

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Transport

Special session
Geneva, 12 July 2011

This informal document, prepared by the secretariat, provides a draft proposal and terms of reference necessary to seek the UNECE Executive Committee's approval to establish an AETR Expert Group. AETR Contracting Parties are invited to discuss Informal document No.1 with a view of approving the terms of reference contained therein.

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Executive Committee

Establishment of a Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)**Note by the secretariat**

1. At its seventy-third session (Geneva, 1-3 March 2011), the Inland Transport Committee discussed the urgency and importance of addressing some key issues related to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). As a result, the Committee decided to transform the existing informal AETR expert group, set up by decision of the 105th session of SC.1, to a formal Expert Group for all Contracting Parties of AETR and EU. The Committee urged this Group to continue its work, establish its Terms of Reference (ToR) and report to the Bureau and to SC.1 at the next session (ECE/TRANS/221, para.44).
2. The ToR of the AETR Expert Group has been prepared in line with the UNECE Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists. The Expert Group, in general, will aim at amending a complex Article 22bis and examining, and if necessary modifying, the relationship between AETR and EU laws.
3. In accordance with the Guidelines, the ITC has decided that participation in the Expert Group would be open to all UNECE member states and the European Union. The expected duration of the Expert Group is two years (counting from the first EG meeting) with a possibility of extension if necessary.
4. The Expert Group will be established without the need for additional resources. Support work will be provided within the existing capacities of the UNECE secretariat. UNOG resources will be used for interpretation and conference services.
5. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of the AETR Expert Group and its Terms of Reference (attached)

ANNEX

Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

1. To develop proposals for amending AETR Article 22bis, and if necessary, amendments to other AETR provisions, including the creation of a new institutional arrangement such as an administrative committee
2. To examine, and if necessary develop proposals to modify, the relationship between the AETR and EU laws pertaining to road transport/social rules
3. To describe and assess issues related to the exchange of information with respect to the issuance of digital tachograph cards. This may include developing proposals to modify the existing information exchange platforms and/or to develop a new standardized method for exchange of AETR-related information
4. To describe and analyze impacts of the expiry of the memorandum of understanding between the UNECE and European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) which recognizes the JRC as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR.
5. To examine third-country rights and obligations under the AETR Agreement
6. To assess the need and feasibility of providing technical, financial and capacity building assistance to non-EU AETR Contracting Parties concerning the implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1266/2009 and Commission Regulation (EU) No. 68/2009.