

Distr.: General
13 February 2019

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)**

Twentieth session

Geneva, 18 February 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Amendment of Article 14

Submitted by the Government of Egypt

This document, submitted by the Government of Egypt, requests the opening of the AETR Agreement for accession by Egypt.

Statement of H.E. Ambassador Mahmoud Allam, Minister's Advisor for international cooperation, Ministry of Transport Egypt, to the Group of Expert of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and the UNECE Secretariat

Cairo, 13 February 2019

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to extend to you, the warm greetings and appreciation of his Excellency the Minister of Transport of Egypt, Dr. Hisham Arafat, for the efforts being exerted by the Inland Transport Committee and the Group of Experts on the AETR Agreement, to enhance the performance of the land transport in the region and beyond.

Egypt is an observer country in the work of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies, however, is very much interested in acceding to the AETR Agreement, for which we seek your support for its opening to it.

This stems from our belief that drivers fatigue is one of the major risks affecting the safety of passengers and goods transport and that the implementation of the rules and provisions of the AETR Agreement in the international and domestic transport of our country, will improve road safety, ensure better social conditions for our professional drivers and support fair competition.

Egypt, has during the last few years invested heavily in its national road network and infrastructure aiming at increasing the level of service, modernizing its road transport system and improving road safety. In addition to that, Egypt's road transport regulations are being reviewed in order to be brought up to the international standards.

Following its accession to the 1958 Agreement in 2012, with the support of the EU funded EuroMed Transport Support Project, Egypt is considering accession to a number of other UN road transport legal instruments, including the 1997 Agreement, the TIR Convention, the Vienna Conventions and the ADR and ATP Agreements. Egypt is actively engaged in international land transport with a number of countries in the region, thus harmonization of its road transport legislation at international level can insure faster and safer transportation of goods between Egypt and its trade partners.

In view of this the Ministry of Transport is seeking your approval and support for the opening of the AETR Agreement to Egypt, which will be an important milestone on the Egyptian roadway to modernizing its transport sector and increasing its integration in the region.

Once the AETR Agreement will be open for Egypt's accession, the Ministry of transport will collaborate with all the competent stakeholders and relevant authorities, in order to ensure proper coordination for the preparation of the accession to and implementation of the Agreement.

Thank you

Amb. Mahmoud Allam



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amb. Mahmoud Allam".

**Minister's Advisor for international cooperation
Ministry of Transport, Egypt**