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Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Fourteenth session
Geneva, 20 February 2017

Report of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) on its fourteenth session

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I. Attendance

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its fourteenth session in Geneva on 20 February 2017, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Finland, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. The European Union (EU) was represented. Continental Automotive participated as an observer.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

4. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/34).

III. Programme of work (agenda item 2)

A. Development of proposals for amending the Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) Agreement, including Article 22bis

5. Experts discussed proposals to amend Article 22, Article 22bis, Article 10 as well as Article 14 (to make regional economic integration organizations eligible to accede) based on ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2.
6. The Russian Federation reiterated its presentation on a number of issues which it believed make the EU regulations 165/2014 and 2016/799 (and subsequently "AETR Appendix 1C") incompatible with the AETR Agreement: (a) regulations should be referred to as AETR regulations and not EU regulations (e.g. for distinguishing signs and languages used on the cards), (b) testing criteria for smart tachograph cards (e.g. climate differences), and (c) the use of GALLILEO system. The EU, in turn, requested non-EU AETR Contracting Parties to provide their comments in writing so the relevant EU experts could address them. The Russian Federation has agreed to provide written comments upon the receipt of EU Regulation 2016/799 in Russian from the European Commission (estimated to happen about March 2017). The secretariat was requested to facilitate the distribution of the Russian translation of EU Regulation 2016/799 to all non-EU AETR Contracting Parties.

B. Application of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 in the "AETR area"

7. The European Union provided an update on the steps being undertaken since the last session with respect to revising Regulation 561/2006. The European Commission undertook an ex-post evaluation of 561/2006; engaged an external consultant (analysis available on the website); and began an impact assessment of the possible changes. The Group requested the EU to continue providing updates.

C. Exchange of information on issuing digital tachograph cards

8. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat to forward ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/1 to the Working Party on Road Transport for discussion and possible adoption.

D. Tachograph Forum

9. The European Union made a presentation on the first meeting of the Tachograph Forum. The list of participants and presentations made at the Forum are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm>. The Russian Federation expressed interest in participating in future Tachograph Forums, and the European Union has indicated its willingness to accommodate this request.

E. Memorandum of understanding between the UNECE and the European Commission Services which recognizes the Joint Research Centre as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU AETR Contracting Parties

10. Experts were informed about the status of the supplement to this Memorandum (which extends its validity until 31 December 2018), endorsed the supplement and requested the UNECE secretariat to sign it on behalf of non-EU AETR Contracting Parties.

IV. Other business (agenda item 3)

11. The Group of Experts discussed the need to extend the mandate of the AETR Group of Experts. It requested the secretariat to take all the necessary steps to bring this about, including informing and obtaining ITC's approval. The Group suggests three sessions a year until 30 June 2019.

V. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 4)

12. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 June 2017 in Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Russian Federation requested the dates be changed to either 13 or 14 June. The secretariat will try to change the dates on a best effort basis.

VI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 5)

13. The Group of Experts adopted the report of this session.
