Dear colleagues,

The current COVID-19 pandemic has led to the introduction of several necessary countermeasures by countries and organizations around the globe. Due to travel restrictions and limitations for in-person meetings, it is currently not possible to hold the 67th session of the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP), originally scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 July 2020 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in its traditional format.

The Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of WP.29, WP.29/AC.2, of which GRSP is a subsidiary body, has considered the importance of the timely establishment of amendments and new UN Regulations and UN GTRs, which directly impact national and regional rulemaking by Contracting Parties, fostering road safety and environmental protection, and thus recommended to seek business continuation at all levels via virtual meetings.

As Chair of GRSP, and on behalf of Vice-Chair Mr. Kim of Korea, I would like to inform you that the virtual meeting of GRSP will be held from 20 - 23 July, 2020, from 14:00 to 16:30 Central European Summer Time/SwissTime. The agenda, which will reflect the reduced format and include only the most critical items, will be shared with you in advance. I recommend the following special procedure for decisions at the informal virtual meeting of GRSP: Decisions taken during the informal virtual meeting will be circulated after the meeting in the three ECE official languages to the delegations of Contracting Parties via their missions in Geneva for final approval under silence procedure of 10 days.

Following paragraph 6 of the decision adopted by Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe on 6 April 2020 on Special Procedures during the COVID19 period and arrangements for the UNECE Inland Transport Committee subsidiary bodies to conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 period (EXCOM Informal document 2020/18), I am circulating the above introduced recommendation for proceedings of the informal virtual meeting of GRSP on 20 to 23 July 2020 (in lieu of an in-person 67th session of GRSP, through your Permanent Missions in Geneva, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5. If the silence is not broken, the recommendation shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the 83rd session of ITC for consideration, as appropriate.

As Contracting Party to the U.N. Agreements on the certification and inspection of vehicles, you are highly valuable and important members of the World Forum and its subsidiary bodies such as GRSP, and I thank you for your continued cooperation.

I wish you good health and peace, and look forward to connecting with all of you at the next session of GRSP.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Koubek
(GRSP Chair)

Contracting Parties to 1958, 1997, 1998 Agreements

Head of delegation to GRSP