

The IGC met in Paris under French chairmanship on 7 December 2017 and dealt with the following subjects:

ElecLink

The IGC thanked Eurotunnel for its firm commitment to carry out a thorough assessment of the safety aspects of the ElecLink project. The Safety Authority had undertaken to play a supportive role in enabling this work to be delivered, in co-operation with MMRA, ElecLink's designated risk assessment body. It was noted that MMRA had also been commissioned to certify the quality of the risk mitigation measures taken relating to security aspects of the project.

Regulation of the Fixed Link

The IGC held an information exchange meeting on 6 December with the two national economic regulators, ARAFER and ORR. They had identified several subjects of mutual interest, especially the monitoring of Eurotunnel's performance as infrastructure manager.

Project for a new Amsterdam-London service

Liaison continued in the Hague, on 9 November, between the ministerial representatives of the four countries concerned (Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom). The IGC informed the Eurostar representatives that the governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are working towards signing an interim bilateral agreement on the subject of border controls. The IGC will continue to monitor the establishment of security controls across the new route.

Authorisation to run rolling stock

The IGC informed Eurostar of its intention to authorise the Velaro e320/class 374 type 2 trains (equipped with ERTMS) to run through the tunnel. This was subsequently confirmed by letter dated 11 December 2017.

Follow-up of January 2015 fire and catenary incidents

The IGC was presented with an analysis of whether a number of recommendations from the Gressier-Gibb report on the fire detectors and public information could be closed. With regard to communication with passengers in emergencies, the IGC was pleased to learn that the project for a joint Eurotunnel-Eurostar message library had made progress and that the end-result of this work should be confirmed in the first quarter of 2018.