



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs****Sixth session**

Geneva, 13–15 September 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Identification of the legal instrument or tool to be used for international railway passenger hub and draft the necessary legal provisions**Defining a legal instrument: Proposed amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines****Submitted by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

This document has been prepared in accordance with the decision at the fourth meeting of the Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2022/7, paragraph 22). It provides a list of amendments that the Group may wish to consider to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.4). This document is based on document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2022/10 and comments received following the fourth and fifth sessions of the Group including from the United Nations Treaty Section.

II. Possible amendments**1. In the Preamble, *replace***

Considering that, in order to strengthen relations between European countries, it is essential to lay down a co-ordinated plan for the development and construction of railway lines adjusted to the requirements of future international traffic.

With

Considering that, in order to strengthen relations between European countries, it is essential to lay down a co-ordinated plan for the development and construction of railway lines and stations adjusted to the requirements of future international traffic.



2. After Article 3, insert

Article 3bis

1. The Contracting Parties adopt the proposed International Railway Passenger Hubs Network as described in annex III to this Agreement, as a co-ordinated plan for the harmonized provision of passenger services in key stations of major international importance.

2. The International Railway Passenger Hubs Network consists of a system of railway passenger stations of international importance. An International Railway Passenger Hub is a rail station on the network identified in annex I that provides passengers with connections to international destinations and can connect to national rail services, to other Hubs and to the services delivered by other modes.

3. International Railway Passenger Hubs are established to facilitate international rail travel through the provision of common services and facilities to passengers and operators.

Article 3ter

International Rail Passenger Hubs as referred to in Article 3bis conform to the characteristics set out in annex IV to this Agreement or will be brought into conformity with the provisions of this annex in future improvement work to be carried out in conformity with national programmes.”

3. in Article 12, replace

1. Annex II to this agreement may be amended by the procedure specified in this article.

2. At the request of a Contracting Party, any amendment proposed by it to annex II to this Agreement shall be considered by the Working Party on Rail Transport of the Economic Commission for Europe.

With

1. Annexes II, III and IV to this agreement may be amended by the procedure specified in this article.

2. At the request of a Contracting Party, any amendment proposed by it to annexes II, III and IV to this Agreement shall be considered by the Working Party on Rail Transport of the Economic Commission for Europe.

4. After Annex II, insert

Annex III – International Railway Passenger Hubs Network

[Text included in the annex to ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2023/9]

Annex IV – Technical parameters for International Railway Passenger Hubs of international importance

[Text included in the annex to ECE/TRANS/SC.2/HUBS/2023/10]

