

The IGC met in Paris on 11 October 2018 under UK Chairmanship where it dealt with the following subjects:

Brexit

The IGC noted that binational meetings were being held to identify specific issues relating to the Fixed Link and potential scenarios on how they may be resolved. The new Head of the French IGC delegation, who is also the French governmental coordinator for Brexit, provided an update to those present, including Eurotunnel, outlining the Brexit position from a French political perspective. He emphasised the specific measures that need to be taken to ensure continuity of cross-channel traffic flows.

The UK Department for Transport reported that work was underway to ensure, in the event of a hard Brexit, that relevant legislation remained fit for purpose in respect of the Channel Tunnel.

ElecLink

The Safety Authority updated the IGC on the progress being made by Eurotunnel at the Project to assess and control risk through the design, installation and operation of the proposed interconnector, noting that further work was still required to provide assurance that all safety and security obligations had been met.

Pagodas

The IGC noted Eurotunnel's decision to reinstate four pagodas to each WBN and Arbel wagon and its intuition to submit a safety dossier supporting this view. The CTSA requested that Eurotunnel complete this work at the earliest opportunity and, in the meantime, maintain the other safety measures it had established on the terminals.

Safety Certificates and Authorisations

The IGC noted the renewal of that GB Railfreight's Part B safety certificate and was advised that Eurotunnel's safety authorisation expired in April 2019. Eurotunnel was requested to ensure that the application for its renewed authorisation be submitted in good time to allow appropriate assessment.

New London to Amsterdam service

It was noted that work being undertaken to develop a new quadripartite treaty and binational agreements, required to facilitate the direct return service from Amsterdam, was progressing satisfactorily. Eurostar reported that the launch of the new service had been a success even without a direct return element being in place at the present time.

Mid-life overhaul of Eurotunnel Shuttles

Eurotunnel's proposals to carry out a mid-life refurbishment of its passenger shuttle was discussed and Eurotunnel was asked to submit an initial overall analysis for the project which took account of the requirements of the EU Safety Directive.

IGC Annual Safety Report

Subject to a few drafting changes to be agreed, the IGC approved the submission of its Annual Safety Report for 2017 to the EU Agency for Railways.