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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

105th session

Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2010

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the 105th session ^{1,2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 September 2010

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp1.html>). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (roadtransport@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² All delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (roadsafety@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext.75716 or 72401). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website (<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>).

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the 104th session.
3. Information on activities of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies;
 - (b) International organizations;
 - (c) National delegations.
4. Joint session with the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety.
5. European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR):
 - (a) Implementation of the digital tachograph;
 - (b) Amendments to the Agreement;
 - (c) Debate on prevailing legal instrument.
6. 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.
 - (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project.
7. Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operation:
 - (a) Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS);
 - (b) Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods;
 - (c) Review of questions concerning the facilitation of international road transport:
 - (i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card);
 - (ii) Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note.
8. Election of officers.
9. Other business.
10. Date of next session.
11. Adoption of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item to be adopted by the Working Party is its agenda. Due to late transmission, it is possible that additional documents, not included in this agenda, will be submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/391

2. Adoption of the report of the 104th session

The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its 104th session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/388 and Corr.1

3. Information on activities of interest to the Working Party³

(a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about developments related to road transport including major events that took place since the previous session, in particular, the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and the work of its subsidiary bodies.

(b) International organizations

Representatives of international organizations are welcome to give information on developments in their respective areas, which may be of interest to the Working Party. In particular, the representative of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) may wish to share the experience of creating and implementing a subregional multilateral system of transport permits.

(c) National delegations

National delegations are welcome to give information on road transport developments in their respective countries.

4. Joint session with the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

At its 104th session (19-21 October 2009) the Working Party decided to develop synergies with other working parties of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). As a first step, to this decision the Chair of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) sent a letter to the Chair of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

³ All the participants are strongly encouraged to transmit information in advance, allowing the secretariat to distribute it to participants in a timely manner.

(WP.1) proposing a joint session, on 29 September 2010, to discuss issues of common interest.

At its 59th session (22-24 March 2010) WP.1 decided to celebrate the 60 years of road safety activities in the United Nations system, coinciding with its sixtieth session, by organizing a joint session with the SC.1 in the afternoon of 29 September 2010.

One expected outcome of the joint session is that common areas of interest are identified, on which further cooperation could be developed, such as, but not limited to road safety in tunnels, implementation of the digital tachograph, infrastructure safety, fleet management and training for professional drivers, “Green Card” system, and corporate safety.

It is hoped that national delegations will include representatives of large transport companies, insurers and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/1

5. European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

(a) Implementation of the digital tachograph

The amendment 5 to the AETR, making the digital tachograph a mandatory equipment for newly registered vehicles, entered into force on 16 June 2010. Some AETR Contracting Parties were not yet ready to fully implement this device within the set deadline, therefore SC.1 held an extraordinary session on 22-23 April 2010 and those countries were granted a “tolerance package” until 31 December 2010 to comply with amendment 5.

National delegations will be invited to report on the status of implementation of the digital tachograph, based on the established Implementation Table which can be downloaded at http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc1/sc1aetr_status.html.

(b) Amendments to the Agreement

Since the last major amendment to the AETR it appeared that several provisions of the agreement could be improved to ease its enforcement or to better reflect the interest of stakeholders.

The Working Party may wish to consider the proposals drafted by the secretariat based on previous remarks and discussions on specific examples (e.g., article 22 bis, accession by third countries and procedure of amendment, to name but a few).

(c) Debate on prevailing legal instrument

The Working Party may wish to continue its debate on whether AETR or European Union (EU) law should prevail in transport between two member States of the EU. A specific example to be analyzed is that of a Russian truck going from the Russian Federation to Lithuania, trip covered by the AETR, and continuing on Lithuania to Estonia. The question to be answered is if this final leg is covered by the EU legal instruments or by the AETR, knowing that neither Lithuania nor Estonia had introduced reservations to AETR when they adhered to the EU.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/388 (annex I), ECE/TRANS/SC.1/S/390, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/2

6. Road transport infrastructure

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

(i) *Status of prior amendments to the AGR*

The amendment proposed by Estonia to the AGR and approved by the Working Party in annex II to document ECE/TRANS/SC.1/386 entered into force on 14 January 2010. The amendments proposed by Turkey, Hungary, and Norway-Sweden and approved in Annex II to document ECE/TRANS/SC.1/388 are expected to enter into force around 15 December 2010

(ii) *Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR*

The Working Party will consider amendments to the AGR on procedures relating to road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, the management of road network safety, as well as safety inspections in the Agreement, as an annex thereto, based on European Commission's Directive 2008/96/EC on road infrastructure safety management.

The Working Party may also wish to exchange views on defining a reliable mechanism for the monitoring and enforcing of AGR standards on E-roads network and on the best use to be made of the results of work undertaken on "secure parking places" in various fora outside of the ECE region.

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

The Working Party will be informed of the status of the project, including the revision of the TEM Master Plan.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/3, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/4

7. Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operation

Participants are invited to share relevant information related to facilitation of international road transport including possible restrictions imposed thereto.

(a) Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS)

The group of experts created by the Working Party to further develop the proposal for a multilateral agreement held its first meeting on 16 March; a second meeting is scheduled for 3 September 2010. Several articles of the initial draft were amended by the group. The result of their work will be circulated as document ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2008/4/Rev.1 for consideration and approval by the Working Party.

The Working Party is expected to extend the mandate of the group of experts and to invite the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to continue supporting the secretariat in servicing this group.

(b) Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods

The ITC at its seventy-second session requested the secretariat to continue monitoring the developments related to the road transit issues in the ECE region and the opportunities to

further facilitate international transport, and to regularly inform SC.1 and ITC accordingly, based on information from member States and relevant road transport NGOs.

The IRU has subsequently prepared and distributed a questionnaire on bilateral quotas, the results of which are submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

The Government of the Republic of Turkey transmitted “Draft convention aligning bilateral agreements on international road transport with the mandatory rules of multilateral instruments governing international road transit” for consideration by the Working Party.

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

(i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)

The Working Party will be informed by the representatives of the Council of Bureaux of developments that took place since its previous session, and particularly of the results of elections and the strategic policies of the “Green Card” System for the future.

(ii) Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note

The number of signatories of the Protocol on the Electronic Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (e-CMR) remained unchanged (eight Governments) and three ratifications (Latvia, Netherlands and Switzerland). Two additional ratifications are needed for the Protocol to enter into force.

The IRU conducted a survey on the potential utility of having the e-CMR issued, sent, received and stored by computer. Two questionnaires were issued to gain insight into the actual use of e-CMR by hauliers, its perception by IRU Member Associations and hauliers of its advantages and possible disadvantages, while highlighting important questions on the status of the e-CMR Protocol. The results of the survey and the questionnaires are presented in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/7. The Working Party may wish to decide on further use to be given to this work.

At its seventy-second session, the ITC invited Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) to ratify or accede to the Additional Protocol to the CMR allowing the use of the electronic consignment note (e-CMR). The Working Party may wish to reiterate this invitation.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/5, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/6, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2010/7,
ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2008/4/Rev.1

8. Election of officers

The Working Party will be invited to elect its officers for the period 2011–2013, in accordance with its Terms of reference and rules of procedure (chapter V, “Officers”, Rule 12) as contained in document TRANS/SC.1/377/Add.1, stipulating that “every two years, SC.1 shall, at the end of the last session of the second year, elect from among the representatives of members of the UNECE a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who shall take office at the start of the first session of the year following their election. The officers shall be eligible for re-election.”

Documentation

TRANS/SC.1/377/Add.1

9. Other business

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

10. Date of next session

The Working Party will be informed that the dates of 17-19 October 2011 have been selected for its 106th session in 2011. Delegations wishing to submit proposals for that session are invited to do so by 20 July 2011 at the latest, in order to allow the secretariat to process the documents according to the internal procedures.

11. Adoption of decisions

The Working Party will adopt a brief list of decisions taken at its 105th session, upon which the secretariat will draft the final report.
