



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/2002/6
12 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Transport

Ad hoc Meeting on the
Implementation of the AGR
(Eighteenth session, 10-11 June 2002
agenda item 6)

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX II OF THE AGR

Transmitted by Germany

The following comments are provided on the issues raised in the letter from the UNECE secretariat and regarding to what extent and in what form they can be incorporated into the AGR:

(1) Safety in road tunnels (findings of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels)

When new subject matter is incorporated into the text of the above-mentioned agreement, the intention of the AGR and the regulatory framework to date should be taken into consideration.

According to the AGR (cf. the preamble and Article 1 of the agreement), the purpose of the European highways is to help "... facilitate and develop international road traffic in Europe" and "strengthen relations between European countries". To this end, Annex II of the AGR contains provisions which, from this point of view, help guarantee or improve the safe use ("readability") of **international traffic** arteries.

These are essentially the provisions governing the **harmonization** of

- the **classification** of roads (Chapter II)
- **geometric characteristics** (Chapter III) and
- **road equipment** (Chapter IV).

These provisions do not deal with special types of structure along roads (e.g. tunnels and bridges). Road safety aspects (e.g. in Chapter IV.4.3) are not dealt with separately but only within the framework of signage, and this only with regard to its harmonization and not its contents. As is well known, determining the contents of signage is the prerogative of the “Vienna Convention”. Nor are aspects of operation or traffic flow – as major variables influencing and regulating road safety – dealt with in the AGR.

It is thus recommended that merely **references to national or international design, equipment and operating rules** which help to improve safety in road tunnels and have been revised **on the basis of the proposals made by the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts** be incorporated into the AGR, for instance in

- Chapter IV.2.4 Roadworks and emergency signs, or
- Chapter IV.4.3 Emergency communication systems, or
- Chapter IV.4.4 User information.

Concrete recommendations for road tunnels (over a certain length), **e.g. on technical equipment, the constructive consideration of escape routes and the improvement of incident detection**, as proposed by the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts, go beyond the current regulatory framework of the AGR and “burden” it with contents and details that are of special importance on certain parts of the E-road network only.

(2) **Environmental impact assessment, concentrating on noise reduction measures**

In addition, it is recommended that the following text be added to paragraph 3 (Acoustic nuisance...) of Chapter V.2: Integration of roads into the environment:

- Roads should be designed such that sensitive functions, e.g. residential areas, are exposed to as little noise pollution as possible and that the harmful impact of noise is avoided. If this is not possible to an adequate degree, either measures should be taken at the source of the noise (reducing vehicle noise) or noise screens (mounds, barriers) should be provided along the road. Such measures should be planned on the basis of model-assisted sonic calculations.”

(3) **Environment and landscaping**

It is suggested that the following text be added to paragraph 2 of Chapter V.1 “General Remarks”:

- After “must be”, the following text should be inserted: “ ... planned with regard to sustainable development and be ...”.
- In paragraph 3 of Chapter V.1, the following text should be inserted after the word “improvements”: “... including major extensions ...”.

Regarding the request for “relevant provisions from national legislation or other proposals”, an outline of national activities in the field of “safety in road tunnels” has been submitted to the UNECE secretariat.
