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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Ad hoc Meeting of the Multidisciplinary
Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail)
(First session, 27- 28 June 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION */

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 27 June 2002

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|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/AC.9/1 |
| 2. | Election of Officers | |
| 3. | Draft Terms of reference and mandate | TRANS/AC.9/2002/1
ECE/TRANS/139
TRANS/SC.2/196 |

*/ Delegates are requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division) and transmit it at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by E-mail (bernadette.healy@unece.org). Prior to the session delegates should get their identification badges at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit, at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page). In case of difficulties, telephone the ECE secretariat (Int. 72413).

4. Review of documentation regarding safety in tunnels
 - Safety provisions in long rail tunnels TRANS/SC.2/1999/20
 - “Can safety of passengers be guaranteed in long railway tunnels?” Informal document No. 1
 - The safety of the Swiss railway tunnels Informal document No. 2
 - Railway safety principles and guidance Informal document No. 3
 - Measures to limit and reduce the risk of accidents in underground railway installations with particular reference to the risk of fire and the transport of dangerous goods Informal document No. 4
 - Decree on safety of the national railway network Informal document No. 5
 - Interministerial technical instruction on safety in railway tunnels Informal document No. 6
5. Work plan TRANS/AC.9/2002/2
6. Draft questionnaire on safety in rail tunnels TRANS/AC.9/2002/3
Railway tunnels in Europe and North America Informal document No. 7
7. Other issues
8. Report on the meeting

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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 the adoption of the agenda.

2. Election of Officers

The Group may wish to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from among its members.

3. Draft Terms of reference and mandate

The Group will have before it as reference the report of the fifty-fifth session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (TRANS/SC.2/196, paras. 46-48) which contains the proposal to reconvene the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels for the development of proposals to amend, if necessary, the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) and other ECE legal instruments dealing with safety in transport.

The attention of the Group is also drawn to the report of the ITC which endorsed the request of the Working Party on Rail Transport that, due to particular safety and security aspects of transport in long rail tunnels, national rail tunnel experts from ECE member countries should be involved in the continuation of work of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels related to rail tunnels (TRANS/SC.2/196, para. 48)(ECE/TRANS/139).

The Group may wish to consider the draft terms of reference as reproduced in document (TRANS/AC.9/2002/1) by examining, in particular, such questions as what length of tunnels should be considered (i.e. longer than 1,000 or 1,500 metres), what time period should be covered by relevant statistics referred to in the draft questionnaire (TRANS/AC.9/2002/3) and whether the work of the Group should address all rail tunnels or be confined to tunnels in the E rail network.

4. Review of documentation regarding safety in tunnels

The secretariat has made a preliminary compilation of documents relating to safety in tunnels and has made the following available for consideration by the Group:

- (a) Communiqué “Can safety of passengers be guaranteed in the long railway tunnels?” by Mr. Peter Zbinden, director of Alp Transit Gotthard SA (Informal document No. 1);
- (b) The safety of the Swiss railway tunnels – Final report on safety in Swiss railway tunnels of January 2001 by the Swiss Federal Office of Transport (Informal document No. 2);
- (c) Extract from the United Kingdom Health and Safety Executive referring to railway tunnels “Railway safety principles and guidance” (Informal document No. 3);
- (d) Document “Measures to limit and reduce the risk of accidents in underground railway installations with particular reference to the risk of fire and the transport of dangerous goods” (IF 4/91) transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC) (Informal document No. 4);
- (e) Decree on safety of the national railway network, by the French Ministry of Transport (Informal document No. 5)
- (f) Interministerial Technical Instruction on safety in rail tunnels, by the French Ministry of Interior and French Ministry of Transport (Informal document No. 6).

Participants of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts are invited to indicate further documentation which may be considered in developing the future work of the Group.

5. Work plan

The Group may wish to develop a work plan to be followed during the term of the Multidisciplinary Group. In this regard, the Group may consider the draft proposed by the secretariat in document TRANS/AC.9/2002/2. The Group may wish to keep in mind that outputs in the form of recommendations concerning the various aspects of safety in tunnels (infrastructure, signalization, traffic rules, vehicle design, transportation of dangerous goods, etc.) should be submitted to the Inland Transport Committee in February 2004.

In connection with this item, the Group may also wish to examine a list of ECE legal instruments which may need to be amended with provisions on safety in rail tunnels and bear this in mind when formulating recommendations for amendment proposals for those instruments.

6. Draft questionnaire on safety in rail tunnels Railway tunnels in Europe and North America

The Group may wish to consider the first draft of a questionnaire prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/AC.9/2002/3) which could be used to establish the inventory proposed in item 3 regarding the terms of reference. The meeting may wish to amend the draft questionnaire and adopt its final version which will subsequently be sent to countries.

The secretariat has also compiled an extensive list of railway tunnels in Europe and North America longer than 1,000 metres (Informal document No.7). The Group may wish to use this list as the point of departure in establishing the inventory of rail tunnels proposed in the terms of reference.

7. Other issues

The Group may wish to consider any other related issues under this item.

8. Report on the meeting

A report on the meeting will be prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman and will be sent to participants.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE - GENEVA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Date:.....

Title of the Conference

Ad hoc Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (rail)
First session (27-28 June 2002)

Delegation/Participant of country, organization or agency)

Participant: Name Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / First name(s)

Participation Category

Head of delegation /	Observer (organization) /
Delegation Member /	NGO /
Observer Country /	Other (Please specify below) /

Participation from/until

from to

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Oui /

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