

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
23 August 2022

English only

Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Special session**

Geneva, 7 September 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the special session^{*}, ^{**}**

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Salle XXIV
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 7 September 2022

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
2. Consultation on Unified Railway Law.
3. Chair summary.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. Documentation will not be available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the website <https://unece.org/info/Transport/Rail-Transport/events/369698>. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (sc.2@un.org).

** Delegates are requested to register online at the following address:
<https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=JgzP6D>.
Participation is possible both virtually and in-person. To take part in the session in-person, delegates are kindly requested to additionally register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1002427/>.
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) or by email (sc.2@un.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website:
<https://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.



II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Provisional agenda

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

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/239

2. Consultation on Unified Railway Law

At its seventy-fifth session, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) agreed to hold consultations on Unified Railway Law (URL) until its seventy-sixth session in November 2022. SC.2 also requested its Chair to manage these consultations.

The Chair initiated the consultations in writing by inviting all countries who signed the Joint declaration towards URL in 2013 to fill out a simple questionnaire on the development of URL.

As of the time of preparation of this agenda, 20 countries and 3 other entities have returned completed questionnaires in which they shared their views with regard to the following:

- (i) Favoured approach to the development of URL;
- (ii) Benefits or lack of benefits to the freight transport industry carrying goods between Europe and Asia from the availability of the Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail (CCICGR) as a possible first Convention of a system of URL;
- (iii) Benefits from unifying other laws such as wagon law, infrastructure law, etc. to the industry involved in freight transport between Europe and Asia, or preconditions required to endorse the efforts necessary to unify these other laws;
- (iv) Provisions in draft CCICGR which cannot be accepted; and
- (v) Provisions in existing COTIF and SMGS rail legal regimes conflicting CCICGR adoption.

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/3 summarizes and compiles the views provided.

The Working Party is invited to discuss the views shared in the written consultations in particular with focus on views where additional clarification may be necessary to the discussion on the URL development.

The Working Party may also wish to request countries and other entities who did not participate in the written consultations to share their views on the development of URL and especially on the issues (i) to (v) listed above.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/3

3. Chair summary

The Chair with support of the secretariat will summarize the discussions and views shared under item 2, so that they can be integrated into ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/3 on the summary of consultations on URL to be submitted to the seventy-sixth session of the Working Party. This document would then serve as a basis for further discussion by the Working Party at its seventy-sixth session on the development of URL and, if found appropriate, for taking a decision on the way forward on URL.

III. Tentative Timetable

Wednesday, 7 September	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Items 1 and 2
Wednesday, 7 September	2.30-4.30 p.m.	Items 2 cont'd and 3
