

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (RRTC)

Third session

(Heraklion (Crete), 4-6 October 2000)

PROGRAMME AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD SESSION

WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2000

09.00 hours Registration

Morning session 09.30 hours - 13.30 hours (coffee break at mid-session)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: Programme and provisional agenda; Informal Document No. 0 (2000), Rev.1.

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the provision agenda. prepared by Greece and the UN/ECE secretariat. The Committee may also wish to take note of the revised list of documents for consideration at the session (Informal Document No. 0 (2000), Rev.1).

All documents of the Committee, including this agenda, are available and may be down-loaded (in PDF format) from the relevant UN/ECE web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.html).

2. COORDINATION OF WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee may wish to be informed of activities of other international organizations, of fora and initiatives working in the same or similar fields and with the same or similar geographical scope with a view to coordinating relevant work and avoiding duplication of efforts with those undertaken by the Committee. In particular, the Committee may wish to be informed of recent activities undertaken by the European Commission (EC), the UN Economic Commission (UN/ECE), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the Black Sea Pan-European Transport Area (PETrA).

3. PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

At its second session, the Committee was informed by the representative of Croatia that the competent authorities had decided that Croatia should become a Party to the MoU.

On 18 July 2000, the UN/ECE secretariat received an official communication from the Government of Croatia with the request to become a Party to the MoU. In accordance with Article 14 of the MoU and in line with the procedure for SECI participating States to become a Party to the MoU, adopted by the Committee at its first session, the UN/ECE secretariat has communicated this request to all Parties of the MoU on 21 July 2000.

In accordance with the above procedure, requesting SECI participating States will become Parties to the MoU, if, after the expiry of a period of 90 days following the date of communication by the UN/ECE secretariat of such a request, no objection has been communicated to the UN/ECE secretariat by the Parties to the MoU. The UN/ECE secretariat will notify all Parties to the MoU of the situation with regard to the acceptance of the Government of Croatia as a Party to the MoU, following the expiry of the above-mentioned 90 day period.

The Committee will be informed by the UN/ECE secretariat of the status of this procedure.

4. REVIEW OF RESERVATIONS TO ARTICLES 3 AND 8 OF THE MOU

Documentation: SECI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); Report of the first and second sessions of the Committee.

At its first and second sessions, the Committee was informed by the representatives of Hungary and Slovenia that their countries maintained the reservations to Article 3, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Hungary) as well as to Article 3, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Article 8, paragraph 3 (Slovenia) of the MoU respectively.

The Committee may wish to be informed on progress made in this matter with a view to achieving a consensus on the implementation of the provisions of the MoU.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE MOU IN LINE WITH THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Documentation: SECI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); Report of the first and second sessions of the Committee.

The Committee may wish to review progress made in the implementation of the provisions of the MoU taking account of the time frames provided in the MoU and the adopted work programme of the Committee.

- (a) **Identification of roads servicing international traffic (E-Roads)**
(in accordance with article 6 of the MoU)

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 10; 9; and 6, Add.1 (2000).

In accordance with the decision taken at the first and second sessions of the Committee, the UN/ECE secretariat will prepare an updated version of the complete E-Road network based on information received through a questionnaire identifying those sections of the E-Road network in the SECI region on which lorries in international transport complying with the relevant regulations of the European Community on maximum dimensions and weights are allowed without requiring payment of charges for excess weight and dimensions.

The UN/ECE secretariat has received, so far, information from all Parties to the MoU, except from Hungary and the Republic of Moldova. The Committee may wish to examine the replies received from the Parties to the MoU and from Croatia as soon as they are available Informal Document No. 6 and Add.1 (2000).

The UN/ECE secretariat, in cooperation with Greece, will prepare a draft protocol to the MoU as provided for in Article 6 of the MoU. The Committee may wish to consider the text of the draft Protocol with a view to its adoption (Informal Document No. 9 (2000)).

As requested, the UN/ECE secretariat is preparing a map, also in an electronic format, showing the identified sections of these E-Roads as well as border crossing points and vehicle weighing stations which will be distributed to delegations at the session (Informal Document No. 10 (2000)).

13.30 - 15.00 LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon session 15.00 hours - 18.30 hours (coffee break at mid-session)

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE MOU IN LINE WITH THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

**(b) Preparation of an international goods road vehicle weight certificate
(in accordance with article 7 of the MoU)**

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 11 and 1, Add.1 (2000).

At its second session, the Committee had considered a first draft of a road vehicle weight certificate (Informal Document No. 1 and Add.1 (2000)).

Taking account of these considerations, the Committee may wish to consider a revised draft weight certificate prepared by a UN/ECE group of technical experts which had met in Geneva on 1 August 2000. This document contains also the text of a Protocol to the MoU on this matter which the Committee may also wish to consider in line with article 7 of the MoU. The text of

the Protocol is based on the first draft contained in Annex 1 of the report of the second session of the Committee (Informal Document No. 11 (2000)).

The Committee may also consider ways and means to ensure an efficient implementation of the weight certificate in the SECI region.

**(c) Implementation of article 3 of the MoU
(Progressive liberalization and sustainability of international road transport)**

Documentation: Report of the second session of the Committee Annex II).

The Committee may wish to review the Draft Protocol/Joint Statement on the Implementation of Article 3 of the MoU on Progressive Liberalization and Sustainability of International Road Transport as approved, in principle, at the second session of the Committee with a view to its final adoption. The Committee may also wish to consider the practical steps and administrative procedures to be taken before the end of the year to implement Article 3 of the MoU with regard to a quota-free regime for “green” and “greener and safer” goods road vehicles.

In this context, the Committee may recall that it had stressed that the SECI participating States should not await the finalization of such a Protocol/Joint Statement by the Committee, but should take already now all relevant measures to ensure the implementation of the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU through bilateral road transport agreements.

THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2000

Morning session 09.30 hours - 13.30 hours (coffee break at mid-session)

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE MOU IN LINE WITH THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

**(d) Maintenance of an international information system on charges
(in accordance with article 9 of the MoU)**

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 12 and 7 (2000).

In accordance with article 9 of the MoU and following the decisions taken at the first and second sessions of the Committee, the UN/ECE secretariat has established an international information system on road transport for the SECI participating States which is also available on the UN/ECE Transport Division web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.html) (Informal Document No. 7 (2000)).

The international information system on road transport contains detailed information for each of the SECI participating States on E-Roads and maximum permissible road vehicle characteristics, transportation costs, combined transport services, road transport control and enforcement

authorities, on-line waiting times at border crossings and truck parking areas (maintained in cooperation with the International Road Transport Union).

Since the information system is now installed on a United Nations server and assurances for effective maintenance have been given by the countries providing these data, marketing efforts may now be required to make this offer known to the public.

In line with the decision of the Committee, the UN/ECE secretariat will issue in due course (prior to the session of the Committee) an updated and pre-filled questionnaire which will be transmitted to all SECI participating States allowing for verification and updating of the data contained in the international information system (Informal Document No. 12 (2000)).

**(e) Accession to international agreements
(in accordance with article 4 of the MoU)**

Documentation: Informal Document No. 13 (2000).

The UN/ECE secretariat will provide a status report on the accession by SECI participating States to the international agreements and conventions contained in the Annex to the MoU. SECI participating States may wish to inform the Committee about difficulties in implementation of these agreements and conventions in order to identify possibilities for assistance, if necessary (Informal Document No. 13 (2000)).

**(f) Review of charging policies in the region
(in accordance with article 8 of the MoU)**

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 15, 5 and 4 (2000).

At its second session, the Committee approved in principle the text of a draft Protocol/Joint Statement by the Committee as attached to this report (Annex III). It contains provisions aiming at a gradual convergence of charging policies for international road transport of goods in line with the standards and principles applicable in the European Union and the relevant resolutions of the ECMT. Representatives were requested to analyse the provisions contained therein with the national competent authorities and to transmit any comments to the Greek Government or to the UN/ECE secretariat by 30 June 2000.

As agreed, Greece in cooperation with the UN/ECE secretariat will endeavour to prepare a revised draft Protocol/Joint Statement for final consideration by the Committee (Informal Document No. 15 (2000)).

**(g) Review of visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers
(in accordance with article 10 of the MoU)**

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 14 and 8 (2000).

Recalling its earlier discussions on existing streamlined procedures in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, based on bilateral arrangements, allowing for quick and unbureaucratic delivery of visa for professional drivers without jeopardizing internal security and administrative control, the Committee, at its second session, took note of the results of a questionnaire which has been prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat on this subject. The Committee stressed once more the importance of this issue which needed to be addressed urgently in order to implement the relevant provisions of the MoU.

The Committee invited all countries that had not yet done so to transmit the required information to the UN/ECE secretariat which would analyse these issues as well as existing facilitation measures in this field.

The Committee may wish to consider a consolidated document on this subject which has been prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat (Informal Document No. 14 (2000)).

13.30 - 15.00 LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon session 15.00 hours - open ended (coffee break at mid-session)

**6. PROGRAMME OF WORK (ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGIES)
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU**

Documentation: Informal Document No. 16 (2000).

The Committee may wish to review its programme of work, including its action plan and strategies for implementation of the MoU taking account of progress made in the various fields covered by the MoU and dealt with by the Committee.

The UN/ECE secretariat will reproduce the programme of work as adopted at the first session of the Committee as a basis for consideration (Informal Document No. 16 (2000)).

**7. HOST AND VENUE OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
(in accordance with article 12, paragraph 2 of the MoU)**

The Committee may wish to decide on the date and venue of its fourth session. The Committee may wish to recall that, at its first session, the Government of Greece has offered to host its sessions in 2000. The Government of Turkey has indicated that it might possibly host the sessions of the Committee in 2001.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee may wish to consider any other business of relevance for its activities.

9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Committee may wish to adopt the conclusions of its third session on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat.
