

THE 2001 CAPE TOWN CONVENTION  
ON INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS IN MOBILE EQUIPMENT



## INSIDE TRACK



“Inside Track” keeps RWG members and colleagues up to date on the progress of the Luxembourg Protocol. You can be added onto the mailing list by clicking on “subscribe” at the bottom of the newsletter.

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### **CTC seminar at Strathmore University in Nairobi**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October Strathmore University, Law School in Nairobi, Kenya hosted a conference on the Cape Town Convention, the Rail Protocol and the proposed MAC Protocol focusing on the legal and economic benefits for African states, international trade and development. Speakers included Professor Ignacio Tirado, Secretary General, UNIDROIT, Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary General, UNIDROIT, Galetlolwe Semenya, Senior Manager, PRASA, Soteri Gatera, Chief of Industrialisation and Infrastructure at the Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballel, Professor of Commercial Law, University Carlos III, Madrid, Howard Rosen, Chairman of the Rail Working Group and a number of leading international academics and legal experts.

### **Presentation to the UN ECE**

RWG chairman Howard Rosen will be leading a delegation to the Working Party on Rail Transport of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) taking place in Geneva, between 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019. On 26<sup>th</sup> November he will be making a presentation to delegates on the Luxembourg Protocol and the Working Party will also be considering a request from Luxembourg to establish a group of experts to look at the protocols for permanently identifying rolling stock (see **Topic of the month** below).

### **RWG at the OECD**

The RWG has once again been invited to attend the annual Export Credits Forum between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Members of the OECD's Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees and the participants to the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits (i.e. export credit agencies). The forum will take place in Paris on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019. If you are a member of the RWG and would like to be part of its delegation to this meeting, please contact us as soon as possible at [info@railworkinggroup.org](mailto:info@railworkinggroup.org).

### **Annual General Meeting 2020**

Our next Annual General Meeting will take place in Brussels, Belgium on 7th April 2020. Further information will follow. We are planning a private dinner the night before for our members.

### **Renato de Castro becomes a new adviser to the RWG**

We are pleased to announce that Renato de Castro has joined Barbara Mommen and Richard Shaw as a member of the RWG Advisory Group. Renato is very well known as a leading expert on smart cities. More about Renato [here](#).

### **Topic of the month: What do we mean by “permanent”?**

The ability uniquely to identify railway rolling stock is critical for the effective operation of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol. But unique identification is becoming increasingly important commercially, for example facilitating tracking of the status and location of equipment in real time, predictive maintenance programmes and more efficient accident analysis for liability and insurance.

Article XIV of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol requires that the unique identifier is “affixed” to the rolling stock directly or associated in the international registry with an identifier “affixed” to the rolling stock. The latest draft of the regulations set out a new global unique identification system for all railway rolling stock system known as the Unique Rail Vehicle Identification System or URVIS. They state that: "URVIS identifier" means, in respect of an item of railway rolling stock, the unique, 16-digit identification number allocated in accordance the regulations. However so far there are no technical guidelines as to how the identifier is "affixed". Logically this identifier must be affixed in a way which is permanent or if it needs to be replaced, for example as a result of damage, the conditions for a "safe" replacement will need to be specified.

Clearly painted numbers will be unsatisfactory because they are not permanent and can be obscured or painted over. In the past the obvious permanent marker would have been either a metal plate glued or welded onto the equipment or a stamp on the chassis somewhere. But technology moves on. Now it could be a box containing RFID chips or other electronic devices fixed permanently to the wagon. There also need to be protocols governing the size of the identifier(s) and its ability to be read by human agents with or without electronic machines, the accessibility of information if it is stored electronically in a box permanently affixed to the rolling stock or in the cloud if the information is accessible through the Internet using, for example, a QR code on the rolling stock. And who should have access to this information? Should it be open or limited access? Moreover, any protocols would need sufficient flexibility to take into account technological developments in the coming years.

Hopefully these issues will be considered by the Working Party on Rail Transport of the Inland Transport Committee of the UNECE in Geneva in late November. There are no instant answers on these issues; they will need to be considered by a committee of experts to ensure that any marking of rolling stock will be easy, cost-effective and efficient - but in all cases permanent.

### **Save the date – Middle East Rail Conference, Dubai, 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The largest Rail Conference and Exhibition across the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia & Central Asia is taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre, UAE. For more information click [here](#).



### **Save the date - The Rise of IoT & Big Data in Rail, Munich, 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

The Rise of IoT & Big Data in Rail 2020 two-day conference will explore the huge breadth of both the predictive maintenance as well as the asset optimisation applications of big data, allowing Infrastructure Managers and Train Operating Companies to understand fully how they can benefit from setting in place the tools to harvest data from across the whole of their railway operations. RWG members have a 15% discount on the registration fee. To register please contact [ben.holliday@rotaiamedia.com](mailto:ben.holliday@rotaiamedia.com)



### **Save the date – Africa Rail, Johannesburg, 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

Africa's largest rail exhibition & conference will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa on 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. For more information click [here](#).



### **Save the date – Scandinavian Rail Optimisation, Stockholm 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

This is a high-level business event Rotaia Media is organising. Scandinavian Rail Optimisation is taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 in Stockholm at the Brewery Conference Center. RWG members have a 15% discount on the registration fee. To register please contact [ben.holliday@rotaiamedia.com](mailto:ben.holliday@rotaiamedia.com)

### **Subscription discount for RWG members for “Railways Africa”**

Rail Working Group members are entitled to purchase the South African online publication “[Railways Africa](#)” at 25% discount of R6500 - place promo code *railworkinggroup2019* when checking out. The code expires at the end of 2019.

### **“The Railway Market in Africa and the Middle East” – special offer for members**

SCI Verkehr, has published a study on the market for railway technology products and services in Africa and the Middle East. Rail Working Group members are entitled to purchase the study at a 10% discount if you state your membership during the order process. To place an order click [here](#).

### **Fourth Edition of the Official Commentary on the Cape Town Convention and the Aircraft Protocol just published**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Professor Sir Roy Goode's commentary on the Cape Town Convention and the Aircraft Protocol has just been published. Of course, many of the comments there apply equally to the Luxembourg Rail Protocol. RWG members are entitled to a 15% discount and you will see the application form [here](#).

### **Official Commentary on the Luxembourg Rail Protocol - special deal for RWG members**

Rail Working Group members are entitled to purchase Professor Goode's official commentary on the Luxembourg Rail Protocol at a 15% discount. If you wish to use this facility, please use the official form which you can find [here](#).

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For information about membership of the RWG click [here](#).

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