

In March 2011, ITC discussed the urgency and importance of addressing key issues to enhance safety at level crossings. It recommended that the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) consider creating a joint Group of Experts, of limited duration, to work on

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<sup>6</sup> [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/ac3/documents/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC3-18e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/ac3/documents/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC3-18e.pdf).

enhancing safety at level crossings, taking into account all relevant experience within other bodies, such as the European Railway Agency (ECE/TRANS/221, para. 50). At its sixty-first session, WP.1 took note of ITCs recommendation and agreed to take part in this initiative (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/131, para. 21).

The Working Party may wish to also consider taking part in this initiative and endorsing the terms of reference of the Group of Experts on safety at level crossings (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2011/6).

**Documentation** ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2011/6

## **12. Positioning of Railways in the Global transport arena**

In line with its work plan, the Working Party may wish to review the challenges that railways face today and to identify the most important and challenging topics as to further analyse and evaluate them.

More specifically, the Working Party may wish to identify the competitive advantages of railways compared to other modes, especially the role that railways play in important areas, such as climate change, congestion and energy consumption.

The Working Party may wish to consider the feasibility to prepare, within existing resources, a publication on contemporary topics for railways in the ECE region (possibly to be published every two years) where all issues concerning railways in the ECE region are analysed and illustrated, including statistics, infrastructure, case studies and best practices. Such a publication could also profit from railway data compiled and disseminated by the secretariat in the framework of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6).

**Documentation:** Informal document available at the session

## **13. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport**

In line with standard practice, the Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of the European Commission (DG Move) relating to rail transport.

## **14. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities, decisions and plans for future work of ITC, WP.24 and UNECE Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links operating under the auspices of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), as well as about other rail related activities of UNECE.

The Working Party will also be informed about the current review of UNECEs work in the field of transport and of the conclusions of the first meeting of the Chairs of ITC held in March 2011.

## **15. Activities of international organizations relating to rail transport**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of other international organizations and stakeholders in the field of rail transport.

## **16. Programme of work, biennial evaluation and terms of reference of the Working Party**

### **(a) Programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2013**

In accordance with the decision of ITC to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being 2012 (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party is invited to review and adopt its programme of work for 2012–2013 as well as the relevant parameters allowing for its biennial evaluation. The draft programme of work for 2012–2013 and expected accomplishment are contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/4.

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/4

### **(b) Work plan for 2012–2016**

As requested by the ITC Bureau, the Working Party should review and approve its traditional 4-year work plan for 2012–2016 in addition to the mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2014 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/4).

The secretariat has reproduced in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/5 the traditional 4-year work plan as adopted by SC.2 at its sixty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/5 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/212, para. 20) and the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-second session (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106 and ECE/TRANS/2010/8 and Corr.1 indicating proposed deletions, modifications and additions, as appropriate).

The Working Party may wish to review its work plan for 2012–2016 for adoption and transmission to ITC.

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/5

### **(c) Terms of reference (ToR)**

In line with the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE, each Working Party has to prepare its terms of reference which must be adopted by its parent Sectoral Committee (ECE/EX/1, para. 3 (a)).

In accordance with this request, the Working Party may wish to consider and adopt its terms of reference (ToR) on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/3).

**Documentation:** ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2011/3

## **17. Election of officers**

The Working Party will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2012 and 2013.

## **18. Other business**

At present, there are no proposals under this item.

## **19. Date of next session**

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held on 8 and 9 November 2012 in Geneva.



## 20. Summary of Decisions

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 6) and established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken at the end of the session. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.

## III. Tentative timetable

Thursday, 3 November	SC.2	9.30 – 12.30 a.m.	Items 1– 8
	SC.2/WP.24 Joint session	2.30 – 5.30 p.m.	Item 2 (c): AGC and AGTC technical standards  Item 9: Role of terminals
Friday, 4 November	SC.2	9.30 – 12.30 a.m.	Items 10–20