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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-second session  
Geneva, 18-20 November 2008

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 18 November 2008 <sup>1, 2</sup>

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities of UNECE bodies and projects of interest to the Working Party
  - (a) Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

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<sup>1</sup> 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>>. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail ([carole.marilley@unece.org](mailto:carole.marilley@unece.org)) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

<sup>2</sup> 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 secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail ([carole.marilley@unece.org](mailto:carole.marilley@unece.org)) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). 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 (ext. 740 30 or 734 57). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>>.

- (b) Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)
  - (c) Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports (GE.1)
- 3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)
  - (a) Status of the AGC Agreement
  - (b) Consolidated version of the Agreement
  - (c) The E-rail traffic census
- 4. Trans-European Railway (TER) Project
- 5. Euro-Asian transport corridors
  - (a) Phase II of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project
  - (b) Container block trains on Euro-Asian transport links
- 6. Facilitation of international rail transport
  - (a) Legal instruments and projects for border-crossing facilitation
  - (b) Progress of the common consignment note (CIM/SMGS) project
  - (c) Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems
- 7. Future activities of the Working Party
  - (a) Activities of the former European Conference of Ministers of Transports (ECMT) Group on Railways
  - (b) Rail transport of passengers with mobility handicaps
- 8. Productivity in rail transport
- 9. DG TREN report on freight oriented networks and the implementation of the second railway package
- 10. Workshop on rail security
  - (a) Introduction
  - (b) Invited presentations
  - (c) Conclusions
- 11. The European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) project and economic evaluation activities of the European Railway Agency (ERA)

12. Biennial evaluation 2008-2009
13. Other business
14. Date of next session
15. Adoption of the report

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Item 1. Adoption of the agenda**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/209

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

### **Item 2. Activities of UNECE bodies and projects of interest to the Working Party**

#### **(a) Inland Transport Committee (ITC)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/200

2. The seventieth ITC session took place in Geneva on 19-21 February 2008. The Working Party will be informed about the Committee's discussion of the questions related to its work areas as contained in paras. 36, 38, 43-44, 64-66, 86-87, 115-116, 120, 122-123 of the Committee's report (ECE/TRANS/200).

#### **(b) Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/119; ECE/TRANS/WP.24/121

3. The Working Party will be informed about recent activities of WP.24.

#### **(c) Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports (GE.1)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/3

4. The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the activities of the UNECE Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports that are related to rail transport, including the recent UNECE conference in Piraeus, kindly hosted by the Government of Greece <[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5\\_ge1\\_SPC.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge1_SPC.html)>. The workplan of the Group of Experts is attached to the report on its first session (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.1/3).

### **Item 3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)**

#### **(a) Status of the AGC Agreement**

5. 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.

6. The Working Party may wish to be informed by delegations and the secretariat about the intention of other governments to accede to the AGC Agreement. It may also wish to invite countries that are Contracting Parties to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) to accede to the AGC Agreement.

**(b) Consolidated version of the Agreement**

Documentation: Informal document No. 1

7. The Working Party may wish to take note of the consolidated version of the AGC Agreement prepared by the secretariat that includes all the amendments which entered into force to date <<http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2008/sc2/ECE-TRANS-SC2-62-inf01e.pdf>>. It may also wish to decide to publish the consolidated version in 2009 or 2010.

8. Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement, a map of the AGC network, an inventory of standards stipulated in the AGC and AGTC Agreements as well as relevant Depository Notifications are available at the website of the Working Party <<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html>>.<sup>3</sup>

**(c) The E-rail traffic census**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/3

9. The Working Party may wish to take note of results of the meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts on the 2010 E-rail traffic census on 11 November 2008, including the census-related Draft resolution that is to be submitted for approval to the ITC (ECE/TRANS/WP.6/AC.4/3, annex), and invite all member governments to participate in the E-rail traffic census in 2010.

**Item 4. Trans-European Railway (TER) Project**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/1

10. The TER Project manager will inform the Working Party about the activities implemented in 2008 and plans for subsequent years (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/1). The Working Party may wish to discuss how to integrate better its activities with those of the TER project.

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that only the text kept in custody by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as a depositary of the AGC Agreement, constitutes the authoritative text of the Agreement.

**Item 5. Euro-Asian transport corridors****(a) Phase II of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Project**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2

11. The Working Party will be informed by the secretary of the Group of Experts on Euro-Asian Transport Links <[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5\\_ge2\\_01.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge2_01.html)> about the progress made in the implementation of Phase II of the EATL project. The report on the first session of the Group of Experts (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.2/2) includes decisions pertaining to its planned activities.

12. Members of the Working Party will be invited to exchange information about recent activities in international rail transport that are relevant for the development of Euro-Asian transport links.

**(b) Container block trains on Euro-Asian transport links**

Documentation: Informal document No. 2; Informal document No. 3

13. Members of the Working Party may wish to consider the electronic brochure on demonstration runs of container block trains that is also available as Informal document No. 2 <[http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/brochures/SC2\\_Container\\_Block\\_Trains\\_e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/brochures/SC2_Container_Block_Trains_e.pdf)>.

14. Following a presentation by Turkish State Railways (Informal document No. 3), members of the Working Party may wish to consider the object lessons provided by the operational experience with the regular container train service between Turkey and Central Asia.

**Item 6. Facilitation of international rail transport****(a) Legal instruments and projects for border-crossing facilitation**

UDocumentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/2

15. The Working Party will be informed about recent developments concerning the new Annex 9 to the 1982 International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods and the International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in the International Passenger Railway Traffic as well as other initiatives aiming to facilitate border-crossing procedures (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/2).

16. The Working Party may wish to recommend how to proceed with the pursuit of rail border-crossing facilitation in the framework of the legal instruments administered by UNECE.

17. In this context, the Working Party may wish to recall the consideration of ITC at its sixty-eighth session of an action plan adopted by the (then) ECMT Council of Ministers (Moscow, 2005) and focusing on the removal of barriers for rail transport services in a pan-European context. In order to overcome these obstacles and to provide a level playing field for road and rail transport along East-West and Euro-Asian land transport corridors, the Committee had noted that one of the strategic elements for international activities in this field included the negotiation of a unified railway law resolving the present separation between the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and the Agreement on International Railway

Communications (SMGS) (ECE/TRANS/166, paras 95-96). The Working Party may wish to be informed of and consider new developments in this field.

**(b) Progress of the common consignment note (CIM/SMGS) project**

Documentation: Informal document No. 4

18. A representative of the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) will inform the Working Party about the progress achieved in the CIM/SMGS interoperability project (Informal document No. 4).

**(c) Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems**

Documentation: Informal document No. 5

19. The secretariat invited Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and Organization for Cooperation for Railways (OSJD) to submit a report on their activities on harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems at the Working Party's next session. If available, members of the Working Party may wish to consider this report on the cooperation of OTIF and OSJD aiming to improve interoperability and harmonize conditions of different rail systems (Informal document No. 5).

**Item 7. Future activities of the Working Party**

**(a) Activities of the former European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Group on Railways**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/3

20. The Working Party may wish to consider the secretariat's comparison of activities of the former ECMT Group on Railways with its own programme of work for the time period 2008-12. It may also wish to decide whether any of the ECMT activities should be pursued by the Working Party.

**(b) Rail transport of passengers with mobility handicaps**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/4; Informal document No. 6

21. Members of the Working Party may wish to consider the secretariat's report on transport of people with reduced mobility (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/4) and an invited expert presentation on passenger accessibility of heavy rail systems (Informal document No. 6). They may also wish to decide how the Working Party can best address the transport of people with reduced mobility, given the ITC decision related hereto (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 116) and the possibility of holding a one-day workshop during the 2009 SC.2 session, in cooperation with the International Transport Forum and UNECE Population Activities Unit (PAU).

**Item 8. Productivity in rail transport**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/5

22. Members of the Working Party may wish to consider the report on productivity in rail transport that was updated by the secretariat on the basis of the data provided by the UIC (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/5) and decide whether subsequent updates are needed for its activities.

**Item 9. DG TREN report on freight oriented networks and the implementation of the second railway package**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/6; Informal document No. 7

23. Following a request by the Working Party, a representative of the European Commission will present a report on rail freight oriented networks (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/6) and the progress made in the implementation of the second railway package (Informal document No. 7).

**Item 10. Workshop on rail security**

**(a) Introduction**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/7

24. The Working Party may wish to recall that the ITC had requested its subsidiary bodies to act expeditiously upon recommendations prepared by a Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security. These included *inter alia* a review of all UNECE international legal instruments in transport and, as appropriate, the inclusion of security provisions therein (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 36).

**(b) Invited presentations**

Documentation: Informal document No. 8; Informal document No. 9; Informal document No. 10; Informal document No. 11

25. The Working Party may wish to consider presentations by the experts invited by the UIC on selected rail security issues related to border crossing, security status of railway employees, new technology for rail security and passenger cooperation (Informal documents Nos. 8-11).

**(c) Conclusions**

26. The Working Party may wish to adopt conclusions that reflect the presentations and subsequent discussions during the Workshop.

**Item 11. The European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) project and economic evaluation activities of the European Railway Agency (ERA)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/8; Informal document No. 12

27. The European Railway Agency (ERA) will present its ERTMS project (Informal document No. 12). ERA will also present a report on its economic evaluation activities that might be of interest to SC.2 delegates (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/8) for consideration by the Working Party.

**Item 12. Biennial evaluation 2008-2009**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/9

28. One of the ITC biennial performance indicators for rail transport is the “level of satisfaction as expressed in surveys” of participants in SC.2 sessions (Bureau Informal document No. 11 (2008), p. 5). The secretariat will introduce a questionnaire aiming to evaluate the session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2008/10) and invite delegates to complete it. The responses to the questionnaire will provide a valuable input to the estimation of the performance indicator mentioned above.

**Item 13. Other business**

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

**Item 14. Date of next session**

30. The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 18-20 November 2009.

**Item 15. Adoption of the report**

31. In accordance with the Working Party’s decision taken at its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 6), the secretariat will prepare a list of decisions taken at the meeting for adoption by the Working Party. This list will be incorporated into the report of the session which will be prepared later by its Chairman and its Vice-Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat.

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