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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Twenty-first session

Geneva, 16-18 October 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty first session*, **

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 16 October 2019

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Execution of the Mandate of the Group of Experts.
3. Other business.
4. Date of next session.
5. Summary of decisions.

* Delegates are requested to register online at the following address:

<https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=xBSSAE>.

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 24 32). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

** 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 Sustainable Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).



II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law (Group of Experts) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/13

2. Execution of the Mandate of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts adopted its workplan containing detailed action plan at the seventeenth session (Geneva, 9-11 July 2018). In accordance with this workplan and further to the decisions taken at the twentieth session, the Group of Experts is expected to further advance its work on specific tasks, as follows:

(a) Monitoring of the finalization of necessary documents:

The Group of Experts, at its twentieth session, was not able to discuss ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/9 which (i) lists documents related to contract of carriage in use under CIM or SMGS systems which appear to be relevant to the draft URL provisions and; (ii) proposes necessary modification to each of those documents. The discussion was postponed to the current session.

The Group of Experts will be invited to consider ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/9 and conclude on the finalization of necessary documents as well as to agree its report on this task to the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) at its seventy-third session in November 2019.

(b) Monitoring of performance of a substantial number of real pilot tests:

The Group of Experts, given that railway undertakings had not responded to an earlier request to provide their views on further changes to the ad hoc consignment note as per issues listed in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/2, point III. 6 (b) (vii), invited the secretariat at the twentieth session to contact the railway undertakings again in this respect. The secretariat will report on its communication with the railway undertakings following the twentieth session and on the possible views collected.

The Group of Experts will be invited to consider the information provided and agree on possible changes to the ad hoc consignment note.

Experts will be then invited to inform about pilot tests organized after the twentieth session and about findings from these tests.

The Group of Experts will be invited to consider findings from the additional tests.

The Group of Experts will be also expected to agree on its report to SC.2 on the performance of tests and changes made to the URL consignment note.

(c) Scope of URL and its conversion into a legally-binding instrument:

The Group of Experts is expected to conclude on its approach to developing URL as a legally-binding instrument. In this regard, and further to its consideration of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/5 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/12 at the previous sessions, the Group of Experts is invited to consider ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/17 at the current session, prepared by the Chair. This document should list specificities on the use of wagons, use of infrastructure, transport of dangerous goods and use of rolling stock in SMGS regime and explain potential conflicts, if any, with the execution of the contract of carriage on the basis of the URL provisions.

When considering ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/17, the Group of Experts is expected to discuss and conclude if these specificities need to be addressed in the

existing URL provisions by adding new or elaborating existing provisions, as appropriate. The discussion should be supported by ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/15, prepared by the secretariat, containing draft provisions on the relation between the contract of carriage and the public law regulating the execution of carriage by railway.

The Group of Experts may then wish to discuss issues of concern from SMGS countries to the existing URL provisions on the basis of ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/16 prepared by the Russian Federation.

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/10 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/11, which contain respectively a draft preamble and draft final provisions for URL and which were not discussed at the twentieth session, are tabled for discussion at the current session.

Finally, the Group of Experts will be expected to agree on its report to SC.2 on the agreed scope of URL and its conversion into a legally-binding instrument. The Group of Experts may wish to include in this report, further to its discussion on ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/17, its recommendations for specific railway issues, on which the work for unifying railway law should continue.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/9, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/10,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/11, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/15,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/16, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/17

3. Other business

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

4. Date of next session

The Group of Experts may wish to note that the twenty first session is the last session under the existing mandate.

5. Summary of decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will draft the final report.
