Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Report on the execution of 2018-19 mandate
(a) Monitor the finalization of necessary documents in order to perform international rail transport under the unified railway law

(b) Monitor the performance of a substantial number of real pilot tests to be carried out by the railway companies

(c) Draft a document (or systems of documents) on Unified Railway Law which could be adopted as a legally binding instrument

(d) Discuss other relevant issues related to international rail freight transport with a view to adding, where appropriate, provisions to the document referred to at (c)
- ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2019/4

- Outcomes of five meetings

  ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/14
  ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/8
  ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/2
  ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/5
  ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2018/2
Further changes when a legally-binding instrument for the contract of international carriage of goods by rail is adopted
Task b – performance of real pilot tests

- Test by railway companies from Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan

Test succeeded in verifying the validity and effectiveness of the draft URL provisions

Conclusion:
- No further changes to draft URL provisions
- Number of issues identified for consideration to modify the consignment note
Task b – performance of real pilot tests

- Difficulty with organization of tests:
  - Absence of railways undertakings in the work of the Group of Experts
  - Restrictions from SMGSs article 3 to performance of tests (contractual basis, using provisions as general rules and conditions)

- No further test are necessary
Task b – performance of real pilot tests

Consignment note

Further changes when a legally-binding instrument for the contract of international carriage of goods by rail is adopted
Tasks c/d – URL document/system of documents

- Working documents considered

  - ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/5
  - ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2019/12
Outstanding:

- Adoption of the separate legal pieces one by one (EU)
- Adoption of all legal pieces at once (RF)
- 2, 3, …. remains to be identified

Candidates: wagon law, rolling stock, dangerous goods, etc.
Task c/d – URL document/system of documents

Task c and d are not concluded

Request for an extension of mandate – one year, two more meetings
Views on mandate continuation (Germany, Luxembourg, Turkey, European Commission):

- Finalize the text of the legal instrument on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail for consideration by SC.2 in 2020 (complete legal instrument)

- Identify and agree issues for other legal instruments to form URL
Additional considerations

- Expand the Group of Experts 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

- Expand the geographical representation in the Group to invite to it interested countries along the entire Euro-Asian transport corridors

- Consider establishment of the instrument on a corridor basis
Thank you for your attention