

Distr.: General
12 June 2017

Original: English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

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

Fifteenth session

Geneva, 12 June 2017

Submitted by the Government of Lebanon

This document contains the text of the statement made by the representative of the Government of Lebanon during the 15th session of AETR Group of Experts.

Statement to be addressed at:

15th Session of the Group of Experts of the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Palais des Nations,

Geneva – Switzerland

12 June 2017

First, I would like to extend to you the greetings of H.E. the Minister of public Works and Transport of Lebanon Mr. Youssef Fenianos for the efforts being exerted by the Inland Transport Committee to enhance the performance of the land Transport, while at the same time reducing as much as possible the risks associated to its performance.

Lebanon is an observer country in this Inland Transport Committee, however, Lebanon is very interested in accessing the AETR Convention, for which we seek your support for opening this convention to Lebanon. This stems from our conviction that fatigue is one of the major risks associated to the transportation of passengers and Goods. Not to mention the losses in life and properties due to lack of monitoring the rest hours and working hours of drivers.

Lebanon, has during the last few years invested in road infrastructure to increase the level of service of the road network, and is planning to invest in public transport for both passengers and freight. Towards this, a draft law was approved by the Cabinet and is in the process of endorsement by the Parliament to upgrade and enhance the fleet of both, the buses and trucks, performing international transport. Incentives are being given through this law to the buses and trucking industry to modernize the fleet.

Equally as important, the legislations related to land transport were enhanced to ensure that the sector is performing in a safe, secure and environmental friendly environment. One of the main principles of Lebanon's Land Transport Policy which is being carried out is the reassessment of regulations over truck operations particularly as related to licensing, safety, allowable tonnage, axel loads and hours of operation. Besides, pursuing actively the international agreements that can facilitate the flow of goods between Lebanon and other countries is another issue of concern in the land transport policy.

In view of this, the ministry of Public Works and Transport is seeking your approval and support to open the AETR convention to Lebanon. Agreeing to our kind request will have great positive impact on the transport sector in Lebanon as it will be in full harmony with the efforts being exerted by the Lebanese Government to enhance the performance of the land transport sector. Not to mention the positive impact on the international transportation of Goods in general, and on Road Safety in particular.

Once agreed, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport will embark on taking the necessary administrative actions to follow up its request for acceding the AETR Convention.

Thank you,