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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

(Fifty-third session, 6-8 October 1999,
agenda item 8 (a))

**FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN
INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT**

Note by the secretariat

In connection with this agenda item, it is recalled that, at its fifty-second session, the Working Party drafted a Resolution on the Reduction of the Border Stopping Time of Shuttle Trains in International Traffic, which was submitted to the ITC for adoption. The ITC, at its sixty-first session, feeling that the Working Party should supervise the implementation and monitoring of the resolution, approved a modified proposal and requested the Working Party to report at its next session on the progress made (TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 40 and ECE/TRANS/128, paras. 71-73 and Annex 1).

Based on the above decisions, the secretariat has prepared a draft proposal on the monitoring of the resolution on the reduction of border delay of shuttle trains in international traffic, reproduced below, which is submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

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Please note that the distribution of documentation for the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents other than Reports and Agendas will be numbered as follows: TRANS/SC.2/year/serial number. Reports, Agendas, resolutions and major publications will retain their previous numbering system (i.e. TRANS/SC.2/189).

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MONITORING OF THE ITC RESOLUTION ON THE REDUCTION OF BORDER STOPPING TIME OF SHUTTLE TRAINS IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

The ITC resolution No. 248 asks the Working Party to ensure its implementation and monitoring, and to report to the Committee on the progress made.

In order to put in place an effective monitoring system, the following approach is suggested:

- S Identification of existing shuttle trains (passenger and freight), on the AGC network. This list should be provided to the secretariat by the Governments for the forthcoming session, and include the routing, composition and schedule of the train (including scheduled stopping times at the borders).
 - S As the total number of shuttle trains may be too high for monitoring purposes, the secretariat will produce a representative, shortened list of shuttle trains, together with the concerned Governments. Eventually, this list could be produced by an *ad hoc* group.
 - S The secretariat will address the concerned Governments to provide monthly information on the following items for each shuttle train at each border crossing point:
 - S scheduled arrival and departure times;
 - S mean, maximum and minimum delay at arrival and departure;
 - S any relevant comments.
 - S The Governments will also be requested to report on any initiative to reduce stopping times for those shuttle trains at the borders at the next meeting of the Working Party.
 - S A first monitoring report should be available for consideration by the Working Party at its next meeting, so that the ITC could be informed on the progress made at its annual session in year 2001.
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Annex 1

**THE REDUCTION OF THE BORDER STOPPING TIME OF
SHUTTLE TRAINS IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC**

Resolution No. 248

adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 11 February 1999

The Inland Transport Committee,

Recalling the overall objective of transport policy to further efficient, coherent, balanced and flexible transport systems which meet the economic, social, environmental and safety requirements of ECE member Governments,

Stressing the increasing need to pursue the objective of sustainable transport development by means of promoting the use of environmentally sound modes of transport including the development of rail transport,

Conscious of the importance of the difficulties still encountered by rail transport at border crossings, which are detrimental to the free movement of passengers and goods,

Noting in this connection that state frontiers are gradually disappearing while rail frontiers are still difficult to cross,

Reaffirming the need to promote the facilitation of international rail transport, in particular, through the simplification and harmonization of administrative and technical border crossing procedures and documentation,

Underlining the importance of the work carried out by ECE aiming at the facilitation of border crossing in international rail traffic,

Noting with satisfaction the wide range of measures which have been applied by joint actions of railways and Governments to accelerate passenger and goods traffic by rail and the progress made due to these measures,

1. Appreciates the efforts made by Governments and railways to reduce, in particular, the delay of shuttle trains in passenger and goods traffic at borders;

2. Notes that, despite these efforts, substantial delay of shuttle trains at borders is still to be observed, which reduces considerably the competitiveness of rail transport in the transport market;

3. With the precise aim of improving the services offered by international rail transport and increasing the competitiveness of the rail sector

(a) Invites the ECE member Governments to intensify their efforts to

seek swiftly within the framework of their competence a solution to limit overall to 60 minutes (30 minutes for each of the neighbouring countries) the waiting time of shuttle trains at borders;

- (b) Also invites non-governmental international organizations specialized in the rail sector to encourage their member rail companies to do the same in the area of their competence;

4. Asks the Working Party to ensure the implementation and monitoring of the resolution, and to report to it on the progress made.
