

## Items for decision under silence procedure

### Remote informal meeting of member States of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, 20 May 2020

Documentation referenced in the below draft decisions is available under <http://www.unece.org/info/about-unece/executive-committee-excom/meetings/2020/remote-informal-meeting-of-members-of-excom-20-may-2020.html>.

<b>Decision No.</b>	
<b>Agenda item 2 - Chair's conclusions from the 109th meeting</b>	
Document <a href="#">Conclu109</a>	
No. 3	The conclusions are adopted.
<b>Agenda item 3 - Update on Special Procedures during COVID-19 period</b>	
EXCOM approves the arrangements for various UNECE subsidiary bodies to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period as contained in informal documents 2020/17, 2020/18, 2020/19/Corr.1, 2020/20, 2020/21, 2020/22.	
<b>Extension of EXCOM Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period</b>	
Informal document 2020/17	
No. 4	<p>In light of the continuing exceptional circumstances triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account the decision on Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period taken by EXCOM on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Authorizes the Chair of the Commission to continue using the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period for taking decisions of the Executive Committee until 31 July 2020;</li><li>2. Requests the Secretariat to continue exploring possible solutions to the issue of interpretation in remote meetings in accordance with Rules of procedure 18 and 19, with a view of proposing solutions to the membership as soon as possible;</li><li>3. Underlines that these arrangements are exceptional and time-limited and requests the Secretariat to report back to EXCOM on their implementation throughout the COVID-19 situation.</li></ol>

<b>Decision No.</b>	
<p><b>Arrangements for the UNECE Inland Transport Committee subsidiary bodies to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period</b> Informal document 2020/18</p>	
No. 5	<p>Further to the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Takes note that the Bureau of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) has decided to approve, where Chairs of ITC subsidiary bodies deem it necessary, the convening of informal consultations of ITC subsidiary bodies during the period where the Special Procedures apply, to allow them to discuss matters of crucial importance for the continuity of their work under the exceptional circumstances triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic;</li> <li>2. Authorizes the Chairs of the relevant subsidiary bodies to circulate recommendations on decisions to the members of those subsidiary bodies on business-critical issues resulting from these informal consultations, through the Permanent Missions in Geneva, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5;</li> <li>3. Notes that, if the silence is not broken, the recommendations shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the 83rd session of ITC for consideration, as appropriate.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Arrangements for business-critical decisions in order to ensure the continued governance of UN/CEFACT during the COVID-19 period.</b> Informal document 2020/19/Corr.1</p>	
No. 6	<p>Further to the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Takes note that the Plenary of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) held informal consultations on 4-5 May 2020 to discuss business critical decisions that would have been taken at its twenty-sixth session originally scheduled 4-5 May 2020, which was postponed due to mitigating measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic;</li> <li>2. Authorizes the Chair of UN/CEFACT to circulate drafts of seven independent business-critical decisions, agreed upon at this informal consultation and contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours through the country Heads of Delegation of the UN/CEFACT Plenary and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5;</li> </ol>

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	3. If the silence is not broken, the decisions shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the next formal session of EXCOM for consideration. Further, the decisions will be reported back to the twenty-sixth session of UN/CEFACT.
<b>Arrangements for the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period</b>	
Informal document 2020/20	
No. 7	<p>Further to the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee</p> <p>1. Takes note that the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships has decided that the Committee will hold consultations by written procedure of no more than one month to discuss its inter-sessional implementation plan for 2020-2021 in order to ensure the continuity of the work of the Committee under the exceptional circumstances triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, and</p> <p>2. Authorizes the Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships to circulate a draft decision on the inter-sessional implementation plan 2020-2021, incorporating the results of the above written procedure, to the members of the Committee, through the Permanent Missions in Geneva, for adoption under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5.</p> <p>3. If the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted and will be submitted, together with any comments received from delegations for record purposes, to the 14th session of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships in 2021 for consideration, as appropriate.</p>
<b>Arrangements for business-critical decisions in order to ensure the continued governance of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards during the COVID-19 period</b>	
Informal document 2020/21	
No. 8	<p>Further to the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee:</p> <p>1. Takes note that the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards has decided to convene informal consultations of the Bureau of the Steering Committee and interested delegations on 29 and 30 June 2020 to discuss decisions of crucial importance for the continuity of the work of the Steering Committee under the exceptional circumstances triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic;</p> <p>2. Authorizes the Chair of the Steering Committee to circulate to delegations to the Steering Committee draft recommendations for business-critical decisions resulting from these informal consultations, through the Permanent Missions in Geneva, under a</p>

<b>Decision No.</b>	
	<p>silence procedure of at least 72 hours and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5;</p> <p>3. If the silence is not broken, the recommendations shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the next formal session of EXCOM for consideration. Further, the decisions will be reported back to the seventh session of the Steering Committee.</p>
<p><b>Arrangements for the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period</b> Informal document 2020/22</p>	
No. 9	<p>Further to the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Takes note that the Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) has decided to approve, where Chairs of CSE subsidiary bodies deem it necessary, the convening of informal consultations of CSE subsidiary bodies during the period where the Special Procedures apply, to allow them to discuss matters of crucial importance for the continuity of their work under the exceptional circumstances triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic;</li> <li>2. Authorizes the Chairs of the relevant subsidiary bodies to circulate recommendations to the members of those subsidiary bodies on business-critical issues resulting from these informal consultations, through the Permanent Missions in Geneva, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5;</li> <li>3. Notes that, if the silence is not broken, the recommendations shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the 29th session of CSE for consideration, as appropriate.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda item 4(b) - Decisions on matters relating to the Inland Transport Committee</b></p>	
<p>EXCOM approves the decisions as proposed in document ECE/EX/2020/L.1</p>	
No. 10	<p>The Executive Committee hereby approves the programme of work of the Transport subprogramme for 2020, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/2020/21.</p>
<p>EXCOM approves the decisions as proposed in document ECE/EX/2020/L. 2</p>	
No. 11	<p>The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandates of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals until 2020, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/294;</li> <li>(b) Group of Experts on Unified Railway Law until 2020, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/294.</li> </ol> <p>The Executive Committee hereby approves the establishment of:</p>

<b>Decision No.</b>	
	<p>(a) the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport until 2025, on the basis of the terms of reference included in document ECE/TRANS/2020/6, and working in English, French and Russian, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/294;</p> <p>(b) the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) until 2022 on the basis of the terms of reference included in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/9 and Corr.1, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/294;</p> <p>(c) the Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock until 2022 on the basis of the terms of reference included in document ECE/TRANS/2020/15, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/294.</p>
<b>Agenda item 6(b) - Decisions on matters relating to the possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.</b>	
EXCOM adopts the decision relating to the possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe as contained in ECE/EX/2020/L.3.	
No. 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noting the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and Co-Chair of Forest Europe of 10 June 2019 to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) conveying the Forest Europe Ministerial Decision on resuming the negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe for consideration and further action;</li> <li>2. Recalling the decision of the 106th meeting of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of 8 July 2019 that took note of the information provided on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and requested the secretariat to organize informal consultations to consider the matter further;</li> <li>3. Taking note of the informal consultations organized by the secretariat on 30–31 October 2019 and on 27–29 January 2020 and the lack of consensus on the proposed resumption of the negotiations on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe under ECE auspices serviced jointly by ECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).</li> <li>4. Requests the ECE Executive Secretary, in consultation with the FAO Director-General, to inform the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and Co-Chair of Forest Europe that ECE and FAO are not in a position to take any further action on the request made in the above-mentioned letter of 10 June 2019.</li> </ol>
<b>Agenda item 7 - Format and organizational aspects of the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)</b>	
No. 13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Taking note of General Assembly Resolution 73/195, para. 50, EXCOM mandates the UNECE to facilitate the collection of voluntary inputs by Member States, according to the Proposed Framework to assist Member States in the Organization of Regional</li> </ol>

<b>Decision No.</b>	
	<p>Reviews for the international cooperative framework on safe, orderly and regular migration, for onward transmission to IOM, while respecting the sovereignty and the different positions of the UNECE Member States.</p> <p>2. Substantive contributions to the regional review meeting by the UNECE secretariat will be provided within the limits of its mandate and activities in the area of migration (i.e. statistics).</p>
<b>Agenda item 9 - Resource mobilization strategy of the Economic Commission for Europe</b>	
Informal document 2020/27	
No. 14	<p>Having considered the UNECE resource mobilization strategy presented by the Secretariat under agenda item 9 of the remote informal meeting of the Members of EXCOM, 20 May 2020,</p> <p>Mindful of the critical need to mobilize additional resources for the UNECE activities, the Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decides to approve the ECE resource mobilisation strategy as contained in document 2020/27.</li> <li>• Encourages the Secretariat to implement the strategy and</li> <li>• Invites member States to continue supporting the UNECE by providing additional resources for its mandated activities, and</li> <li>• Requests the Secretariat to annually report on the implementation of the UNECE resource mobilisation strategy to the Executive Committee, through the Technical Cooperation report.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda item 12 - Extrabudgetary projects (for approval)</b>	
Informal documents 2020/29 – 2020/36	
No. 15	EXCOM approves the extrabudgetary projects contained in informal documents 2020/29, 2020/30, 2020/31, 2020/32, 2020/33, 2020/34, 2020/35, 2020/36.