



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 October 2021

Original: English

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)

Twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 12 October 2021

Report of the Group of Experts on the European Agreement concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport on its twenty-seventh session

I. Attendance

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its twenty-seventh session in Geneva on 12 October 2021, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. The following non ECE member States participated: State of Palestine.
4. The European Commission, EuroMed Transport Project and the following non-governmental organizations were represented: Association of International Road Carriers, International Road Transport Union (IRU), The Confederation of Organization in Road Transport Enforcement (CORTE), Continental Automotive GmbH, In Group and Scania CV AB participated as observers.

II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)

5. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/60).

III. Programme of Work (agenda item 2)

A. Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

6. The Group continued discussing ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2 (Portugal's proposal 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) and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3 (Russia's

comments and objections to the above proposal). There was no substantive agreement as both parties retained their initial positions. Upon suggestions of the Chair, the Group agreed to continue informal consultations in order to find a compromise approach and to begin using ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2 as a starting point – without prejudice - for future discussions.

B. Appendix 1C

7. ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 (Portugal’s proposals to modify Annex IC in order to adapt the European Union specifications on the smart tachograph to the AETR legal framework (as Appendix 1C)) has yet to be translated into French and Russian. Given this, the Chair invited all experts to continue getting acquainted with the document to facilitate discussions once French and Russian versions become available. The EC recalled that the document already contains Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1228 (dated 21 July 2021).

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

8. The Group reiterated its invitation to the EC to give a presentation on new rules arising from amendments to Regulation No. 561/2006 (Mobility package 1) at the next session.

IV. Amendment of Article 14 (agenda item 3)

9. The secretariat re-tabled Informal document No.1 (June 2021) with the word “convention” replaced by “agreement” as requested at the last session. Informal document No.1 (June 2021) provides a modified example of “eligibility to accede” from the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic to be considered as a possible way of amending AETR Article 14 in order to open up the AETR globally. The Group requested the Chair or the secretariat to present it on its behalf and recommend the revised text of AETR Article 14 to its parent body (SC.1).

V. TACHOnet (agenda item 4)

10. The European Commission introduced (on behalf of Portugal) ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.2 (a proposal to introduce a new Appendix 4 on exchange of information). The Russian Federation reiterated its comments from ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3 where, among others, it had explained that a new appendix on the exchange of information between Contracting Parties should only contain general, technical requirements to be used while seeking and receiving information. The EC informed the Group that it is currently revising the text which is expected to be submitted at the next session. The EC invited all experts to provide comments on ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.2 in order to facilitate the ongoing revision process.

11. The Russian Federation cited “Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/68 (of 21 January 2016) on common procedures and specifications necessary for the interconnection of electronic registers of driver cards” and its subsequent amendment as substantive resources to be used in the revised version.

12. The Group took note that ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3 was unavailable in French and Russian.

VI. Election of Deputy Chair (agenda item 5)

13. The Group was invited to elect the Deputy Chair. As there were no nominations, the election will take place at the next session.

VII. Other Business (agenda item 6)

14. The secretariat informed the Group of Experts that on 7 October 2021 it had sent to all AETR Contracting Parties a questionnaire (in English and Russian) as per Article 12 (5) which tasks the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to issue a report on the application of Article 12 (1) on “measures of enforcement of the Agreement”. The questionnaire can be filled out on-line.

VIII. Date and Place of Next Meeting (agenda item 7)

15. The next meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2022 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 10 December 2021.

IX. Adoption of the Report (agenda item 8)

16. The Group of Experts adopted the report of this session.
