

The IGC met in London on 12 July 2018 under UK Chairmanship where it dealt with the following subjects:

Brexit

The IGC noted the publication of the UK Government's White Paper on the UK's future relationship with the EU, which introduced two key issues, the introduction of a common rulebook and continued harmonisation with EU law, which would impact on the Channel Tunnel. Both delegations have been in contact with the European negotiators with the aim of maintaining a rapid flow of traffic in the tunnel, once the UK ceases to be a member of the European Union.

ElecLink

The IGC reiterated its commitment to the success of this project and noted the encouraging work being carried out at the working group level. The Safety Authority reported on the progress being made by Eurotunnel to assess and control risk through the design, installation and operation of the proposed interconnector. It was noted, however, that further work was required to satisfy the IGC that all safety and security obligations had been met.

Amsterdam Service

The IGC discussed ongoing issues around quadripartite discussions to resolve border control arrangements and security requirements aimed at facilitating a direct service between Amsterdam and London. It was informed that a Letter of Intent relating to the required quadripartite agreement was due to be signed that imminently by Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the UK.

Authorisations

The IGC was advised on progress with the assessment of the application from GB Railfreight for the renewal of its Part B safety certificate, which was due to expire on 2 August 2018.

Eurotunnel study on trade flows

Eurotunnel gave a presentation to the IGC on a recent study produced by Ernst & Young regarding the flow of goods through the tunnel, highlighting the level of use, the significance of this traffic for the economies of a number of European countries and the speed and ease of using the tunnel. The IGC welcomed this important contribution to the understanding of the role of the Channel Tunnel in the wider European economy.

Annual performance meeting

After the plenary meeting, the IGC held its annual performance meeting with Eurotunnel and train operators to review issues around operational performance data for 2017 and the scope of Channel Tunnel related safety and environmental key performance indicators.