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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on Rail Transport**  
**(3-5 October 2000)**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION\***

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 3 October 2000

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|----|---|---|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda  | TRANS/SC.2/193                                |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party             |   |
|    | (a) Economic Commission for Europe                                    | E/ECE/1381                                    |
|    | (b) Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies                  | ECE/TRANS/133 and Add.1<br>TRANS/SC.2/2000/18 |
| 3. | Follow-up to the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment | JMTE/2000/8                                   |
| 4. | Relevance of railways in the transport market                         | TRANS/SC.2/2000/1                             |

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\* By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the eleventh session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations at Geneva (room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Therefore, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division: <http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail ([helena.petersen.dyggve@unece.org](mailto:helena.petersen.dyggve@unece.org)). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, phone the ECE secretariat (int. 72458).

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|-----|---|---|
| 5.  | Determination of railway infrastructure capacity including aspects related to the fee for the use of the infrastructure     | TRANS/SC.2/2000/2 and Adds. 1-2                             |
| 6.  | Productivity in rail transport  | TRANS/SC.2/2000/3 and Adds. 1-2                             |
| 7.  | Facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport   |   |
|     | (a) Follow-up to ITC resolution No. 248 on the Reduction of Border Stopping Time of Shuttle Trains in International Traffic | TRANS/SC.2/2000/4   |
|     | (b) Annual monitoring on the progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport           | TRANS/SC.2/2000/5 and Add.1<br>TRANS/SC.2/2000/6            |
|     | (c) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region                   |   |
| 8.  | 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   | TRANS/SC.2/2000/7 and Add.1                                 |
|     | (c) Extension of the AGC network to Central Asia and the Caucasus   | TRANS/SC.2/2000/8   |
|     | (d) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network  | TRANS/SC.2/2000/9<br>TRANS/SC.2/2000/10<br>1997 Yellow book |
|     | (e) Location of important marshalling yards in Europe   | TRANS/SC.2/165/Rev.2  |
|     | (f) Safety provisions in long rail tunnels  |   |
| 9.  | Railways' practices and combined transport development  | TRANS/SC.2/2000/11  |
| 10. | Research programmes for rail transport  | TRANS/SC.2/2000/12  |
| 11. | Trans-European Railway (TER) Project  | TRANS/SC.2/2000/15  |
| 12. | Application of summer time  | TRANS/SC.2/2000/13<br>TRANS/SC.2/2000/14                    |
| 13. | Information on developments in various railway fields   | TRANS/SC.2/2000/16 and                                      |
|     | (a) Environmental questions related to railway  |   |

operations

Add. 1

- (b) Safety in railway transport
  - (c) Use of computers in rail transport operations, in particular in the management of rail goods traffic
  - (d) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes
14. Draft Programme of Work for 2001-2005
15. Other business
16. Adoption of the report
- TRANS/WP.5/2000/17
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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is its adoption.

### 2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

#### (a) Economic Commission for Europe

The fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 3 to 5 May 2000.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, particularly on ECE's operational activities and the development of joint projects with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for the Mediterranean region.

#### (b) Inland Transport Committee and subsidiary bodies

The Committee held its sixty-second session in Geneva from 15 to 17 February 2000.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the Committee's discussion, particularly those contained in paras. 54-61 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/133).

In this connection, the Working Party may recall that, following the recommendation of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), an Informal Meeting on Rail Transport was convened on 15 June 2000, which inter alia considered customs questions affecting rail transport and working hours of railway personnel and its impact on the operation of international through trains (ECE/TRANS/128, paras. 93 and 132). The Working Party may wish to consider the findings of the Informal Meeting, which are circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2000/18. The remaining questions dealt with at the Informal Meeting are referred to under the respective agenda items.

### 3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Working Party will be informed about the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration (ECE/RC/CONF./2/FINAL) and the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RC/CONF./3/FINAL), and the decisions taken at the third Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the ITC and the Environment Committee (6 June 2000) (JMTE/2000/8).

### 4. RELEVANCE OF RAILWAYS IN THE TRANSPORT MARKET

At its last session, the Working Party asked the representative of the Union of International Railways (UIC) to present a contribution on the relevance of railways in the transport market, comparing the concepts of *market-share* and *modal split* (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 16).

Following this request, the UIC has sent document TRANS/SC.2/2000/1. The Working Party is invited to discuss the contents of the document and, in particular, to consider whether it could serve as a basis for the development of a set of recommendations by the Working Party, based on the comments from the member countries.

## 5. DETERMINATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY INCLUDING ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEE FOR THE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the request of the Working Party, Governments have provided information on the progress made in the determination of fees for the use of the infrastructure, particularly on the following items (TRANS/SC.2/192, para.19):

- (a) Legal status for railway infrastructure managers.
- (b) Principles for capacity allocation
- (c) Principles for the identification of sections with capacity constraints. Priority criteria for these sections.
- (d) Co-operation with neighbouring network infrastructure managers for the allocation of capacity at the international level.
- (e) Description of the existing/envisaged infrastructure charging schemes.
- (f) Special charging regimes.

The Working Party may wish to take note of the information received and to discuss the follow-up to be given to this activity on the basis of the note prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/SC.2/2000/2 and Adds. 1-2). In particular, the Working Party may wish to consider whether some recommendations could be developed in order to facilitate the allocation of capacity for international rail services in the future.

## 6. PRODUCTIVITY IN RAIL TRANSPORT

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/192, para.21), the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSZhD), the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project Central Office have provided information on productivity indicators, that have been circulated as documents TRANS/SC.2/2000/3 and Adds. 1 and 2.

The Working Party may wish to take note of this information and to discuss the follow-up to be given to this item in the future, and in particular the possibility of developing more satisfactory productivity indicators in the rail sector.

## 7. FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

- (a) Follow-up to the ITC resolution No. 248 on the Reduction of Border Stopping Time of Shuttle Trains in International Traffic

On the basis of the information received from countries, the secretariat has produced document TRANS/SC.2/2000/4, which also includes the conclusions of the Informal Meeting on Rail Transport, held in Geneva on 15 June 2000.

The Working Party is invited to endorse the recommendations of the informal meeting concerning the monitoring system for shuttle trains (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 26).

(b) Annual monitoring on the progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport

The annual information submitted by Governments on the progress made in the facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport is reproduced in TRANS/SC.2/2000/5 and Add. 1 for consideration by the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 30).

The Working Party may also wish to learn about the progress made in setting-up a detailed monitoring of stopping times in a limited number of border stations (TRANS/SC.2/2000/6), in accordance with the decision taken at its last session (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 31 and 32).

(c) Border-crossing facilitation project in the SECI (South-east European Co-operative Initiative) region

Following the request made at its last session (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 28), the Working Party may wish to learn from its Chairman about the progress made by the border-crossing facilitation project for international rail transport in the SECI region.

8. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY LINES (AGC)

(a) Situation regarding the application of the AGC

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

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 in force by 31 December 1999 (TRANS/SC.2/2000/7).

The Working Party may also wish to consider the amendments and suggestions received by the secretariat during the updating process of Annex I, and to establish the appropriate follow-up to be given to them (TRANS/SC.2/2000/7/Add.1).

(c) Extension of the AGC network to Central Asia and the Caucasus

Following the request of the Working Party at its last session (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 45), the secretariat has prepared a new draft integrating the comments received in 1999 and 2000 from the Governments concerned, which is circulated as TRANS/SC.2/2000/8. This proposal is expected to be formally submitted to the Working Party by one of the AGC Contracting Parties for consideration and approval.

(d) Data collecting efforts on the AGC network

At its fifty-third session, the Working Party requested Governments that have thus far not done so, to provide data on total train traffic on the AGC network in 1995 (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 47). The information received by the secretariat is being circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2000/9 for consideration by the Working Party.

Data collection on infrastructure and operational conditions on the AGC and AGTC networks in 1997 has been completed. The information (Yellow Book 1997) is being published

and will be available in the meeting room. Delegates are encouraged to examine this document and to suggest improvements for future editions.

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/192, paras. 49 and 50), the Working Party convened an Informal Meeting on Rail Census Methodologies in Geneva on 13 June 2000 in order to explore the possibilities of developing a "Rail Census" in the future, integrating infrastructure and traffic data. Its conclusions are being circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2000/10. The Working Party is invited to examine these conclusions and to discuss the follow-up to be given to this activity in the future.

(e) Location of important marshalling yards in Europe

Following the request of the Working Party (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 53), the secretariat has produced a revised version of the list of important marshalling yards within the European railway network, which is circulated as an annex to the document TRANS/SC.2/165/Rev.2.

(f) Safety provisions in long rail tunnels

The Working Party may wish to learn about the conclusions of the meeting of the Ad hoc group on safety in tunnels, held on 10 and 11 July 2000 in Geneva. According to the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/133, para. 43) this group is first concentrating its work on road tunnels and, as necessary, will continue later with safety issues in other tunnels.

## 9. RAILWAYS' PRACTICES AND COMBINED TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

At its last session, the Working Party agreed to convene an informal group to examine the existing situation and make follow-up proposals (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 69). The conclusions and recommendations of the informal group meeting, held in Geneva on 15 June 2000 are circulated in TRANS/SC.2/2000/11 for consideration by the Working Party. This document also includes the decisions adopted by the Working Party on Combined Transport at its last session on this issue (TRANS/WP.24/87, paras. 26-30).

## 10. RESEARCH PROGRAMMES FOR RAIL TRANSPORT

At its last session, the Working Party asked the European Commission (EC) to report on the progress made in its railway research activities included in its 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme on Research and Development.

The information provided by the European Commission is circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2000/12. According to the decision taken at its last session (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 58), the Working Party is invited to develop the items of a questionnaire to be submitted to the Governments, in order to collect information on their research activities.

## 11. TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) PROJECT

The Working Party may wish to consider the progress report on activities carried out by the TER project, which is being circulated as document TRANS/SC.2/2000/15.

Following the request of the Working Party at its last session (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 60), a Project Manager of TER will make a detailed presentation of the contents of the TER database during the session.

## 12. APPLICATION OF SUMMER TIME

The Working Party may wish to take note of the information received from Governments on summer time arrangements, which is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2000/13.

In this connection, the Working Party may consider whether specific recommendations should be made to the Governments on summer time arrangements, taking into account, inter alia, the information that has been provided by the European Commission (TRANS/SC.2/2000/14)

## 13. INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS

At its fifty-third session, the Working Party requested Governments and international organizations to provide information on new developments in: (a) environmental questions related to railway operations; (b) safety in railway transport; (c) use of computers in rail transport operations, in particular in the management of rail goods traffic; (d) introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes (TRANS/SC.2/192, para. 65).

The information provided by Governments is being circulated in document TRANS/SC.2/2000/16 and Add. 1. The Working Party may wish to examine this information and, eventually, to decide whether any other aspects should be included in the list in the future.

## 14. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2005

The Working Party may wish to examine its draft programme of work for 2001-2005 (TRANS/SC.2/2000/17).

## 15. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party may wish to decide on the date for its next session. The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the fifty-fifth session to be held from 16 to 18 October 2001.

## 16. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the Working Party's decision at its fifty-second meeting, 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 that will be prepared by its Chairman and its Vice-chairman with the assistance of the secretariat after the session.

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# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

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