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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
Working Party on Road Transport
(7-10 October 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETY-SIXTH SESSION ^{*/}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 7 October 2002

Monday, 7 October

Special session of SC.1 on
Revision of R.E.4

TRANS/SC.1/2002/4
TRANS/SC.1/2001/5
TRANS/SC.1/2000/6

Tuesday, 8 October

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/SC.1/370 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations of interest to the Working Party | TRANS/SC.1/369 |

^{*/} Delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the ninety-sixth session of the Working Party on Road Transport. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva (Room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

Delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by E-mail (caroline.jeunet@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, telephone the ECE secretariat (Int. 73242).

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|-------|--|--|
| (a) | Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/139 and Add.1
TRANS/2002/15 |
| (b) | International organizations | |
| 3. | Implementation of the AETR | TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/4
TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2002/1/Add.1
Informal document No.1 |
| 4. | Road transport infrastructure | |
| (a) | European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) | |
| (i) | Status of prior amendments to the AGR | |
| (ii) | Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex I | TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/2002/36
TRANS/SC.1/2002/5
TRANS/SC.1/2002/11 |
| (iii) | Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex II | TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/2002/36
TRANS/AC.7/9 and Add.1 and Corr.1 (French only)
TRANS/SC.1/2002/6 and Add.1
TRANS/AC.7/2002/1 |
| (b) | Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project | TRANS/SC.1/2002/7 |
| (c) | Blue Corridor Project | ENERGY/WP.3/AC.1/2002/1 |

Wednesday, 9 October

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| 5. | Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operation | |
| (a) | Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe | Informal document No.2
TRANS/SC.1/2002/12 |
| (b) | Development of a Protocol to the CMR | TRANS/SC.1/2001/7
TRANS/SC.1/2002/1
TRANS/SC.1/2002/2 and Add.1, 2 and 3
A/CN.9/WG.IV/WP.94 |

- (c) Review of the situation and questions concerning facilitation of international road transport
 - (i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card) TRANS/SC.1/2002/10 Informal document No. 3
 - (ii) Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments on road transport Informal document No. 4
 - (iii) Harmonization of fiscal and other measures affecting road transport TRANS/SC.1/2002/8 Informal document No.5
 - 6. Transport, Environment and Health ECE/AC.21/2002/8
- Thursday, 10 October
- 7. Other business TRANS/SC.1/2002/9
 - Date of next session
 - 8. Adoption of decisions

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

7 October 2002

SPECIAL SESSION ON THE REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION ON THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT (R.E.4)

At its ninety-fifth session (16-19 October 2001), the Working Party considered a new version of R.E.4 drawn up by the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of R.E.4 which had met in Geneva on 10 and 11 May 2001 (TRANS/SC.1/2001/5). Representatives of Finland, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland, European Commission (EC) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) participated.

The Working Party found that the new draft was a significant improvement on earlier versions. However, because the English and Russian versions of the document had not been available well in advance of the meeting, the Working Party requested the secretariat to send the text in the appropriate language to all member countries, inviting them, if necessary, to make concrete written proposals for revisions to the text.

It invited the secretariat to prepare a consolidated version of the replies received and a corrected version of the draft, if possible taking account of the proposals put forward. The

Working Party said, however, that it did not intend to convene the Ad Hoc Working Group a third time to reconsider the draft and that its aim was to adopt the revised R.E.4 at its ninety-sixth session so as to submit it to the Inland Transport Committee for approval in 2003.

In order to achieve this objective, which meant detailed consideration of all the provisions of the draft text, and to arrive at the widest possible consensus, the Working Party thought that it would be useful to organize a special day for the purpose immediately preceding the next session.

At its sixty-fourth session in February 2002, the Inland Transport Committee approved the decision of the Working Party to hold a special session at the start of its ninety-sixth session.

A consolidated version of R.E.4 showing clearly all the proposals for modifications received in response to the secretariat's letter appears in TRANS/SC.1/2002/4 and will form the basis for discussions at the Special Session on the Revision of R.E.4.

The Working Party will be invited to consider the new text paragraph by paragraph, noting the reservations of countries when consensus cannot be reached. The adopted final text will then be forwarded to the sixty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee in February 2003.

The ECMT consolidated resolution concerning the rules to be applied for international freight transport by road, adopted by the Council of Ministers meeting in Prague on 30-31 May 2000, is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/6 and is made available to the Working Party for reference.

8 October 2002

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item is the adoption of the agenda.

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-fourth session (15-17 February 2002), approved the report of the Working Party on its ninety-fifth session (TRANS/SC.1/369) (ECE/TRANS/139, para. 42).

All SC.1-related issues considered by the Committee will be taken up under the respective agenda items.

The adopted programme of work for 2002-2006 of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies is contained in ECE/TRANS/139/Add.1.

Regarding the question of security, the ITC had expressed its profound regret about the tragic events of 11 September 2001 and welcomed the document prepared by the secretariat

(TRANS/2002/15) as an important contribution to defining an approach to the issue of transport and security. The Committee felt that a clear definition of the concept of security in transport was necessary in order to evaluate if and how this issue should be further considered in the framework of the UNECE. The Committee also stressed the importance of the fact that security in transport should be carefully balanced against transport facilitation in order to ensure traffic fluidity, in particular through the use of new technology.

The ITC requested its subsidiary bodies to identify, within their respective fields of competence, the differences between "security" and "safety" concepts and the relevant concrete questions that could be addressed in this respect, taking into account the work and studies undertaken by other organs, in particular by ECMT. It also requested the secretariat to consolidate these views for consideration by the Committee at its next session in order that the Committee could provide guidance on further action in this field. The Committee also invited Governments to inform the secretariat of the measures taken in this area at national level in order to identify specific needs for further international action.

The Working Party is invited to identify those elements in its programme of work for which security is a concern.

(b) International organizations

Representatives of international organizations at the session are invited to present information regarding their activities to the Working Party and to provide the secretariat with a short summary of their interventions which may be reflected in the report of the session.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AETR

At its ninety-fifth session, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) decided to reconvene the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of the AETR in order to review all proposed amendments to the Agreement, including those dealing with the incorporation of the digital tachograph, and to pay particular attention to their consistency in legal terms, if necessary proposing further changes.

The report of the second session of the Ad hoc Working Group which was held on 11 and 12 April 2002 is contained in TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/4. The Working Party is expected to discuss and approve the amendment proposals contained in that report.

The voluminous annex 1B to Regulation 3821/85/EEC will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities in August 2002. Copies of the final text of Annex 1B will be available during the session in English and French as Informal document No.1. It is hoped that a Russian translation will also be available but this may not be possible because of the delay in publication by the European Union.

The secretariat will also provide information on the status of the proposed amendments to Article 12 of the Agreement adopted by the Working Party at its ninety-third session (October 1999). The final text of Article 12 appears in TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2002/1/Add.1. It is recalled that the representative of France expressed the intention of her country to send the new text of

Article 12 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for formal amendment procedures in accordance with Article 21 of the AETR.

A list of addresses of competent authorities regarding the AETR is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2001/13 and Add.1. Countries which have not yet sent the address of their competent authority to the secretariat are requested to do so at their earliest convenience.

4. ROAD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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

(i) Status of prior amendments to the AGR

The Working Party will be informed about the date of entry into force of draft amendments to the AGR adopted by SC.1 at its ninety-fifth session in 2001.

The Working Party will have before it a consolidated version of the AGR incorporating all amendments which have entered into force (TRANS/SC.1/2002/3) and the latest AGR map (2002).

(ii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex I

The Working Party may wish to consider and approve proposals for amendments to Annex I as discussed at the eighteenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR on 10 and 11 June 2002. The proposals are contained in Annex 1 of TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/36. The Working Party will also have before it a document from Slovenia concerning the E 653 (TRANS/SC.1/2002/5) and a document from the Russian Federation regarding proposals for the E 40 and E 125 (TRANS/SC.1/2002/11).

(iii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex II

The Working Party may wish to consider and approve proposals for amendments to Annex II as discussed at the eighteenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR. The proposals are contained in Annex 2 of TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/36.

As requested by the eighteenth Ad hoc Meeting, the delegate of France has transmitted an additional proposal concerning the environment (TRANS/SC.1/2002/6). Document TRANS/SC.1/2002/6/Add.1 by the secretariat suggests how the French text could be incorporated into the AGR. An additional proposal concerning safety in tunnels will be made available as soon as it is received.

The Working Party will have before it for reference the final report and recommendations of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (TRANS/AC.7/9 and Add.1 and Corr.1 (French only) as well as the Zürich declaration regarding tunnels and transport in the Alps adopted by Ministers of Transport of Alpine countries (TRANS/AC.7/2002/1).

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

The Working Party will be informed about progress made since its last session on the development of the TEM Project (TRANS/SC.1/2002/7).

(c) Blue Corridor Project

At its sixty-fourth session, the ITC was informed by a representative of the UNECE Energy Division about developments in the Blue Corridor Project on the use of natural gas as a motor fuel in the international transport of goods and the establishment of corridors to be used by vehicles powered by natural gas.

The ITC took note that the Working Party on Gas had agreed to set up a Task Force to consider the feasibility of the project and agreed that specialists from the transport area should also be involved in this activity. The Chairman of SC.1 participated in the first meeting of the Task Force which was held in Warsaw on 28 June 2002. A report on the meeting is contained in ENERGY/WP.3/AC.1/2002/1 (English only).

5. HARMONIZATION OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT AND FACILITATION OF ITS OPERATION

(a) Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe

The Working Party will be informed about the progress of discussions on the new draft text of Annex 8 to the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods which is under consideration for adoption by the WP.30 Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention. At its 101st session in June 2002, WP.30 had noted reservations by some delegations concerning Articles 2, 4 and 5 of the new Annex 8.

The WP.30 had requested its secretariat to conduct consultations with the Contracting Parties of the Convention with the aim of exploring how the remaining problems in adopting the new Annex 8 to the Convention could be resolved. The WP.30 had requested its secretariat to organize, if necessary, informal expert group meetings to resolve the contentious provisions of the new Annex 8, in particular, concerning the visa issue, technical transport provisions and Customs procedures. The Working Party requested its secretariat to finalize these consultations before the end of the year and to prepare a final draft text of the new Annex 8 to the Convention for the next session of the Administrative Committee of the "Harmonization" Convention in February 2003.

At the sixty-fourth session of the ITC, several delegations reiterated their concerns with regard to difficulties encountered by carriers in obtaining visas and asked that concrete solutions be sought to improve the situation. The Committee gave the responsibility of considering this problem in detail to the SC.1 and WP.30 Working Parties at their forthcoming sessions. In order to make it easier to tackle the problem, it requested Governments to clarify their position in this regard as rapidly as possible in a secretariat questionnaire.

The secretariat sent out a questionnaire on this issue on 26 June 2002 with a request for replies by 1 September 2002. The questionnaire will be made available to the Working Party as Informal document No. 2 and information will be given on the replies received.

(b) Consideration of the development of a Protocol to the CMR

At its ninety-fifth session, the Working Party considered a draft Protocol to the CMR aimed at introducing electronic data interchange into its procedures (TRANS/SC.1/2001/7).

The Working Party requested the secretariat to send the new draft protocol to all CMR Contracting Parties with a questionnaire asking them which drafting options they preferred. The responses would be consolidated with the assistance of Unidroit and, if necessary, a drafting group would be established to draw up the final text of the Protocol. At that time, the Working Party had stated that its goal would be to adopt the final text of the Protocol at the ninety-sixth session of SC.1 and invite countries to sign the Protocol at the sixty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) in February 2003.

The questionnaire is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2002/1. The replies to it are in TRANS/SC.1/2002/2 and Add.1 and 2. Comments on the replies are contained in document TRANS/SC.1/2002/2/Add.3 from Unidroit.

The Working Party is invited to examine the responses to the questionnaire and to decide on the timing for further work and adoption of the Protocol since it will probably not be possible to meet the original goal of adopting a final text at the ninety-sixth session.

The Working Party is also invited to take into consideration a document transmitted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the legal aspects of electronic commerce (A/CN.9/WG.IV/WP.94, paras. 86-104).

(c) Review of the situation and questions concerning facilitation of international road transport

(i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)

The Working Party may wish to consider the report of the President of the Council of Bureaux of the Green Card System (TRANS/SC.1/2002/10) and the updated list of Inter-Bureaux Agreements on international third-party motor insurance (Informal document No.3).

(ii) Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments in the field of road transport

Information on the status of accession to UN/ECE legal instruments on road transport will be provided by the secretariat. Information is also contained in Informal document No. 4.

(iii) Harmonization of fiscal issues and other measures affecting road transport

The Working Party will also have before it for discussion a paper by the IRU on admission to the profession of road transport operator (TRANS/SC.1/2002/8).

6. TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Working Party will be informed about the results of the second High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 5 July 2002) and about the ministerial declaration which was adopted on that occasion (ECE/AC.21/2002/8).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party may wish to consider any other business under this agenda item.

The attention of the secretariat of the Transport Division has been drawn to the case of drivers who have been imprisoned in other countries on drugs smuggling charges even though the drugs were found in sealed pallets or containers. Further information is given in document TRANS/SC.1/2002/9.

The Working Party may wish to discuss the responsibility which drivers are obliged to assume for their cargoes and to examine whether other approaches may be possible.

Date of next session

The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the ninety-seventh session of the Working Party to be held from 28-30 October 2003.

8. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

The Working Party will adopt a brief list of decisions taken at its ninety-sixth session.



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Geneva, 96th session, 7-10 October 2002

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