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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

116th session

Geneva, 13-15 October 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the 116th session** **

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 October 2021, Tempus 2.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Inland Transport Instruments:
 - (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR);
 - (i) Status of the Agreement;
 - (ii) AETR Group of Experts.
 - (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR):
 - (i) Status of the Agreement;

* 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 UNECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp1.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (roadtransport@un.org). 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=vPtyBg> or complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (roadtransport@un.org).

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 72401). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website (www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

- (ii) Amendments to the Agreement.
- (c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR):
 - (i) Status of the Convention;
 - (ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR);
 - (iii) Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR).
- (d) New legal instrument(s):

Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS).
- (e) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4):

The relationship between the origin of goods and transport operations.
- 3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport:

Digital/smart road infrastructure.
- 4. Regional, Interregional and Global Inland Transport Policy Dialogues:

Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods.
- 5. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility:
 - (a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure;
 - (i) Road safety inspections and audits;
 - (ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes;
 - (iii) Benchmarking for transport infrastructure;
 - (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project.
- 6. Facilitation of international road transport:

International Motor Insurance System (Green Card).
- 7. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
- 8. Activities of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) National delegations;
 - (b) International organizations;
 - (c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies and other United Nations organizations.
- 9. Other business.
- 10. Date of next session.
- 11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/415

2. Inland Transport Instruments

(a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

(i) Status of the Agreement

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the AETR Agreement.

(ii) AETR Group of Experts

The Chair of the AETR Group of Experts will update SC.1 on the work of the AETR Group of Experts, especially on the work of the Group of Experts to reconcile the AETR regime in European Union (EU) and non-EU AETR contracting parties following the introduction of the smart tachograph in the EU on 15 June 2019.

At the last session, SC.1 considered the issue of changing the name of the AETR Agreement by deleting the term "European" from the title, and agreed to keep this issue on the agenda of future sessions. Making this change would be consistent with the fact that there are currently five non-European countries which are eligible to accede to the Agreement and also with the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Strategy document's (ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2, table 1) priority actions to amend legal instruments with geographical and procedural barriers by 2025. SC.1 is invited to revisit this discussion at this session.

The secretariat will also provide an update on any relevant matters.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/414, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/57, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/59

(b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

(i) Status of the Agreement

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of AGR.

(ii) Amendments to the Agreement

At the 114th session, the secretariat drew attention to article 5 of AGR which covers eligibility to become a contracting party. SC.1 members agreed to consult their capitals on whether it would be appropriate to open the Agreement to accession by non-ECE member States, and to revert on this matter at the last session. As there was no update by any SC.1 member, SC.1 decided to defer making a decision on this item until this session.

(c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR)

(i) Status of the Convention

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Convention.

(ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR)

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Protocol to the Convention.

(iii) *Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (e-CMR)*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Additional Protocol to the Convention, including any new accessions since the last session.

SC.1 will be invited to consider a comparison analysis prepared between the operational procedures stipulated in the eCMR protocol and the pilot projects performed so far (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/2) and consider and endorse, if possible, the proposal made by the secretariat on the high level architecture of future eCMR operations with the development of an international eCMR registry/system in the framework of UNECE (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/3).

SC.1 will also be invited to consider a paper on the operationalization of e-CMR (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/1) prepared by the informal group where Slovenia, Germany, Latvia, the International Road Transport Union, and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey are participating. Slovenia will be invited to introduce the paper.

At the last session, Latvia provided a short introduction on its e-CMR pilot project (also shared on the SC.1 website). Latvia will be invited to give a more detailed presentation at this session if desired.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/3

(d) **New legal instrument(s):**

Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS)

At its 114th session, SC.1 resumed its discussion with the attendance of representatives from the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey. The Russian Federation indicated that it was prepared to accept the proposed wording reflected in paragraph 3 of Article 25 of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3 but not the “alternate wording” option. The Russian Federation withdrew its reservation to the text of paragraph 10 of Annex VI. In addition, the Russian Federation proposed additional text to the “Important notice” part of the application for authorization contained in Annex I. The Chair requested that the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey work together (e.g. through “Friends of Chair” meetings or other informal methods) to finalize the text of the draft agreement, and to submit a finalized text for adoption at the last session. Due to disruptions to usual work processes arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, such meeting/s did not take place.

The Chair, assisted by the secretariat, will provide an update at this session.

The European Commission will be invited to provide an update on the status of the protocols to the InterBus Agreement (one for the extension of the scope of regular services and another to provide access of Morocco to the InterBus agreement) that were adopted by the Council in 2018.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3

(e) **Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)**

The relationship between the origin of goods and transport operations

At its 114th session, SC.1 requested that Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Turkey discuss the alternative definitions listed in paragraphs 47 and 48 of the report from that session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/412), and agree on a definition of “bilateral transport” as a new subpoint 4.1.9 in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1 to be submitted for its 115th session.

At the last session, Poland submitted Informal document No. 5 in place of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1. The Chair invited Poland, the Russian Federation and Turkey to work together to submit a joint proposal or alternatively separate proposals at this session.

Documentation

Informal document No. 5 (October 2020)

3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport**Digital/smart road infrastructure**

Due to time constraints at the last session, Liechtenstein briefly introduced a presentation on managing a vehicle's life cycle with blockchain technology. Liechtenstein is invited to make a full presentation at this session.

Members of SC.1 will also be invited to offer presentations on this topic at the next session.

4. Regional, Interregional and Global Inland Transport Policy Dialogues**Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods**

At its 114th session, the European Commission advised that the transit charges which Turkish hauliers pay in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania were compatible with the European Union-Turkey Customs Union. The representative of Austria referred to a decision of the European Court of Justice C629/16 which declared the system of bilateral quotas to be in line with the European Union-Turkey Customs Union.

Due to time constraints at the last session, SC.1 was unable to discuss this item and decided to keep it on its agenda for this session so that Turkey and the European Commission may provide an update on any further analysis on this matter if desired.

5. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility**(a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure***(i) Road safety inspections and audits*

At its 114th session, SC.1 decided to consider the topic of safe and sustainable road infrastructure in general as a new item on its agenda for future sessions (para 25, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/412).

Due to time constraints at its last session, SC.1 decided to defer its discussion on potential topics of interest. Members of SC.1 will be invited to suggest and discuss potential topics at this session.

(ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

The Secretary of the UNECE Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes will be invited to provide an update on the work of the group which has been analysing the impacts of climate change on main transport assets in the ECE region (Informal document WP.5/GE.3 No.6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/3).

The secretariat will also inform SC.1 of its follow up with the ECE Transport Regional Adviser on the possibility of obtaining shapefiles relating to E-roads from the TEN-T database.

(iii) Benchmarking for transport infrastructure

The Secretary of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (WP.5/GE.4) will be invited to provide an update on the work of the group which has been identifying models, methodologies, tools and good practices for evaluating, calculating and analysing transport infrastructure costs across all modes (road, rail, inland water ways and intermodal terminals). The Secretary of the Group

of Experts will also inform SC.1 on the feedback received from SC.1 members to date on the survey discussed at the last session.

(b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project

At the last session, the TEM Project Manager gave a presentation on substantive progress of the TEM project as well as areas of synergy and possibilities for collaboration between SC.1 and the TEM Project Group. Members of SC.1 were also invited to a workshop organized by the TEM Project Manager in Spring 2021 (on road use management strategies, road user charging, road safety, oversized and overweight transport, and connectivity and mobility).

The TEM Project Manager will be invited to provide an update on these matters at this session.

6. Facilitation of international road transport

International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)

At the last session, the Managing Director of the Council of Bureaux (CoB) tabled a report (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/1) and made a presentation to inform SC.1 about recent developments in the “Green Card system”, including the possibility to have the green card as a PDF on electronic devices. SC.1 invited CoB to table a proposal on the latter at this session if desired.

CoB has submitted a proposal to have the green card as a PDF on electronic devices (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/4). The document also proposes to have Annex 1 of RE.4 as a separate/standalone consolidated resolution. SC.1 will be invited to consider the proposal by CoB.

SC.1 will also be informed by the Managing Director of CoB about recent developments in the “Green Card system”.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/4

7. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

In 2016, Belgium and Germany submitted a proposal for changes to SC.1 terms of reference and rules of procedures (Informal document (2016) Nos 3 and 4). At the last session, Germany submitted ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2 which consolidated the changes from the earlier informal documents. Due to time constraints, SC.1 decided to defer its discussion until this session.

Documentation

Informal document (2016) Nos 3 and 4, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2

8. Activities of interest to the Working Party

(a) National delegations

National delegations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective countries.

(b) International organizations

Representatives of international organizations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective areas of work.

(c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies and other United Nations organizations

The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations entities of interest

At the last session, SC.1 invited the Secretaries of the Global Forum on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) to provide an update on their respective work at this session. The Secretary of WP.1 was also requested to provide an update on WP.5's paper on "Taking stock of the resilience of the inland transport sector to pandemics and international emergency situations".

Also, at the last session, the secretariat presented a car-sharing and car-pooling project focussed on Central Asian countries. SC.1 expressed in principle support for the project and the project guidelines (Informal document No. 3 (in English) and Informal document No. 4 (in Russian)), and invited the secretariat to provide an update at this session.

Documentation

Informal document (2020) Nos 3 and 4

9. Other business

SC.1 may wish to consider other issues under this agenda item.

10. Date of next session

The Working Party will be informed that its next session has been scheduled for 18 to 20 October 2022.

11. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt the report of this session.
