



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Seventy-sixth session**

Geneva, 16–18 November 2022

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Towards Unified Railway Law in the Pan-European Region
and on Euro-Asian Transport Corridors****Proposal for a decision on agenda item 2 – Towards Unified
Railway Law in the Pan-European Region and on
Euro-Asian Transport Corridors****Submitted by Austria, Belgium, Germany and Slovenia**

Austria, Belgium, Germany and Slovenia recommend the following decision:

1. SC.2 commends the Chair and the secretariat for managing the consultations of ECE Member States and other stakeholders such as OSJD and OTIF, as agreed upon at its seventy-fifth session.
2. SC.2 takes note of the results of the consultations presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/3, in particular of the fact that an overwhelming majority of the respondents advocated developing Unified Railway Law through Approach A (as described in paragraph 3 of that document). SC.2 recalls that Approach A envisages the creation of unified rules for rail transport on Euro-Asian corridors in areas where they are urgently needed by the industry – i.e. the contract of carriage – while leaving unaffected the two existing rail organizations and the legal rules applicable for the transport of goods within their respective territories (interface law). It aims to fill a gap in international rail regulations where neither CIM nor SMGS rules apply over the entire journey.
3. Against this background, SC.2 decides to select Approach A for the development of Unified Railway Law, and therefore decides to finalize the text of the Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail on the basis of the draft text reproduced in the Note issued by the Secretariat “Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail as a first Convention of a system of Unified Railway Law Conventions” (document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2021/3). Issues to address should include:
 - (i) whether to include provisions on negotiable documents based on those contained in the Note; and
 - (ii) provisions for an appropriate management system.
4. The process of finalization shall be managed by the Chair with support of the secretariat.