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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)

Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 14 June 2021

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session*,**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 am on Monday, 14 June 2021, Salle Tempus 2.

The twenty-sixth session of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport will be held in a dual format due to the COVID-19 situation. Participants can attend in-person or can connect via an Internet platform with simultaneous interpretation in three official languages. In addition, due to United Nations resource challenges and the reduction in duration of regular, interpreted sessions from three to two hours, each session will last only two hours (9.30-11.30 and 15.00-17.00). Every effort will be made to compensate this shortage with an English only session on the same day (from 11.30 to 13.00).

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Programme of Work:
 - (a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis;

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the ECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/sc1/sc1.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (roadtransport@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=2msa46> at the latest one week prior to the session. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext.75716 or 75964). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

- (b) Appendix 1C;
 - (c) Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”.
3. Amendment of Article 14.
 4. TACHOnet.
 5. Election of Deputy Chair.
 6. Other Business.
 7. Date and Place of Next Meeting.
 8. Adoption of the Report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt the session’s agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/58).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/58

2. Programme of Work

(a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

At the last session, the European Commission introduced Informal document No. 4 (February 2021) (originally submitted by Portugal in its capacity as President of the Council of the European Union). The document proposes to amend AETR Articles 10, 13, 14 and 22 to respectively facilitate the inclusion of a new Appendix 1C, to determine the relevant implementation dates, to introduce the possibility of accession by regional economic integration organizations, and to change the amendment mechanisms for appendices. Also, at the last session, the Russian Federation introduced Informal document No. 1 (February 2021) where it did not agree to references to EU legislation in the AETR Agreement and did not support allowing accessions by regional economic integration organizations. It also argued against having specific implementation dates not related to (possible) entry into force of Appendix 1C. At this session, both informal documents are tabled in English, French, and Russian as requested by the Group at the last session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2 and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3).

Documentation

Informal document No. 1 (February 2021), Informal document No. 4 (February 2021), ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3

(b) Appendix 1C

At the last session, the European Commission introduced Informal document No. 2 (February 2021) which contains proposals to modify Annex 1C in order to adapt the European Union specifications on the smart tachograph to the AETR legal framework. While the Group requested that the secretariat submit Informal document No.2 (February 2021) for translation into three official UNECE languages for the current session, the secretariat received a formal proposal from the Government of Portugal (exercising the Presidency of the Council of the European Union). The Group will be invited to discuss the document (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1

(c) **Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the AETR area**

The Group will be invited to continue its discussions on this subject.

3. Amendment of Article 14

At the last session, the secretariat invited the Group to consider amending Article 14 to make – for example - all United Nations member States eligible to accede (as per the ITC Strategy in ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2). The representative of the EUROMED Transport Support Project suggested that the Group consider making more United Nations member States eligible to accede by, for example, using the “eligibility to accede” articles of the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic, and Road Signs and Signals, and the TIR Convention. The Group requested the secretariat to suggest possible wording for consideration at the next session. The secretariat will table Informal document No.1.

Documentation

Informal document No.1

4. TACHOnet

At the last session, the Russian Federation – in response to ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.2/2019/1/Rev.2 - introduced Informal document No. 1 (February 2021) where it proposed that any requirements in (new) AETR Appendix 4 do not refer specifically to TACHOnet. The Russian Federation further elaborated that any new Appendix of the AETR Agreement (on the exchange of information between Contracting Parties) should only contain general, technical requirements to be used while seeking and receiving information. The European Commission will be invited to consider the comments of the Russian Federation and to provide feedback at this session.

Documentation

Informal document no. 1 (February 2021), ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.2/2019/1/Rev.2

5. Election of Deputy Chair

At the last session, the Group requested that the secretariat include the election of the Deputy Chair in the agenda for the next session and reminded the AETR contracting parties to nominate candidates. At this session, the Group will be invited to elect the Deputy Chair.

6. Other Business

The secretariat will inform the Group that, on 24 February 2021, the Inland Transport Committee decided to extend the mandate of the AETR Group of Experts until the end of June 2023 (para. 13, ITC Informal document No. 8/Rev.5).

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other business.

Documentation

ITC Informal document No. 8/Rev.5

7. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 October 2021 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 23 July 2021.

8. Adoption of the Report

The Group of Experts will adopt the report of this session.
