

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (RRTC)

Fourth session

(Istanbul, 11 and 12 June 2001)

DRAFT **PROGRAMME AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA** **FOR THE FOURTH SESSION**

MONDAY, 11 JUNE 2001

09.30 hours Registration

Morning session 10.00 hours - 13.00 hours (coffee break at mid-session)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: Programme and provisional agenda; Informal Document No. 0 (2001).

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the provision agenda prepared by Turkey and the UN/ECE secretariat. The Committee may also wish to take note of the list of documents for consideration at the session (Informal Document No. 0 (2001)).

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, fora and initiatives working in the same or similar fields and with the same or similar geographical scope with a view to co-ordinating 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 Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the Black Sea Pan-European Transport Area (PETrA).

3. PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (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, Croatia had become a Party to the MoU on 20 October 2000.

The Committee will be informed by the UN/ECE secretariat of the situation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with regard to the MoU.

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

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

At its previous 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, second and third 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 Document No. 2 (2001).

In accordance with the decision taken at the first and second sessions of the Committee, the UN/ECE secretariat has prepared 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 (Informal Document No. 2 (2001)).

All SECI participating States, except the Republic of Moldova, have provided the requested

data. On that basis, the UN/ECE secretariat has prepared maps covering all SECI participating States, also in an electronic format available on the relevant UN/ECE RRTC web site (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.htm).

At its third session, the Committee adopted a Protocol to the MoU on the implementation of Article 6 of the MoU on roads servicing international traffic (E-Roads) on which lorries in international transport complying with the relevant directives of the European Community on maximum dimensions and weights (96/53/EC (25 July 1996) and 97/27/EC (22 July 1997)) are allowed (see Annex 1 of the report of the third session). The Committee also decided to establish, as a second step, a list of those E-Roads which are currently upgraded or are planned to be upgraded in order to allow for the carriage of road vehicles in line with the above EC regulations in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1 of the MoU. Criteria allowing the establishment of internationally comparable information in this respect would need to be considered in this context by the Committee at its next session.

In accordance with this decision, the UN/ECE secretariat has prepared a revised questionnaire on E-Roads in line with Article 6 of the MoU providing also terms and definitions for E-Roads which are currently upgraded or are planned to be upgraded. This questionnaire will be transmitted to concerned delegations well before the session of the Committee (Informal document No.2 (2001)).

Delegations of SECI participating States are expected to return the duly filled-in questionnaire to the UN/ECE secretariat by 1 June 2001 at the latest. The UN/ECE secretariat will compile the data and comments received for consideration and adoption by the Committee. Following the adoption of the updated E-Road network, including these E-Roads which are currently upgraded or are planned to be upgraded, the UN/ECE secretariat will modify and update the relevant RRTC web site.

13.00 - 15.00 LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon session 15.00 hours - 18.00 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 Document No. 3 (2001).

At its third session, the Committee had approved in principle an international goods road vehicle weight certificate (IVWC) as well as the text of a Protocol to the MoU in this respect, subject to a number of issues of a technical and administrative nature that still need to be resolved (Annex 2 of the report of the third session).

The Committee had felt that in particular attention should be given to the determination of the maximum permissible weighing errors as well as to other technical aspects ensuring that, independent of the weighing procedure used, the results obtained were identical. The Committee also had invited all delegations to review with national experts the provisions of the Protocol (Annex 2 of the report of the third session) and to explore ways and means to ensure that its provisions as well as the certificate itself could be implemented in all Parties of the MoU as soon as possible.

In this context, the Committee will be informed of the views expressed on this subject by the Contracting Parties to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1985) at the fourth session of the Administrative Committee (Geneva, 18 to 20 October 2000).

Based on a document prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat containing revised provisions of a Protocol to the MoU on the introduction of an International Goods Road Vehicle Weight Certificate as well as a revised draft of the Certificate itself (Informal Document No. 3 (2001)), the Committee may wish to review once more the Protocol to the MoU and may wish to consider ways and means to ensure an efficient implementation of the vehicle weight certificate in the countries of the SECI region.

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

Documentation: Report of the third session of the Committee (Annexes 3, 4 and 5).

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its second session, it had adopted a Joint Statement on the implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU providing guidance on the implementation of a quota-free regime for “green” and “greener and safe” lorries by 1 January 2001 in accordance with the relevant ECMT regulations (Annex 3 to the report of the third session). The Committee may also recall the information provided on the administrative procedures allowing for the identification of “green” and “greener and safe” lorries as contained in Annex 4 to the report of the fourth session as well as the status of implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU in the Parties to the MoU as of 15 November 2000 (Annex 5 to the report of the third session).

The Committee may wish to be informed by the Parties to the MoU on the present status of implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU. Taking account of the table of implementation in Annex 5 to the report of the third session of the Committee, delegations are expected to report on the various bilateral arrangements and transport agreements ensuring a quota-free regime for “green” and “greener and safe” lorries by 1 January 2001 in accordance with the relevant ECMT regulations.

TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2001

Morning session **10.00 hours - 13.00 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. 4 (2001).

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 fourth 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. 4 (2001)).

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

Documentation: Informal Document No. 5 (2001).

The UN/ECE secretariat will provide a status report on the accession by the Parties to the MoU to the international agreements and conventions contained in the Annex to the MoU. The Committee may wish to be informed about difficulties in implementation of these agreements and conventions in order to identify possibilities for assistance, if necessary (Informal Document No. 5 (2001)).

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

Documentation: Informal Document No. 6 (2001).

At its third session, the Committee adopted a Joint Statement on the implementation of Article 8 of the MoU on road charging policies (Annex 6 to the report of the third session). 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. The Joint Statement also established an ad hoc group of experts by mid-2001 to study the implementation of its provisions.

As requested by the Committee, the UN/ECE secretariat has established terms of reference for the group of experts for consideration and adoption by the Committee (Informal Document No. 6 (2001)).

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

Documentation: Informal Document No. 7 (2001).

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 third, had taken note of the results of a questionnaire which has been prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat on this subject. The Committee had 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 had 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 (paragraphs 29 and 30 of the report of the third session).

The Committee may wish to consider a document on this subject, prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat, which provided an overview of the various activities undertaken on this subject (Informal Document No. 7 (2001)).

13.00 - 15.00

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon session 15.00 hours – 18.00 hours (coffee break at mid-session)

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

Documentation: Informal Document No. 8 (2001).

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 third session of the Committee, indicating issues still to be taken up, problem areas not yet covered as well as strategies for a more effective implementation of the provisions of the MoU (Informal Document No. 8 (2001)).

**7. VENUE OF THE FIFTH 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 fifth session. The Government of Turkey, host of the Committee in 2001 may wish to indicate possible dates and venue.

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 fourth session on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat.
