

**Status report to WP.29/AC.3 regarding the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles GTR-project (HFCV)**

Transmitted by the Chairman of the Management Group

Based on informal document no. WP.29-136-24, WP.29/AC.3 decided on a new structure of HFCV work with a Sub Group Environment (SGE) linked to GRPE, a Sub Group Safety (SGS) linked to GRSP, and a general HFCV-management reporting direct to WP.29/AC.3. Since last WP.29 in June a first meeting of SGS took place in October in Tokio with three main agenda items:

1. National Japanese legislation for Hydrogen / Fuel Cell Vehicles:

SGS was informed in detail about the Japanese legislation in force since March 2005, enabling a type approval for Hydrogen/Fuel Cell vehicles. The introduction of new requirements and the amendment of existing regulations covers mainly the following issues:

- Hydrogen safety (H<sub>2</sub> sensors, leakage rate in crash test, etc.)
- Container and Component safety (high pressure parts)
- Electric safety (high voltage)

2. Research for HFCV GTR development:

With two presentations SGS was informed about the status of prenormative research in US (4years research plan) and in Europe (several projects). The result of discussion was, that SGS recognized the importance of parallel research in developing this global technical regulation and that researchers and regulators will work together as a way of aiming for a “better regulation”.

3. Visit to JARI test facilities

JARI invited SGS members to a very interesting tour to JARI facilities in Tsukuba (Fuel Cell test lab) and the new JARI proving ground in Ibaraki, where at the HY-SEF (Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Vehicle Safety Evaluation Facility) all relevant Hydrogen tests can be conducted (vehicle fire tests, PRD tests, container crush and burst tests, etc.)

The presentations and all information about the first SGS meeting are available on OICA website ([www.oica.net/htdocs/WWH/HCV](http://www.oica.net/htdocs/WWH/HCV)) and will be available on UNECE website.

The three co-sponsors are preparing proposals concerning the four main open issues. We are hoping that the issue with chairmanship can be resolved at a near future:

- chair or co-chair of the SGS
- establishment of a general HFCV management group,
- updated revision of the HFCV roadmap (informal document GRPE-48-17-Rev.1),
- action plan and schedule of next meetings,

for consideration at next meetings of WP.29/AC.3 (March, June 2006).

-----