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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law

Sixteenth session

Geneva, 1-3 November 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 1 November 2017

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Monitoring results of pilot tests.
3. Preparation of the necessary documents following the draft legal provisions.
4. Possible next steps of the work on Unified Railway Law.
5. Other business.
6. Date of next session.
7. Summary of decisions.

* Delegates are requested to register online at the following address:
<https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=AMrURY>.

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 (+41 22 917 2432). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2017/3

2. Monitoring results of pilot tests

The Group of Experts may wish to recall that the ITC resolution on Unified Railway Law encouraged Railways Undertakings and International Organizations for railways to test the draft legal provisions, whenever possible, in practice and invited the Group of Experts to monitor the results of these pilot tests and prepare recommendations accordingly.

The Group of Experts may wish to recall that during its fourteenth session it discussed and agreed on a concrete road map for the implementation of pilot tests. It may wish to consider presentations by Railways Undertaking and International Organizations for railways that have tested the draft legal provisions in practice, discuss and analyse the results of such pilot tests, as well as suggest possible recommendations for the application of these draft legal provisions in the future. During its last session, the Group discussed the results of the pilot tests that took place along the corridor Germany – Poland - Belarus - Russian Federation. The Group may wish to continue discussions on pilot tests undertaken by railways undertakings in order to test the draft legal provisions.

3. Preparation of the necessary documents following the draft legal provisions

The main task of the Group of Experts is the coordination of the preparation and/or of the review of the already prepared necessary documents for rail transport by the relevant international associations in the railway sector, meaning: the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail and the International Rail Transport Committee. They should follow the draft legal provisions prepared during the previous phase of the Group of Experts.

The Group during its last session agreed that the adaptation of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note to unified railway law needs and requirements is not a very demanding task and could be accomplished rather quickly. Therefore, it kindly requested the Expert Group on the common CIM/SMGS consignment note that took place on 12 and 13 July 2017 organized by CIT and OSJD to undertake and accomplish this task.

The Group may wish to continue discussions on this issue and decide the list of documents that should be used and their content/structure.

4. Possible next steps of the work on Unified Railway Law

ITC during its seventy-eighth session requested the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to report the results of the Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law work, as well as to suggest possible next steps of the work on Unified Railway Law at its seventy-ninth session (2017) for its consideration and approval.

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss and exchange views on the possible next steps of the work on Unified Railway Law and provide some recommendations for consideration by SC.2 in November 2017.

5. Other business

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

6. Date of next session

Sessions of the Group of Expert are not foreseen to allow SC.2, at its forthcoming session on 27-29 November 2017, to consider the progress made and provide guidance on possible future activities of the Group of Experts, as appropriate, for approval by the ITC in February 2018.

7. Summary of decisions

In accordance with established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions taken. Following the session, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair, will draft the final report.
