

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
21 February 2024

Original: English

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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)****Thirty-fourth session**  
Geneva, 19 February 2024**Report of the Group of Experts on the European Agreement  
concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in  
International Road Transport on its thirty-fourth session****I. Attendance**

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its thirty-fourth session in Geneva on 19 February 2024, chaired by Mr. Eric Mathevet (France).
2. Representatives of the following ECE member States participated, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Finland, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, and Ukraine.
3. The representative of the European Union, EuroMed Transport Project, Iran National Inventions and Innovation Team, and International Road Transport Union (IRU) were present.

**II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)**

4. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/73).

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

5. The Group of Experts was informed that neither the Russian Federation nor the European Union have changed their positions regarding ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2. The Group will be invited to continue discussing this topic at a future session.

## **B. Appendix 1C**

6. The Russian Federation reiterated its comments on 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)).

7. The European Union informed the Group that it was still reviewing ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/3 (the Russian Federation comments on Appendix 1C proposal). It invited other AETR Contracting Parties to share their comments as well.

8. Georgia and Türkiye (subject to a transitional period) expressed support for Portugal's proposal.

## **C. Amendment proposal to Article 4, paragraph 2**

9. The Russian Federation recalled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/4 which proposes to amend Article 4 to facilitate the application of the AETR Agreement in the "force majeure" situations. It noted that if a country such as the Russian Federation cannot meet the AETR obligations, it will be forced to leave the Agreement. The Russian Federation, together with Belarus, a supporter of the amendment, informed the Group that they intend to proceed with submitting this proposal to Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1). In general, Belarus and the Russian Federation invited other Contracting Parties – at the next session - to propose alternative wording to be considered for "force majeure" situations; requested the secretariat to provide advice how to address this matter; and requested the Group to discuss how to address the situations when there are (force majeure) impediments to fulfil obligations under the AETR Agreement.

10. The European Union stated that no Contracting Party other than Belarus and the Russian Federation expressed its support for this amendment. Moreover, Ukraine and the European Union stated they are firmly against the proposal to amend Article 4, paragraph 2 to include force majeure situations.

## **IV. Application of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 in the "AETR area" (agenda item 3)**

11. The Chair encouraged the Group to continue exchanging information on this subject.

## **V. TACHOnet (agenda item 4)**

12. The European Union did not submit a revised version of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3 (a proposal to introduce a new Appendix 4 on exchange of information) as it is still being drafted.

13. The Russian Federation reiterated its previous position on the topic.

## **VI. Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between European Commission Services and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (agenda item 5)**

14. The secretariat informed the Group that on 15 November 2023 an MOU extension was signed (until 31 May 2024) and letters to all AETR Contracting Parties – communicating this extension - were sent in December 2023. Currently, the UNECE secretariat is in discussions with the European Commission about the ways to implement a more sustainable solution. At the next session, the secretariat will provide an update on the status of the extension of the MOU.

15. Belarus and the Russian Federation expressed their serious concerns about inaction on part of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) as well as about – what they perceive as - non-fulfilment of JRC obligations to provide services to all non-EU members, in a non-discriminatory manner. In particular, Belarus and the Russian Federation have expressed grave concerns concerning JRC lack of communication (with both countries) with respect to the certification of national keys. Following the concerns expressed by Belarus and the Russian Federation at this session, the European Commission stated that it is currently examining their requests.

16. The EuroMed delegate requested, given the opening of the AETR Agreement to a number of South Mediterranean countries and their interest in acceding to it, that such important information be also communicated to them through EuroMed and that the current MOU be posted on the UNECE website.

17. Türkiye recalled Informal document No. 2 (October 2023) on establishing multiple root and interoperability certification centres and reported that no comments from other experts were received. Türkiye requested information about the EU current position on the JRC report ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/7 and applicability of the collaborative actions that are referred in the report. Türkiye expressed its willingness to contribute to further developing the report in order to work towards establishing multiple certification centres. The EU responded that ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/7 still remains valid. Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Russian Federation supported the Türkiye's proposal to work on establishing multiple centres while Ukraine did not.

18. The secretariat gave a presentation on possibilities of creating multiple centres which recalled the report summarizing the work and accomplishments of the AETR Group of Experts (Informal document No.1/Rev.1(27 October 2014)) and, more specifically, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/7 (paras. 100-107).

## **VII. Other Business (agenda item 6)**

19. The Group of Experts did not discuss any other business.

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

20. The next meeting is scheduled for 31 May 2024 at Palais des Nations in Geneva.

## **IX. Adoption of the Report (agenda item 8)**

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

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