Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

105th session
Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2010
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda
European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)
Amendments to the Agreement

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Note by the secretariat

1.   Since the last major amendment to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) it appeared that several provisions of the agreement could be improved to ease its enforcement or to better reflect the interest of stakeholders. For example, following lengthy and difficult debates the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) decided to include in its agenda for the 105th session the revision of article 22bis (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/388, para. 34).

2.   Other discussions took place in the Inland Transport Committee, where it was pointed out that the AETR should be open for accession by third countries that have developed international transport with Contracting Parties to AETR or plan to do so.

3.   On several occasions it was noticed that the procedures of amendment (article 21) are described in a very complicated, difficult to understand language. However, after consulting experts it appears that these clauses comply with the standard legal terminology.

4.   SC.1 may wish to consider the proposals drafted by the secretariat based on specific proposals made by governments or on previous remarks made in relevant fora.

5.   Proposals of amendments to the main body of the Agreement

Modify article 12, para. 5 to read as follows:

"5. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe **(UNECE)** shall issue a report every two years on the application by Contracting Parties of paragraph 1 of the present article."

This change is only needed for editorial purposes, as the full name of the organization appears for the first time in this article and the acronym is used further in the text, without having been explained.

Modify article 14, paragraph 1 to read as follows:

"1. This Agreement shall be open for signature until 31 March 1971 and thereafter for accession, by States members of the Economic Commission for Europe and States admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity under paragraph**s 8[1] and 11[2]**of the Commission's terms of reference."

Delete article 22 bis:

According to proposals transmitted by the Russian Federation and Ukraine the, goal outlined in the preamble to the AETR for all Contracting Parties, is to "develop provisions defining certain regulations of employment (job placement) and employment in international road transport in accordance with the principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and **jointly** take certain steps to ensure compliance with these provisions".

Article 22-bis of the AETR is in direct conflict with this task, as it introduces (into the AETR) provisions authorizing a group of Contracting Parties belonging to the European Union (EU) to take decisions without taking into account the views of all other Contracting Parties. Thus, non-EU member countries are denied:

(a)   the right to hold negotiations in order to find the most favourable conditions concerning the modification of the technical specifications of control devices;

(b)   the right to oppose the modifications introduced by the EU; and

(c)   the right to make counterpropositions.

Thus, article 22-bis is in violation of the principle of "sovereign equality" of countries that are not members of the EU and should be deleted from the AETR.

Modify article 22, paragraphs 1 and 2, to read as follows:

"1. Appendices ~~1 and 2~~ to the annex to this Agreement may be amended by the procedure specified in this article.

2. At the request of a Contracting Party, any amendments proposed to appendices ~~1 and 2~~ to the annex to this Agreement shall be considered by the ~~Principal~~ Working Party on Road Transport of the ~~Economic Commission for Europe~~ **UNECE**."

6.   Proposals of amendment to the Appendix 1B to the Annex of the AETR

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[1]   Paragraph 8: The Commission may admit in a consultative capacity **European nations not Members   of the United Nations**, and shall determine the conditions in which they may participate in its work, including the question of voting rights in the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

[2]   Paragraph 11: The Commission shall invite **any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission** to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

Modify part IV, requirement 172, to read as follows:

"172   the same words in the UNECE official languages, printed to form the background of the card (see models under 178):

En	Driver card	Control card	Workshop card	Company card
Fr	Carte de conducteur	Carte de contrôleur	Carte d'atelier	Carte d'entreprise
Ru	~~Карточка~~ **Карта** водителя	~~Карточка~~ **Карта** контролера	~~Карточка~~ **Карта** мастерской	~~Карточка~~ **Карта** предприятия

Modify part IV, requirement 114a, to read as follows:

"114a The display shall support the Latin1, and Greek and Cyrillic character sets defined by ISO 8859 parts 1, and 5 and 7, as specified in sub-appendix 1, Chapter 4 'Character sets'. The display may use simplified glyphs (e.g. accented characters may be displayed without accent or lower case letters may be shown as upper case letters)."

Modify part IV, requirement 133 a, to read as follows:

"133a The printer shall support the Latin1, ~~and~~ Greek **and Cyrillic** character sets defined by ISO 8859 parts 1, ~~and~~ **5 and** 7, as specified in sub-appendix 1, Chapter 4 'Character sets'".

Modify I. Introduction, 1.2 references, to insert a new reference as follows:

"[…]

ISO/IEC 8859-1 Information technology — 8 bit single-byte coded graphic character sets— - Part 1: Latin alphabet No.1. First edition: 1998.

ISO/IEC 8859-5, Information technology — 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets — Part 5: Latin/Cyrillic alphabet. First edition: 1988

ISO/IEC 8859-7 Information technology — 8 bit single-byte coded graphic character sets —Part 7: Latin/Greek alphabet. First edition: 1987.

[…]"

Modify sub-appendix 1, Chapter 4 'Character sets' to read as follows:

"4. Character sets

IA5Strings use the ASCII characters as defined by ISO/IEC 8824-1. For readability and for easy referencing the value assignment is given below. The ISO/IEC 8824-1 supersedes this informative note in case of discrepancy.

! " # $ % & ' ( ) * + , - . / 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; < = > ?

@ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\ ] ^ _

` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { | } ~

Other character strings (Address, Name, VehicleRegistrationNumber) use, in addition, the characters defined by the codes 192 to 255 of ISO/IEC 8859-1 (Latin1 character set), **ISO/IEC 8859-5 (Latin/Cyrillic character set)** or ISO/IEC 8859-7 (Greek character set)."