

The IGC met in London on 24 February 2020, chaired by the head of the French delegation, and dealt with the following points:

ElecLink

The IGC noted that the examination of the safety dossier submitted by Eurotunnel on 21 November 2019 is progressing satisfactorily, in particular, with regards to the additional structuring requested by the CTSA, and the 'issues log' of open recommendations has been found to be particularly useful by all the parties.

The safety dossier, although declared admissible by the CTSA, nevertheless remains incomplete. Additional information, necessary to fully examine the dossier, will be required before a decision can be made regarding the possible reinstatement of consent before the cable can be pulled through the tunnel.

Brexit - transition period

Having withdrawn from the European Union on 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom is currently in a transition period, which will end on 31 December 2020. During this period, the principal States will continue their work and exercise their jurisdictions in the current configuration of the IGC.

Although the workings and jurisdictions currently exercised by the IGC may change, the principal States wish to reassert the importance of the Treaty of Canterbury and the Concession Agreement that underpin relations between the United Kingdom and France.

It is essential to maintain a unified management framework within the tunnel so as not to hinder the smooth flow of traffic and thus not harm the commercial relations that depend on it.

Binat

The binational crisis simulation exercise, known as Binat 30, was held during the night of 17 to 18 January 2020 and was led by the French delegation. The scenario of the exercise related to passenger management procedures in the event of a terrorist attack in the Tunnel, a scenario that extended from the one simulated the previous year.

The CTSA is awaiting a date for a joint meeting dedicated to hearing feedback, therefore, no conclusions are available at the present time.

Direct links between Amsterdam and London

The inaugural return service, open to the press, travelled on 4 February 2020, in the presence of the UK Secretary of State for Transport and the Home Office Minister for immigration following a ceremony at St Pancras station.

The signing of quadripartite agreements on security and border control procedures, necessary for the smooth running of these services, is currently planned to take place in March 2020.

Eurostar will be selling tickets for direct journeys from 30 April 2020.