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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings

Fifth session

Geneva, 15-16 June 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session^{1,2}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 15 June 2015

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Programme of Work:
 - (a) A review and analysis of the economic costs of level crossing accidents based on data provided by countries;

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp1.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (roadsafety@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² All delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail (roadsafety@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). 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 (ext.75716 or 72401). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

- (b) An evaluation and analysis of the safety performance of types of level crossings in UNECE member States and in selected non-UNECE member States such as Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa;
 - (c) A summary of good practices including education;
 - (d) A survey of prevailing national legislation and/or legal arrangements at level crossings;
 - (e) A survey of technology and technological solutions to improve safety at level crossings;
 - (f) Identification of the key causes and possible solutions related to human factors contributing to unsafe conditions at level crossings;
 - (g) Enforcement; and
 - (h) Development of a road/rail interface strategy with recommendations.
3. Other Business.
 4. Date and Place of Next Meeting.
 5. Adoption of the Report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Group of Experts (GE.1) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.1/9

2. Programme of Work

(a) A review and analysis of the economic costs of level crossing accidents based on data provided by countries

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 1 prepared by the subgroup comprised of Poland, United States of America (USA) and the European Railway Agency (ERA). The document contains the outcomes of the actions requested by GE.1 of this subgroup (listed below):

- To complete its analysis of the additional responses received from GE.1 members on national case studies and average or typical costs of level crossing accidents;
- Based on the information provided by these GE.1 members (if any following the Chair's request at the last session), to also analyse examples of policy decisions taken by Governments to improve the safety of level crossings where there was no compelling business case; and
- To summarize its findings to date, and to document the best practices in this area, with particular reference to the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) approaches, and the World Bank accident costs methodology.

Documentation

Informal document No. 1

(b) An evaluation and analysis of the safety performance of types of level crossings in UNECE member States and in selected non-UNECE member States such as Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 2 prepared by the subgroup comprised of France, Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), Community Safety Partnerships Ltd, European Railway Agency (ERA) and the International Union of Railways (UIC). The document contains the outcomes of the actions requested by this subgroup (listed below):

- To compile a list of the most suitable indicators of safety performance at level crossings taking account of existing approaches and data available in UNECE countries, and to propose the most appropriate benchmarking indicators globally;
- To identify and recommend an appropriate body or organization to collect and host the proposed indicators of safety performance at level crossings; and
- To analyse the data collected by the subgroup to date in UNECE countries including Canada and the USA, and in select non-UNECE countries such as Australia and New Zealand about the safety performance of different types of level crossings.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

(c) A summary of good practices including education

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 3 prepared by the subgroup comprised of Finland and India. The document contains the outcomes of the actions requested by GE.1 of this subgroup (listed below):

- To circulate a table of good practices to GE.1 members and seek their feedback on types of safety improvements or good practices which have been shown to provide incremental improvement in safety levels;
- To seek information on the projects being undertaken by the UK and USA as mentioned at the last session in relation to educating to reduce the risks at level crossings, and the installation of low cost gate barriers respectively; and
- To complete the table of good practices, using information provided by GE.1 members, the UK and USA.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3

(d) A survey of prevailing national legislation and/or legal arrangements at level crossings

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 4 prepared by the subgroup comprised of Russian Federation, ERA and Instytut Kolejnictwa (Poland). The document contains the outcomes of the actions requested by GE.1 of this subgroup (listed below):

- To compile a list of good practices on national legislation including on the aspects of road speed limits and ITS communication requirements based on the information provided by GE.1 members;

- Based on the information provided by these GE.1 members (if any following the Chair's request at the last session), to also compile a list of what is or is not working well in Finland, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, UK and USA, as well as to identify important gaps in their national legislation; and
- To further consider and identify relevant amendments to the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals, the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic, and the Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic (which could be provided to GE.2 or WP.1 depending on the timing of finalization of the work of GE.1).

Documentation

Informal document No. 4

(e) A survey of technology and technological solutions to improve safety at level crossings

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 5 prepared by the subgroup comprised of NICTA Victoria and the Russian Federation. The document analyses the information provided by UNECE member States in response to the questionnaire circulated by the secretariat on behalf of GE.1 in June 2014, and proposes next steps.

Documentation

Informal document No. 5

(f) Identification of the key causes and possible solutions related to human factors contributing to unsafe conditions at level crossings

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 6 prepared by the subgroup comprised of Austria, German Aerospace Center and Cognito Ltd. The document contains the outcomes of the actions requested by GE.1 of this subgroup (listed below):

- To provide a summary of its findings to date, including a list of the gaps in the research on human factors, and to the extent possible, to document the draft toolbox that has been developed to date.

Documentation

Informal document No. 6

(g) Enforcement

GE.1 will consider Informal document No. 7 prepared by the subgroup comprised of the UK and France. The document contains the outcomes of the actions requested by GE.1 of this subgroup (listed below):

- To complete its analysis of all responses from the second - more detailed – questionnaire received after the last session; and
- To further analyse the effectiveness of enforcement on user behaviour.

Documentation

Informal document No. 7

(h) Development of a road/rail interface strategy with recommendations

As GE.1 noted at its last session, a road/rail interface strategic report would flow from the completion of the work of the subgroups in relation to items 2(a) to 2(g) above.

Based on the work of the subgroups as well as the discussion at the present session, the Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will provide information on the next steps for the preparation of the strategic report with recommendations.

3. Other Business

The UK will present Informal document No. 8 on risk assessment.

GE.1 may also wish to discuss other issues of interest.

Documentation

Informal document No. 8

4. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The sixth session of GE.1 will be held on 5-6 November 2015 in Geneva.

5. Adoption of the Report

GE.1 will adopt the report of its fifth session.
