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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Seventy-ninth session

Geneva, 21-24 February 2017

Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda

**Strategic questions of a modal and thematic nature:**

**Rail transport**

## **Inland Transport Committee Resolution on International Rail Passenger Traffic on the route East-West\***

**Resolution No. 264**

**Revision**

**Note by the secretariat**

### *Summary*

The Committee at its seventy eighth annual session had invited its Working Parties to consider preparing resolutions for adoption on the occasion of the Committee's seventieth anniversary on topics that are important for their work and had expressed its wish that these Inland Transport Committee (ITC) resolutions would then be presented at the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2017 (ECE/TRANS/254, para. 149). In response to this invitation, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) adopted this resolution (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/226). The Committee **considered and adopted** this Resolution and was invited to **present** it at the sixty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2017.

\* The present document is being issued without formal editing, as agreed upon by the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/226).

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*The Inland Transport Committee,*

*Recalling* the main objectives of its decision during its seventy-eighth session requesting the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to hold a high-level conference concerning the current situation in, and taking a holistic approach on, international rail passenger traffic on the route East-West,

*Recalling further* the conclusions and recommendations discussed and proposed during the high-level workshop organized during the seventieth session of SC.2 on 22 November 2016 in order to increase rail passenger traffic on the route East-West,

*Invites* Governments to take efficient measures in order to support and improve international rail passenger traffic and cover passengers' needs for such services,

*Being conscious* that different legal regimes for passengers traffic by rail as well as insufficient cooperation among the railway undertakings on single services, time schedules, competitive and transparent tariffs on the route East-West increases costs, further decreases international rail passenger traffic, reduces competitiveness and impedes the development of effective rail transport operations and efficient railway business,

*Being conscious* that a competitive level playing field should be ensured among all transport modes,

*Convinced* that long distance East-West rail passenger traffic may significantly increase, if faster, reliable, seamless, affordable and high quality rail passenger services are developed,

*Aware* that globalization, railways reform and opening of transport markets provide railways with new options to reach out to transcontinental traffic and to turn East-West transport market opportunities into rail business,

*Aware* of the challenges posed by rail transport safety and security and taking account of the technical differences that should not become barriers to the development of East-West rail passenger transport,

*Welcoming* the work undertaken and draft Convention prepared by the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) secretariat and informal Group of Experts on a new convention concerning the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail by taking into consideration good practices already implemented as well as comments, amendment proposals and suggestions prepared by all interested in this Convention stakeholders and competent bodies,

*Taking note* of the work undertaken by the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), the Committee of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) secretariats on legal interoperability between the Uniform Rules concerning the Contract for International Carriage of Passengers by Rail (COTIF-CIV), the Agreement on International Passenger Transport by Rail (SMPS) and the Rail passenger rights in the EU (Regulation 1371/2007/EC (PRR)) which would enable a better understanding of the state of art for better contractual solutions and possible future approximation of legal provisions and therefore:

*Invites* Railway Undertakings along the East-West route to cooperate on a regular basis in order to envisage, design and establish rail passenger services by agreeing single services, time schedules, competitive and transparent tariffs and itineraries,

*Proposes* that Governments of interested countries more actively attract mechanisms of Government support to preserve International rail passenger transport services by improving their regulatory framework conditions,

*Suggests* to Governments on the basis of profound market analysis of passenger traffic to apply the principles of economic responsibility in carrying out international traffic,

Following decision taken during the seventieth session of SC.2 on the road map towards finalization of the new convention concerning the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail, *invites* interested countries to take action and finalize the draft Convention as well as to inform the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat for their willingness to sign and ratify this new Convention when finalized,

*Invites* the UNECE secretariat to provide its good offices to facilitate such endeavors in particular to address on a regular basis in SC.2 agenda the topic of international rail passenger traffic,

*Requests* the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to report progress on the above mentioned issues as well as to suggest possible next steps of the efforts on increasing international rail passenger traffic along the East-West route at the eighty-first session (2019) of the Inland Transport Committee for its consideration and approval.

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