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Working Party on Road Transport

Group of Experts on the Operationalization of eCMR

Second session

Geneva, 4-6 October 2022

Report of the second session of Group of Experts on the Operationalization of the Additional Protocol

I. Attendance

1. The Group of Experts on operationalization of eCMR (GE.22) held its second session on 4 to 6 October 2022.
2. Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
3. The following non ECE member States participated: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan and State of Palestine.
4. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended: Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Association of International Road Carriers (ASMAP), Association of International Road Carriers (BAMAP), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), FIA Foundation for Automobile and Society, Hellenic Federation of International Road Transport (OFAT), International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), International Road Transport Union (IRU) and Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Region (BSEC-URTA).
5. The following representatives attended at the invitation of the secretariat: Iranian National Team of Inventions and Innovations, Office of Smart Transportation and Sustainable City.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

6. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/3).

III. Report of the first session (agenda item 2)

7. The Group of Experts noted the report of its first session which was approved on 22 July 2022. It included the list of decisions which was adopted by the Group on 5 July 2022.

IV. Programme of work (agenda item 3)

8. The Group of Experts discussed ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/2022/2 which contained a summary of the requirements/processes which the CMR Convention and eCMR Additional Protocol (in particular article 5) stipulate and impose for the operationalization of the latter. The document was submitted by the secretariat and experts from Germany.

9. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat to further elaborate and prepare ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/2022/2/Rev.1 for consideration by the Group at the next session by taking into account the discussions of the Group and any input received from experts prior to the next session. The Group suggested, wherever possible, that the secretariat includes an analysis of the processes related to each of the events described in the document together with explanatory notes which should be connected with specific articles in the CMR Convention or its Additional Protocol on eCMR.

10. The Group of Experts discussed and took note of the information provided in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/2022/3 on the use of CMR paper consignment notes by customs authorities inside the EU territory and by the rest of the CMR contracting parties. The Group also noted informal documents no. 1 and no. 2 submitted by Uzbekistan which contained information on the use of paper consignment notes in Central Asia and CIS countries. The Group agreed that customs authorities are, for several reasons, one of the main users of paper consignment notes today and therefore should be included as one of the stakeholders in the design of a future eCMR solution. It should be noted though that access to eCMR data by customs authorities should be foreseen on an ad hoc and on demand basis.

11. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat to update ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/2022/3 to take into account information which was received from the customs authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the session as well as any other information that may be received from other customs authorities prior to the next session.

V. Other business (agenda item 4)

12. The Group received a short presentation by the secretariat which provided information on several other initiatives / efforts to digitalize international conventions such as the eTIR, eATA, ePhyto and eCIM as well as FIATA's effort to digitalize its bill of lading (eFBL).

13. The Group also received a presentation by FIA on its effort with the ECE secretariat to digitalize the Carnet de Passages en Douane (eCPD) for the temporary importation of private and professional vehicles.

14. The Group of Experts noted that these initiatives arising from the digitalization of conventions have, as common characteristics, central platforms created by neutral partners which are normally the organizations that are administering the conventions, and that all stakeholders are connected to those platforms. The Group appreciated the information provided in the presentations and with the objective of better understanding these initiatives, requested the secretariat to invite experts from the relevant organizations to present on these digitalization initiatives at its next session including if possible Certex.

15. There was no other business.

VI. Adoption of list of decisions (agenda item 5)

16. The Group of Experts adopted a list of decisions for the session (per paragraphs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 14).

VII. Date of next session (agenda item 6)

17. The next session of the Group of the Experts is scheduled to take place on 9 to 11 November 2022. The deadline for the submission of formal documents was in August 2022.
