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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Bern, 18–22 March 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Standards**Amendment of cooperation agreement with CEN-CENELEC****Transmitted by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)^{1, 2}****Introduction**

1. As part of his report to the Joint Meeting at its session in September 2012 (see para. 3.3 of informal document INF.37) the representative of CEN reported about the outcome of the discussion of the working procedures of the working group on standards. He stated that the working group is convinced that the quality and efficiency of its discussions could significantly be improved by the use of telephone/video-conferences (termed “telecons” in the following) allowing the involvement of experts which otherwise are not able to attend sessions of the Joint Meeting extending over days or even a week.

2. He pointed out that CEN-CENELEC would provide interested members – after adoption of the procedure – with the necessary information and the programme to be used. A training service may also be offered. There will be no costs resulting from the attendance in “telecons”. The programme used will also not conflict with the firewalls of the participating companies/institutions.

3. The Joint Meeting noted that CEN would present a proposal to the next session on improving the methods of work (see para. 22 of the report of the last session ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/126).

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010-2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para.106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7(c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2013/7.

Proposal

4. It is suggested to amend paragraph 4 of the Procedure of cooperation with the CEN and CENELEC (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/122/Add.2) as follows (additions underlined):

“4. Terms of Reference and working procedures of the Joint Meeting Working Group on Standards

The terms of reference of the Working Group are restricted to commenting as to whether a standard complies with the requirements of the RID/ADR/ADN. Technical comments will be transmitted to the relevant Technical Committees of CEN-CENELEC via the national committees.

- The Joint Meeting will request ~~participants~~ its Members to nominate their experts, to assign them to the Working Group and nominate a Chair;
- The CEN consultant will collaborate with the Working Group;
- Meetings of the Working Group on Standards will be held at the same time as the Joint Meeting, but outside its working hours. Working group sessions will begin on the first Monday of the meeting and will conclude not later than the Wednesday. The Chair may, exceptionally, call meetings at other times;
- The Working Group may also use telephone/ video conferences (“telecons”) organized by CEN-CENELEC in advance of the Joint Meeting sessions. Members of the Working Group and experts nominated by the Members of the Joint Meeting will be provided by CEN-CENELEC with the necessary information and the agenda of those meetings.
- Telecons may be arranged by the Chair at any time between the sessions of the Joint Meeting, however not later than 4 weeks ahead of the next session of the Joint Meeting.
- The results of the telecons will be documented and the Chair will introduce the report(s) to the Joint Meeting. Any unresolved or new issue possibly put forward at the beginning of the session could be settled - if specific expertise is required – by a telecon during the session week.
- The Chair will report to the plenary on the evaluation of the standards’ conformity with existing regulations and submit proposals on new or amended references to standards in RID/ADR/ADN;
- The Joint Meeting will include on its agenda an item under which the Chair of the Working Group will report to the Joint Meeting.”