



Subject: Proceedings of the 81st session of GRPE

Geneva, 2 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

The current COVID-19 pandemic has led to the introduction of several countermeasures by countries and organizations around the globe. Due to travel restrictions and limitations for personal meetings it is currently not possible to hold the 81st session of the Working Party on Pollution and Energy, GRPE, scheduled to take place from 9 to 12 June 2020¹ at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in its traditional format.

The Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of WP.29, WP.29/AC.2, for which GRPE is a subsidiary body, has considered the importance of the timely establishment of amendments and new UN Regulations and UN GTRs, which directly impact national and regional rule making by Contracting Parties, fostering road safety and environmental protection and thus recommended to seek business continuation at all levels via virtual meetings.

As Chair of GRPE, I recommend the following special procedure for decisions at the informal² virtual meeting of GRPE on 9 to 11 June 2020:

Decisions taken during the informal virtual meeting will be circulated after the meeting in the three ECE official languages to the delegations of Contracting Parties via their missions in Geneva for final approval under silence procedure of 10 days.

Following paragraph 6 of the decision adopted by Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe on 6 April 2020 on Special Procedures during the COVID19 period and arrangements for the UNECE Inland Transport Committee subsidiary bodies to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period (EXCOM Informal document 2020/18), I am circulating the above introduced recommendation for proceedings of the informal virtual meeting of GRPE on 9 to 11 June 2020 (replacing the 81st session of GRPE), through your country's 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. If the silence is not broken, the recommendation shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the 83rd session of ITC for consideration, as appropriate.

As Contracting Party to the Agreements on the certification and inspection of vehicles, namely the 1958, 1997 and 1998 Agreements³, your country is a highly valuable and important member of the World Forum and its subsidiary bodies such as GRPE.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the next sessions of GRPE.

Yours sincerely

André Rijnders
(GRPE Chair)

Contracting Parties to the 1958, 1997, 1998 Agreements
Head of delegation to GRPE

¹ Provisional agenda : <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2020/wp29grpe/ECE-TRANS-WP29-GRPE-2020-09e.pdf>

² As long as no interpretation is provided for virtual meetings, they are called "informal" following UN admin rules.

³ https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XI-B-16&chapter=11&clang=en
https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XI-B-31&chapter=11&clang=en
https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XI-B-32&chapter=11&clang=en