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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law****Twentieth session**

Geneva, 9–11 July 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth session*, ****

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 9 July 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=thX3IN>.

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/2019/7

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 nineteenth 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 agreed at its nineteenth session that ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/3 which contains a list of documents on the contract of carriage which may require adjustments to the provisions of URL should be updated by adding information on: (i) the relevance of a specific document in use under CIM/SMGS systems to the draft URL provisions and; (ii) necessary modification, if any, to each document of URL relevance. To this end, the secretariat supported by PKP Cargo S.A. will present ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/9 which provides the requested information.

The Group of Experts will be invited to consider ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/9 and agree on the next steps in updating or adjusting the documents.

The secretariat will report on the review of the translation in English and French of the ad-hoc consignment note by CIT and on the availability of the English and/or French templates of the consignment note.

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

The Group of Experts requested the secretariat at its nineteenth session to collect the views of the railway undertakings as to possible changes to the ad hoc consignment note regarding issues raised during that session and provided in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/2, point III.6 (b) (vii). The secretariat will report on its communication with the railway undertakings and on the 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 nineteenth session and about findings from these tests, when applicable on testing the URL provisions on liability.

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

(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. After discussing at the nineteenth session ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/5 which provides impact analysis and the benefits from adopting the convention on contract of carriage of goods by railway in international traffic as URL legally-binding instrument, the Group is expected to consider ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/12, which should: (i) describe the various railway issues to be covered through the URL framework convention; (ii) analyse the impact of the URL framework convention and its benefits; and

(iii) propose the management system for the URL framework convention. This document is to be submitted by the Russian Federation.

The Group of Experts is also expected to agree on the draft text for preamble and final provisions for URL as a legally-binding instrument. To this end, and in view of the approach concluded, the Group will consider ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/10 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/11, prepared by the secretariat, and containing proposed text for respectively the preamble and the final provisions.

Finally, in view of the approach concluded for developing URL as a legally-binding instrument, the Group of Experts will be invited to discuss railway issues that should be analysed as to whether it would be beneficial to cover them in URL.

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/2019/12

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 next session of the Group of Experts is scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 16 to 18 October 2019.

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.
