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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventy-ninth session

Geneva, 12–14 November 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-ninth session*, **

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Wednesday, 12 November 2025

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workshop: “Making liberalisation work for passengers and freight – challenges and opportunities”.
3. Towards Unified Railway Law in the Pan-European Region and Euro-Asian Transport Corridors:
 - (a) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Rail;
 - (b) Next steps on Unified Railway Law.
4. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines.
5. The Revision Committee of the Model Rules for the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock.
6. Passenger Information in Stations and Hubs.
7. Euro-Asian Rail Transport.
8. Trans-European Railway Project.

* 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/398308>. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (sc.2@un.org).

** Participation is possible only in person. Delegates are requested to register online at the following address: <https://indico.un.org/event/1012005/>. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should present their digital badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate Pavilion (14, Avenue de la Paix), opened on weekdays from 8.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (+41 22 917 4030) or by email (sc.2@un.org). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.



9. Rail Security.
10. Innovation in Rail Transport.
11. Productivity in Rail Transport.
12. Climate Change and Rail Transport.
13. Railway Reform and Review.
14. Facilitation of International Rail Transport in the Pan-European Region.
15. Rail Statistics.
16. Improving Safety in Rail Transport.
17. Activities of the Inland Transport Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies.
18. Activities of the European Commission in Rail Transport.
19. Activities of International Organizations in Rail Transport.
20. Programme of Work for 2026–2027.
21. Election of Officers.
22. Other Business.
23. Date and Venue of the Next Session.
24. Adoption of Decisions and Report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/252

2. Workshop: “Making liberalisation work for passengers and freight – challenges and opportunities”

The Working Party may wish to consider the workshop “Making liberalisation work for passengers and freight – challenges and opportunities”. Rail liberalisation has taken many different forms across the ECE region both for passenger and freight transport. This workshop aims to discuss the successes, failures, challenges and opportunities of liberalisation in order to make it successful and effective going forward for those member States that are yet to implement it and for those that are considering next steps. Member States, international organisations, industry associations and the rail sector will be invited to intervene and share their experiences in this area.

3. Towards Unified Railway Law in the Pan-European Region and on Euro-Asian Transport Corridors

(a) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Rail

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its seventy-seventh session, it adopted the Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail as a first Convention in a system of Unified Railway Law Conventions. The Convention was open for signature on 12 January 2024. The Working Party may wish to be informed on the status of the Convention and the dissemination activities of the secretariat. The Working Party is invited to consider documents ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/2 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/3 on the

operationalisation of the Convention and its long-term financing and decide on next steps for the Convention.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/3

(b) Next steps for Unified Railway Law

The Working Party may recall that at its last session it discussed next steps for Unified Railway Law based on document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/2. It asked the secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to send to member States and other interested stakeholders to gather further information on possible options going forward. The results of the analysis of the questionnaire are set out in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/4. The Working Party may wish to discuss the results and consider a way forward.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/4

4. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the secretariat about developments in relation to the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC). In particular, progress with agreed amendment modifications (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/3 and ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/11 and those relating to International Passenger Railway Hubs), innovations within the AGC and the map of the network.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.4

5. The Revision Committee to the Model Rules for the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the ongoing work of the Revisions Committee to the Model Rules for the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (SC.2/RC.1) and in particular the results of the Third Session of the Revision Committee and the implementation of the Model Rules. In particular, the Working Party may also wish to be informed about the results of the work of the Informal Group of Experts on digital aspects related to the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock which submitted a proposal to SC.2/RC.1 to amend the Model Rules. The Revisions Committee accepted this proposal as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/6 and requests that they be considered for adoption by the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/6

6. Passenger Information in Stations and Hubs

The Working Party may recall that at its seventy-seventh session it agreed to create a new Group of Experts on passenger information in stations and hubs (SC.2/INFO). The Working Party may wish to discuss progress to date (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/INFO/2025/5).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/INFO/2025/5

7. Euro-Asian Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, including work on corridor development and coordination.

8. Trans-European Railway Project

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities of 2025: the concrete results, the plan for subsequent years and the efforts to increase the number of participating countries. A written report (in English only) of the activities of TER can be found in Informal document WP.5 (2025) No. 1.

The Working Party may wish to review the results and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

9. Rail Security

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in rail security, including updates on the Rail Security Observatory and the ongoing collaboration with the International Union of Railways (UIC) on security matters. In particular, the Working Party may wish to be informed about progress with the joint UNECE-UIC Informal Expert Group on combatting human trafficking on the railways which is working towards developing recommendations for the railways in this field, based on the Special session of SC.2 held in 2024 on vulnerable rail users.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/245, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/5

10. Innovation in Rail Transport

In line with the ECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems, the Working Party continues work in this area.

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the results of the Special Session of SC.2 on the Digital Automated Coupler held on 9 May 2025. The Working Party may also wish to be informed about the rail innovation observatory.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/251

11. Productivity in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its last session, it requested that the secretariat to share the productivity questionnaire set out in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/6. This has not been possible in 2025 and will be done in 2026 for reporting at the eightieth session in 2026. The Working Party may wish to discuss other aspects of productivity under this agenda item.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/6

12. Climate Change and Rail Transport

The Working Party will be updated on the new ITC Strategy on Climate Change and how the work of the Working Party continues to be central to achieving the goals within it as discussed in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/7. This is also reflected in draft programme of work included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/7 and discussed under agenda item 20.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may recall that at its seventy-eighth session it discussed energy efficiency in the railways and asked the secretariat to send out the questionnaire included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/8 to gather relevant information on this topic. The Working Party may wish to discuss the results to date of this questionnaire.

The Working Party will also be updated on aspects of resilience in the railways and on other work of ITC in this area.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/7, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2024/8

13. Railway Reform and Review

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the developments on railway reform and related developments in the sector.

14. Facilitation of International Rail Transport in the Pan-European Region

The Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention on facilitating rail border crossings in the pan-European region. The Working Party may also wish to return to the discussion at the seventy-sixth session of SC.2 on the results of the questionnaire on annex 9 of the Harmonization Convention.

The Working Party may also wish to be informed about cooperation between International Organisations aimed at improving interoperability.

15. Rail Statistics

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the ongoing work in rail statistics and its relevance to the Working Party, in particular, about the work of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6).

16. Improving Safety in Rail Transport

In line with discussions at the seventy-third session of SC.2, the Working Party may also wish to discuss developments related to the Code of Practice on the Packing of Cargo Transport Units administered by the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24), including the joint SC.2-WP.24 session on the CTU Code held 16–17 December 2024.

17. Activities of the Inland Transport Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies

The Working Party will be informed about activities of ITC, its Bureau, subsidiary bodies and other United Nations organizations on matters of interest to the Working Party. The Working Party will also be informed about the progress and take-up of the Inland Transport and Trade Connectivity eLearning Platform – LearnITC.

18. Activities of the European Commission in Rail Transport

In line with standard practice, the Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of the European Commission (DG Move) in rail transport.

19. Activities of International Organizations in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of other international organizations and stakeholders in the field of rail transport.

20. Programme of Work for 2026–2027

The Working Party may wish to consider the draft programme of work for the period 2026–2027 set out in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/7.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2025/7

21. Election of Officers

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chair and possibly Vice-Chair(s) for its sessions in 2026 and 2027.

22. Other Business

The Working Party may wish to discuss other business.

23. Date and Venue of the Next Session

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 18 to 20 November 2026 in Geneva.

24. Adoption of Decisions and Report

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, paragraph 6) and established practice, the Chair will briefly summarize the decisions at the end of the session. If time allows, the report of the session will also be reviewed and adopted, if not, following the session, the Chair and Vice-Chair, in cooperation with the secretary, will draft a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.

III. Tentative Timetable

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|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Wednesday, 12 November | 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Items 1 and 2 |
| | 3–6 p.m. | Item 2 |
| Thursday, 13 November | 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Items 3–8 |
| | 3–6 p.m. | Items 9–15 |
| Friday, 14 November | 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Items 16–21 |
| | 3–6 p.m. | Items 22–24 |
