

**Economic and Social Council**

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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-eighth session**

Geneva, 21 February 2022

**Report of the Group of Experts on the European Agreement
concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in
International Road Transport on its twenty-eighth session****I. Attendance**

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its twenty-eighth session in Geneva on February 21 2022, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following ECE member States participated, Finland, Israel, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. The following non ECE member States participated: Egypt, Lebanon and State of Palestine
4. The representative of the European Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO), 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.21/63).

III. Programme of Work (agenda item 2)**A. Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement,
including Article 22bis**

6. At the last session, 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 (Russian Federation's comments on the above proposals). At this session, both parties retained their positions. The Chair again invited the Russian Federation and European Commission to continue discussions to find a compromise solution. He also invited all relevant experts to participate in the Group's sessions so highly technical issues can be discussed (e.g., definitions of "control devices" and "recording equipment").

B. Appendix 1C

7. At the last session, 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)) was not available in French and Russian. At this session, the document was still not available in three languages. The Group urged the UNOG Conference Services to complete translation so the discussions can commence at the earliest.

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

8. The EC gave a presentation on new rules arising from amendments to Regulation No.561/2006 and No. 165/2014. In particular, the EC clarified that drivers of non-EU registered vehicles are not required to record border crossing in the EU area. The Group agreed that it is necessary for EU legislation and the AETR Agreement be harmonized. At the next session, the Group will be invited to continue its discussions on this subject.

IV. TACHOnet (agenda item 3)

9. At the last session, the European Commission introduced (on behalf of Portugal) ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3 (a proposal to introduce a new Appendix 4 on exchange of information). The Russian Federation reiterated the comments contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3 requesting they be incorporated in the next draft. At this session, the Group did not discuss the revised document(ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.4) as the European Commission requires more time to complete it.

V. Election of Deputy Chair (agenda item 4)

10. The secretariat invited the Group to elect the Deputy Chair. The Group did not elect the Deputy Chair postponing the election until a future session.

VI. Other Business (agenda item 5)

11. The secretariat informed the Group that the amendment proposal to Article 14 of the AETR -making Egypt eligible to accede – will enter into force on 23 April 2022. The Chair thanked the EUROMED Project for active and successful involvement in promoting the AETR Agreement.

12. The secretariat recalled that the Group's parent body, already approved (paras. 8-10, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/416) text of a new Article 14 that would make all United Nations States eligible to accede to AETR. However, it is now up to a contracting party to submit it to the Secretary-General as an amendment proposal.

13. The secretariat also briefed the Group on the current status of the questionnaire on the application of paragraph 1 of Article 12 related to enforcement measures (as per paragraph 5 of Article 12). Accordingly, so far seven contracting parties have responded (Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, and Sweden). Given a low response ratio, the

secretariat has extended the deadline for replying to 1 June 2022. The Chair invited government experts to contact their respective Geneva-missions to obtain the link to the survey.

VII. Date and Place of Next Meeting (agenda item 6)

14. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 June 2022 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 28 March 2022.

VIII Adoption of the Report (agenda item 7)

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