



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/207
30 August 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-first session
Paris, 21-22 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTIETH SESSION¹

to be held at OECD Headquarters, Paris
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 21 November 2007

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

¹ 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 (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html>).

Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>). It should be transmitted to the UNECE Transport Division no later than two weeks prior to the session either by email (bernadette.healy@unece.org) or by fax (41 22 917 0039) **and** to the International Transport Forum secretariat either by email (maryvonne.lebouc@oecd.org) or by fax (33-1) 45 24 97 42/45 24 13 22).

- (a) Preparatory work for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing
 - (b) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport
3. Euro-Asian transport corridors
 - (a) Information on progress made in the UNDA project on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages
 - (b) Organization of runs of container block trains on Euro-Asian transport links
4. Safety and security in railway transport
5. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)
 - (a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC
 - (b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement
6. Draft Programme of Work for 2008-2012 and biennial evaluation
7. Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Economic Commission for Europe
 - (b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies
8. Study of the situation of the railways in member countries
9. Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure
10. Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems
11. Productivity in rail transport
12. Trans-European Railway (TER) Project
13. Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2008 and 2009
14. Other business
15. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/207 – Annotated provisional agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Working Party is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 2: Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

(a) Preparatory work for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/1 – Monitoring border crossing operations

2. The Working Party will be informed about the status of preparation of (i) a new annex 9 to the 1982 International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods ("Harmonization Convention"), and (ii) a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in the International Railway Passenger Traffic, as well as preparatory work for the International Conference on Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing.

3. Taking into account consideration of the two draft documents by the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) at its one-hundred-and-seventeenth session in September 2007, the Working Party may wish to **provide guidance** for further activities leading to a timely and complete preparation of the Conference. The draft of the new annex to the Harmonization Convention is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/11, and the draft of the new Convention on facilitation of international passenger railway traffic is being circulated as ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/12.

4. Following the request by the Working Party at its sixtieth session, the secretariat prepared a note reviewing the most important international activities, initiatives and programmes aimed at monitoring and improving border crossing operations and stopping times in international rail transport. This information is being circulated in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/1. The Working Party may wish to **take note** and consider this information.

(b) Monitoring of progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/2 – Data collection on border crossing procedures

5. At its sixtieth session, the Working Party recommended to the UNECE TER office to complete and update the information on border crossing at selected borders of the TER member countries from 2001 to 2006. In addition, the Working Party also suggested to the TER office to undertake jointly with CER, OSJD, and the UIC a more in-depth analysis of the underlying obstacles in selected number of border stations in international rail transport. The Working Party will be informed about these activities and it is invited to **consider** their outcome and **discuss** the

relevance of the future collection of information on border stopping times and procedures in view of the available alternatives.

6. Furthermore, the Working Party asked the OSJD to make available the results of its own data collection and analysis of border crossing procedures carried out at border stations in OSJD member countries. This information is being circulated in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/2 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Item 3: Euro-Asian transport corridors

(a) Information on progress made in the UNDA Project on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages

7. The Working Party **will be informed** about the further progress made in the implementation of the UNDA joint UNECE/UNESCAP Project on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages.

8. The members of the Working Party are also invited to **exchange information** about other activities in international rail transport relevant for the development of Euro-Asian transport links.

(b) Organization of runs of container block-trains on Euro-Asian transport links

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/3, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/3 and Add.1

- Organization of runs of container block trains on Euro-Asian transport links

9. At its sixtieth session, the Working Party supported a proposal by the representative of Turkey who suggested that a Workshop devoted to experiences and lessons learned in organizing successful and commercially viable runs of container block trains on Euro-Asian links could be organized during its sixty-first session. This Workshop will be organized on the last day of its session, and the conclusion will be summarized in the report of the sixty-first session of the Working Party.

10. In connection with this question, the Working Party asked the secretariat to circulate widely its information note containing major conclusions regarding the experiences gained through organization of successful demonstration runs of container block trains (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/2). This note, after being revised and reformatted, is being circulated **for consideration** by the Working Party in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/3

11. In addition, the Working Party will have before it, **for information**, the note on experiences with organization of demonstration runs of container block trains from several member Governments in document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2007/3 and Add.1.

12. The Working Party may wish to **discuss** how it could further contribute to member Governments which intend to organize demonstration runs of container block trains and benefit from this activity considered to be a convenient way of showing the potential advantages of railways on selected routes.

Item 4: Safety and security in railway transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/4 – Information by the UIC

13. Following its request at its sixtieth session, the Working Party **will be informed** by the representative of the UIC on activities of all working groups established under its Security Platform. The Working Party may wish **to consider and discuss** ways in which it can further contribute to consolidating the diverse views of all members and developing common and harmonized approaches to safety and security aspects in international rail transport. This information will be circulated in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/4.

Item 5: European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)**(a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC**

14. The Working Party may note that the following countries are at present Parties to the AGC, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 28: Albania; Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina (succession); Bulgaria; Croatia (succession); Czech Republic (succession); France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Moldova (succession); Montenegro (succession); Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia (succession); Slovakia (succession); Slovenia (succession); The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession); Turkey and Ukraine.

15. The Working Party may wish **to be informed** by delegations and the secretariat about the intention of Governments to become Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

(b) Amendments proposed to Annex I of the AGC Agreement

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/5 – Updated Annex I of the AGC

16. The Working Party may wish **to take note** of the updated version of Annex I of the AGC Agreement prepared by the secretariat that includes all the amendments which entered into force by 30 June 2007 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/5), as well as those adopted by the Working Party at its sixtieth session.

Item 6: Draft Programme of Work 2008-2012 and biennial evaluation

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/6 - Draft Programme of Work 2008-2012

17. At its sixtieth session, the Working Party decided to continue a thorough review of its programme of work at its next session.

18. The Working Party may wish **to examine** its draft programme of work for 2008-2012, which is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/6.

Item 7: Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party

(a) Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation: E/2007/37- E/ECE/1448 - Annual report of the Commission

19. The sixty-second session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2007.

20. The Working Party **will be informed** about the decisions taken by the Commission at its sixty-first session, concerning such questions as the UNECE reform, follow-up to the global and regional conferences, major policy issues of the UNECE and their impact on the UNECE programme of work (E/2007/37-E/ECE/1448).

(b) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/192 - Report of the sixty-ninth session of the Inland Transport Committee

21. The Committee held its sixty-ninth session in Geneva from 6 to 8 February 2007.

22. The Working Party **will be informed** about the Committee's discussion on questions related, in particular, to its work areas as contained in paras. 71-78 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/192).

Item 8: Study of the situation of the railways in member countries

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/7 and Add.1-3 – Study of the situation of the railways in member countries

23. At its fifty-ninth session in 2006, the Working Party decided to request member Governments to report on the situation of the railways every second year (TRANS/SC.2/204, para.19). The Working Party is invited to **take note** and **consider** information circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/7 and Add.1-3, submitted by member Governments on developments in the following three areas:

- (i) Data on past and future developments of rail passenger and goods traffic;
- (ii) New developments to be observed subsequent to the reorganization of the rail sector with special attention to the setting-up of new railway companies;
- (iii) Investments on rail infrastructure and railway rolling stock.

Item 9: Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/8 – Information from the EC

24. Following the request by the Working Party, the European Commission was asked to report on progress made in the implementation of First Railway Package (Directive 2001/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and the levying of charges for the use of railway infrastructure and safety certification). The reply by the European Commission is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2006/8 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Item 10: Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/9, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/10

25. In accordance with the Working Party's request at its sixtieth session (TRANS/SC.2/206, para.37), the European Community was invited to report on new developments regarding interoperability and the relevant work on various technical and legal aspects of interoperability. The reply received from the European Commission will be circulated, when available, in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/9 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

26. Furthermore, the secretariat invited OTIF and OSJD to report on their activities on harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems, at the Working Party's next session. The information from OTIF and OSJD is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/10 **for consideration** by the Working Party.

Item 11: Productivity in rail transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/11 – Productivity indicators in rail transport

27. In accordance with the decision of the Working Party taken at its sixtieth session, the secretariat prepared a summary document containing the most recent productivity indicators for railways. The Working Party may wish to **take note** of the information circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/11 and **discuss** questions regarding the future collection of data on productivity indicators.

Item 12: Trans-European Railway (TER) Project

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/12 – Activities of the TER Project

28. The TER Project Manager will provide the Working Party with **information** about the progress made in activities carried out by the TER project, which is being circulated in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/12.

Item 13: Election of officers for the sessions of the Working Party in 2008 and 2009

29. In accordance with the decision taken at the fifty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party **may wish to elect** the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for its sessions in 2008 and 2009.

Item 14: Other business

30. At the time of drafting this provisional agenda there were no proposals under this item.

Item 15: Adoption of the report

31. In accordance with the Working Party's decision, at its fifty-second session, the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting **for adoption** by the Working Party. This list will later be incorporated into the report of the session which will be prepared by its Chairman and its Vice-Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.
