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## **Working Party on Rail Transport**

### **Seventy-third session**

Geneva, 25–27 November 2019

Item 26 of the provisional agenda

### **Adoption of decisions**

Draft list of decision for the seventy-third session

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

Decision: The Working Party adopted the revised agenda.

#### **2. Workshop: “Making rail freight more competitive and the coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on EATL”**

Summary: the Working Party welcomed discussions at the Workshop “Making rail freight more competitive: The coordinated development of the rail network with a focus on how to work together at the government and sectoral levels on the EATL” and requested that the secretariat prepare a summary document of the workshop in order to continue discussion on this topic at future sessions of the Working Party.

#### **3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines**

Decision: The Administrative Committee of the AGC noted that the amendments agreed in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2018/6 had been notified to the depository and that they had entered into force as no objections had been received. It asked the secretariat to send the amendments included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/9 as amended to the depository.

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the preparation of the consolidated version of the AGC (Rev.4) and asked the secretariat to publish it in three languages and make it available in print and electronic format. It also asked the secretariat to share the printed version with member States along with a document setting out the main benefits of becoming contracting parties to the AGC.

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the efforts of the secretariat, in collaboration with the European Union Agency for Railways, to modernise the AGC and asked the secretariat to continue in its efforts in this area. In addition, it asked the secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to send to member States that are not covered by ERA data to ensure that there is full coverage of the ECE area.

#### **4. Railway financing and Public-Private Partnerships**

Decision: The Working Party requested that a Group of Experts on the fixing of unique identifiers of railway rolling stock be created according to the terms of reference set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/10 as amended. The Working Party asked member States, relevant international organizations and the industry to send their nominations for potential experts to the UNECE secretariat by 31 March 2020.

Decision: The Working Party noted the information provided on the UNECE PPP Guidelines.

#### **5. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and on Euro-Asian transport corridors**

Decision:

The Working Party took note of the report of the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law (the Group) on the execution of its 2018-19 mandate, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/4. It commended the Group for the work undertaken.

The Working Party decided to extend the mandate of the Group for two more sessions, to be held in 2020, under the current Terms of Reference, as set out in document ECE/TRANS/2018/13/Rev.1. to conclude on tasks (c) and (d) and to report to the Working Party at its seventy-fourth session in November 2020.

The Working Party further invited the secretariat:

(i) to expand the Group to invite to it country representatives with expertise on issues to be envisaged in the full set of conventions to form the system of URL conventions, and

(ii) to expand the geographical representation to invite to it interested countries along the entire Euro-Asian transport corridors.

The Working Party finally requested the secretariat to explore the possibility to establish the legally binding URL instrument on a corridor basis based on agreements between the governments concerned.

#### **6. Rail Security**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the updating of the Rail Security Observatory and asked the secretariat to keep it informed of developments in this area. The Working Party also reminded member States to notify the Secretariat of focal points in relation to rail security.

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

Decision: The Working Party reiterated its support for the EATL project. It further encouraged the rail sector to get increasingly involved in related discussions.

#### **8. Trans-European Railway project**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the work carried out within the TER project and encouraged member States to intensify their work in this area.

## **9. Master Plan on High-Speed Trains**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the information provided in relation to High-Speed Rail Masterplan and asked the secretariat to update the working party on progress at its next session.

## **10. New convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the opening for signature of the new convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail and invited member States to become contracting parties to it. It asked member States to consider how best to further facilitate the international passenger transport by proposing solutions including border crossing point plans also at the workshop on international passenger transport scheduled for the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party.

## **11. Innovation in Rail Transport**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the document prepared by the secretariat on innovation and asked that it be shared more widely. It asked that the secretariat create a rail innovation observatory to share good practice innovation in the sector. The Working Party also asked that it be updated on progress in this area at the next session of the Working Party.

## **12. Productivity in Rail Transport**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the document on productivity prepared by the secretariat and thanked member States for contributing to it. It asked the secretariat to keep this item on the agenda and to renew efforts on gathering information in 2021.

## **13. Climate Change and Rail Transport**

Decision: The Working Party took note of the information provided on the Group of Experts on Climate change Adaptation and on ForFITS and requested that the secretariat continue to provide information on this project and its importance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In **addition**, include in the agenda going forward items of green logistics, eco-scoring and other related matters for the Working Party.

## **14. Railway Reform**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the update on railway reform provided by the secretariat and member States and asked that the secretariat update the working party on developments at the 74<sup>th</sup> session.

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

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

Decision: The Working Party asked the secretariat to update it on developments in relation to the Harmonization Convention at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party and invited

countries to share best practice in implementing the Harmonization Convention at future sessions.

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

Decision: The Working Party thanked the Russian Federation for updating participants on the work of the OSJD/ERA Contact Group and asked OSJD and ERA to update the Working Party on this matter at future sessions of SC.2.

**16. Rail Review**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the work undertaken by the secretariat building on the activities undertaken in collaboration with UIC in the run up to the 72<sup>nd</sup> session. In particular, in mapping a large number of projects and their characteristics on a GIS platform. It asked member States to provide railway investment data as per the original questionnaire in order to have a complete picture of investment projects in the ECE region.

**17. Rail Statistics**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed progress on rail statistics data gathering, the Glossary and other activities of the Working Party on Transport Statistics and asked to be kept informed of developments in this area going forward.

**18. Improving safety in Rail Transport**

Decision: The Working Party reaffirmed the importance of discussing wider rail safety issues in SC.2. It welcomed the document prepared by the secretariat and the informal document prepared by the European Passenger Federation and asked that it be kept informed on this issue going forward.

**19. Activities of Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the completion and adoption of the new ITC strategy. The working party adopted the document prepared by the secretariat on the alignment of the activities of SC.2 with the ITC strategy and asked that new terms of reference for the group be developed and submitted for adoption at the next session of SC.2.

**20. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the update from the European Commission on their activities.

**21. Activities of international organizations in rail transport**

Decision: The Working Party welcomed the update from the international organizations on their activities and welcomed the proposed intervention from the European Investment Bank under agenda item 4 at the next session of SC.2.

**22. Programme of Work for 2020–2021**

Decision: The Working Party adopted the new programme of work for the Working Party on Rail Transport.

**23. Election of officers**

Decision: The Working Party elected Mr. Krzysztof Kulesza as Chair of the Working Party on Rail Transport and Mr. Hinne Groot as Vice Chair of the Working Party for the seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions of the Working Party on Rail Transport.

**24. Other business**

Decision: The Working Party confirmed that the workshop for the seventy-fourth session of SC.2 would be on international passenger transport by rail.

**25. Date and venue of the next session**

Decision: The Working Party adopted the dates for the next session of the Working Party on Rail Transport as from 18 to 20 November 2020 in Geneva.

**26. Adoption of decisions**

Decision: The Working Party adopted the draft decisions as amended.

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