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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Third session

Geneva, 2–3 July 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the third session^{1, 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 09.30 a.m. on Monday, 2 July 2012

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the second session.
3. Negotiation on the Inter-Governmental Document.

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website 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 (sc.2@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 www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

² 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 www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (sc.2@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).

4. Review of work on General Terms and Conditions for Euro-Asian transport contracts (GTC EurAsia).
5. Other business.
6. Date of next session(s).
7. Summary of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/1).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/1

2. Adoption of the report of the second session

The Group of Expert will formally adopt the report of its second session held on 7 October 2011.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/9

3. Negotiation on the Intergovernmental document

The Group of Experts is invited to consider a draft Inter-Governmental Document (IGD EurAsia) prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/2) in accordance with the decisions made at its first (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/4, paras. 19–37) and second sessions (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/9, paras. 19–29). The secretariat draft also takes account of the considerations and proposals made at the informal meeting of the “friends of the Chairman” of the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (Geneva, 2 March 2012).

On the basis of a first draft of a possible Joint Declaration for signature by Ministers of Transport, progress has been made to arrive at a political document supporting the application of GTC EurAsia which would be fully in line with the existing provisions of the SMGS and COTIF-CIM Conventions and would provide a contractual bridge between the two railway regimes complementing the already adopted common SMGS-CIM consignment note. Further work is still required to also include in this political document procedures and provisions towards unified railway law as the ultimate objective of these activities by the international community.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2012/2

4. Review of work on General Terms and Conditions for Euro-Asian transport contracts (GTC EurAsia)

In line with the UNECE position paper towards unified railway law for Euro-Asian transport corridors (ECE/TRANS/2011/3 and Corr.1) and the work plan of the UNECE Group of Experts adopted at its first session (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2011/4, para. 9), the Group of Experts may wish to review progress made on GTC EurAsia by railway experts under the auspices of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) in cooperation with Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

5. Other business

At present, there are no proposals under this item. Proposals should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat (sc.2@unece.org).

6. Date of next session(s)

The next session of the Expert Group on Unified Railway Law is planned to be held on Friday 19 October 2012.

7. Summary of decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session.
