

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (RRTC)

Fifth session

(Antalya, 11 to 12 October 2001)

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

THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2001

09.30 hours : Registration

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

(1) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: Draft programme and provisional agenda – Informal Document No.10 (2001); List of documents – Informal Document No. 10/1 (2001).

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the provisional agenda prepared by Turkey and the UNECE secretariat. The Committee may also wish to take note of the list of documents for consideration at the session (Informal Document No. 10/1 (2001).

Several documents of the Committee, including this agenda, are available and may be downloaded from the relevant UNECE web site:

http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.htm

(2) COORDINATION OF WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee may wish to be informed of activities of other international organizations, forums 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 Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), 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). The Committee may also wish to be informed on

recent developments in the frame of the SECI/World Bank TTFSE program and its Trade Facilitation component.

(3) PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Documentation: Informal document No. 11 (2001)

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, Yugoslavia will become a Party to the MoU on 19 September 2001. The UNECE secretariat will notify all Parties to the MoU accordingly.

As a result, all twelve SECI participating countries will have adopted the Memorandum of Understanding on Road Transport Facilitation in the SECI region and will be represented at the Regional Road Transport Committee.

(4) REVIEW OF RESERVATIONS TO ARTICLES 3 AND 8 OF THE MoU

Documentation: SECI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); Reports of the first, second, third and fourth 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 further also to a request addressed to the Ministers of Transport of these two countries by the UNECE secretariat to make a special effort 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, third and fourth 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. 12 (2001) and 12/1 (2001).

The UNECE 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 (available on the relevant UNECE RRTC web site: http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.htm).

In accordance with the decision taken at the fourth meeting, the UNECE secretariat will present the new questionnaire (Informal document No.12 (2001)) aiming at gathering information on the roads whose upgrading is ongoing or which are planned to be upgraded in order to allow for the carriage of road vehicles in line with the EC regulations as provided for in 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.

Delegations of SECI participating States are expected to return the duly filled-in questionnaire to the UNECE secretariat by 30 November 2001 at the latest. The UNECE 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 UNECE secretariat will modify and update the relevant RRTC web site.

The Committee may also wish to consider the information prepared by the UNECE secretariat on average annual daily traffic on these E-Roads (AADT), (Informal document No. 12/1 (2001)).

13.00 - 15.00 hours: Lunch break

15.00 - 18.00 hours: Afternoon session (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. 13 (2001), 13/1 (2001) and 13/2 (2001).

At its fourth session, the Committee adopted in principle the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) as well as the text of a Protocol to the MoU in this respect (Informal Document No. 13 (2001)).

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 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 draft Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1985) (Informal Document No. 13/1 (2001)).

Based on a document prepared by the UNECE secretariat containing a summary of national consultations on the adoption of the Certificate (Informal Document No. 13/2 (2001)), the Committee may wish to review once more the Protocol to the MoU and may wish to consider its adoption and further implementation in the countries of the SECI region.

**(c) Implementation of article 3 of the MoU
(Progressive liberalization and sustainability of international road transport)**
Documentation: Informal Document No. 14 (2001)

The Committee may wish to examine the status of implementation of Article 3 of the MoU based on a document prepared by the UNECE secretariat and clarify inconsistencies between different countries reports.

The Committee may wish to concentrate on the present status of implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU which provides for a quota-free regime to be applicable, by the end of the year 2000, for “green”, “greener and safer” goods road vehicles in accordance with the definition of the ECMT. As per 12 June 2001 only the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had reported the fulfillment of this commitment.

(d) Preparation of a Multilateral Framework Agreement (in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the MoU)
Documentation: Informal Document No. 15 (2001)

The Committee decided at its fourth session to prepare the mandated multilateral framework agreement on road transport covering all SECI participating States, including also provisions on passenger transport.

Taking account of existing bilateral road transport agreements as well as of recommendations and models prepared under the auspices of the EC, ECMT and other organizations, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport of Turkey has prepared a first outline of such a multilateral framework agreement for consideration and discussion by the Committee.

FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2001

10.00 - 13.00 hours: Morning session (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)

- (e) Maintenance of an International Road Transport Information System
(in accordance with article 9 of the MoU)**
Documentation: Informal Document No. 16 (2001).

In accordance with article 9 of the MoU the UNECE secretariat has established an international information system on road transport for the SECI participating States which is also available on the UNECE Transport Division web site:

http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.html

The international information system on road transport contains detailed information for each of the SECI participating countries 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, it is necessary for the Committee members to update it by sending relevant information to the UNECE secretariat on a regular basis.

- (f) Accession to international agreements
(in accordance with article 4 of the MoU)**
Documentation: Informal Document No. 17 (2001).

The UNECE 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.

- (g) **Review of charging policies in the region
(in accordance with article 8 of the MoU)**
Documentation: Informal Document No. 19 (2001).

At its fourth session, the Committee adopted the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on charging policies. The Group will hold its first meeting from 9-10 October.

In accordance with article 4 of the Joint Statement on the Implementation of Article 8 of the MoU and with article 4 of the Terms of Reference for the Group of Experts on Charging Policies, the Committee will be informed about the results of the Group's first meeting and may wish to provide guidance on further work.

- (h) **Review of visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers
(in accordance with article 10 of the MoU)**
Documentation: Informal Document No. 19 (2001).

Recalling its earlier discussions on the UNECE - SECIPRO Project on "Visa Regime Improvements for the Business Community in Southeast Europe", the Committee may wish to be informed on progress made in this area through bilateral and trilateral meetings between the national PRO committees and by the group of experts, which hold its first meeting on 14 September 2001 in Bucharest.

The Committee may wish to consider a document on this subject, prepared by the UNECE secretariat, which provides an overview of the various activities undertaken on this subject (Informal Document No. 19 (2001)).

13.00 - 15.00 hours: Lunch break

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

- (6) **PROGRAMME OF WORK (ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGIES) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MoU**
Documentation: Informal Document No. 20 (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 UNECE secretariat will reproduce the programme of work as adopted at the fourth 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. 20 (2001)).

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

The Committee may wish to decide on the host country for 2002 as well as on the sixth session's date 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 fifth session on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the UNECE secretariat.
