

12 October 2001

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (RRTC)

CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION

**held in Antalya (Turkey)
on 11 and 12 October 2001**

ATTENDANCE

1. The fifth session of the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC) established by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Facilitation of International Road Transport of Goods in the SECI Region was held on 11 and 12 October 2001 in Antalya (Turkey).
2. The session was co-chaired by Mrs. Ümit Armangil, Ministry of Transport of Turkey and Mr. Martin Magold, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
3. The session was attended by representatives/deputy representatives of the following SECI participating States: Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece and Hungary conveyed their regret for not being able to attend the meeting. Greece transmitted written comments regarding the International Goods Road Vehicle Weight Certificate.

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

4. The Committee adopted its agenda on the basis of a draft prepared by Turkey and the UNECE secretariat.

B. COORDINATION OF WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. The UNECE secretariat informed the Committee about the forthcoming meeting of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) (Geneva, 23-26 October 2001) which is responsible for the administration of several international UN conventions in the field of border crossing facilitation. WP.30 will consider a new Annex 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982. This Annex addresses in a comprehensive manner all issues related to border crossing procedures in international road transport, including visa facilitation issues and an international goods road vehicle weight certificate.

6. The representative of TURKPRO informed the Committee of progress made in the framework of the SECI/World Bank TTFSE programme. He stressed the regional dimension, the co-operative structure and the participatory approach that characterize this initiative and its Regional Steering Committee created by virtue of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by countries participating in the programme. The private sector, in co-operation with the public sector (at the PRO Committees level), also participates in the Trade Facilitation Component (TFC) of this programme. This component focuses on educational programmes involving the transport industry, forwarders, Customs agents and SMEs and intends to promote best practices to facilitate trade, transport and border crossing procedures in the SECI region.

7. The representative of TURKPRO also presented BSEC-URTA, the newly created Union of Road Transport Associations which is associated with the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organisation (BSEC) Working Group on Transport. It was suggested that a similar sub-regional NGO be created in the framework of the Committee. This issue will be considered at the next session of the Committee based on documentation to be provided by TURKPRO.

8. The Committee felt that the representatives of SECI participating States in the Bureau of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee may wish to propose to follow-up such activities which had been concluded by the Committee as part of the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee, thus allowing the RRTC to continue its work on other subjects.

C. PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Documentation: Informal document No. 11 (2001).

9. The Committee took note of the notification by the UNECE secretariat to the Parties to the MoU that, according to Article 14 of the MoU and in line with the procedure for SECI participating States to become a Party to the MoU, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had become a Party to the MoU as of 18 September 2001.

D. 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 session of the Committee.

10. The Committee was informed of a letter sent by the UNECE secretariat to the Ministers of Transport of Hungary and Slovenia inviting them to review their position with regard to their reservations to the MoU. The two countries maintain 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. As no reply has yet been received to these letters, the Committee requested the secretariat to follow-up with the countries concerned on this matter. It also requested the secretariat to approach the SECI Agenda Committee in this respect.

11. It was also suggested that the UNECE secretariat analyses the transit agreements between the SECI countries and the EU to see whether they are compatible with Articles 3 and 8 of the MoU.

E. 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.

12. The Committee reviewed progress made in the implementation of the provisions of the MoU taking account of the time frames provided in the MoU and the adopted programme of work 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) prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

13. The UNECE secretariat informed the Committee that an updated version of the complete 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 was available on the UNECE RRTC web site (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.htm).

14. In accordance with the decision taken at its fourth session to establish also a list of those E-Roads which are currently being upgraded or are planned to be upgraded in order to allow for the carriage, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1 of the MoU, of goods road vehicles

which are in line with the EC regulations, the Committee approved a new questionnaire (Annex I) aiming at gathering information on E-Roads that are currently being upgraded, on plans for rehabilitation and also on the time period within which these works will have been terminated.

15. Information on average annual daily traffic (AADT) as collected during the 1995 E-Road traffic census programme was provided by the UNECE secretariat.

**(b) Preparation of an International Goods Road Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC)
(in accordance with Article 7 of the MoU)**

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 13 (2001) and 13/1 (2001) prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

16. The Committee recalled that, at its fourth session, it 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. The Committee had also invited all delegations to review with national experts and national responsible bodies the provisions of the Protocol and to ensure that its provisions as well as the Certificate itself could be implemented in all Parties of the MoU as soon as possible.

17. The Committee noted that the IVWC would be considered as part of the new Annex 8 to the “Harmonisation” Convention at the forthcoming session of WP.30. It is expected that this new Annex 8 be adopted by the Parties to the “Harmonization” Convention in October 2002. Most of SECI participating States are also Parties to this Convention.

18. The Committee took note of procedural and legislative requirements which did not allow for approval and signature of the relevant Protocol to the MoU on the International Vehicle Weight Certificate at the present session of the Committee. It was pointed out in this context that the identification of and consultation with all competent ministries and authorities at the national level required considerable time.

19. The Committee recalled that, at its fourth session, in co-operation with OIML, it had made sure that from a technical point of view the Certificate is in conformity with international norms in the field of legal metrology. The Committee also discussed some practical questions related to the implementation of the Certificate.

20. As Greece and Romania proposed a number of technical and administrative modifications to the text of the Protocol and the content of the Certificate which could not be resolved at the present session, the Committee decided to convene an ad hoc group of experts on this subject. The experts should consider these and any other comments to be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat before 31 October 2001 in response to a letter transmitted by the UNECE secretariat

on 29 June 2001 to the Ministers of Transport of the SECI participating States. The finalized text of the Protocol and the Certificate would then be transmitted to all SECI participating States. At the next session of the Committee, to be held possibly in May 2002, the Protocol and the Certificate would then be adopted. The group of experts would be convened by Turkey in early December. The date and venue of the meeting will be communicated in due course.

(c) **Implementation of Article 3 of the MoU**
(Progressive liberalisation and sustainability of international road transport)

Documentation: Informal Document No.14 (2001).

21. The Committee was informed by the delegations present on progress made in the implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU (Annex II). An updated version of this annex can be found on the UNECE RRTC web site (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.htm). The Committee agreed on a common interpretation of the provisions of Article 3 on a quota free regime for bilateral and transit transport for “green” and “greener and safe” lorries in the sense that it was allowed under such a regime to require permits as well as road users charges as long as no limitations on the number of such permits were imposed.

(d) **Preparation of a Multilateral Framework Agreement**
(in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the MoU)

Documentation: Informal Document No.15 (2001).

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

23. The Committee took note of a presentation by the UNECE secretariat on possible approaches towards fulfilling the mandate given by Articles 11 and 12.

24. It was also considered that each country’s representative should enquire about the level of implementation in its country of binding international agreements in the field of goods and passengers transport, of road vehicles procedures and road transport operations and of procedures for drivers engaged in international road traffic.

25. The Committee decided to continue to discuss this issue at its next meeting and in particular to identify elements that could be taken up in such a Framework Agreement. Based on this consensus, work would be initiated on the preparation of a draft text of such an Agreement.

(e) **Maintenance of an International Road Transport Information System**
(in accordance with Article 9 of the MoU)

Documentation: Informal Document No. 16 (2001) prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

26. 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 RRTC web site (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/seci_table.html).

27. 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 (the latter is maintained in cooperation with the International Road Transport Union).

28. 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 and conventions**
(in accordance with Article 4 of the MoU)

Documentation: Informal Document No. 17(2001) prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

29. The UNECE secretariat provided a status report on the accession by SECI participating States to the international agreements and conventions contained in the Annex to the MoU, as of 1st October 2001 (Annex III).

30. The Committee noted in particular that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had succeeded to most of the above-mentioned international agreements and conventions, except those related to combined transport.

(g) **Review of charging policies in the region**
(in accordance with Article 8 of the MoU)

Documentation: Informal Document No. 18 (2001); Report of the first session of the Group of Experts on Charging Policies.

31. The Committee took note of the considerations held at the first session of the Group of Experts on Charging Policies (Antalya, 9 and 10 October 2001) and adopted the report of this meeting (Annex IV).

(h) Review of visa facilitation procedures for professional drivers
(in accordance with Article 10 of the MoU)

Documentation: Informal Document No. 19 (2001) prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

32. The Committee was informed on the latest developments related to the work of SECI bodies in this field. The Committee took note of the report of the first meeting (14-15 September 2001) of a technical work group on this issue. The Committee, noting a certain amount of duplication of work among different SECI groups, recommended that all activities in this field within UNECE and SECI should be closely coordinated to avoid duplication of work in the future and to achieve more concrete results.

33. The Committee also took note, as an example of best practice, of the bilateral Agreement on the simplification of visa procedures between Bulgaria and Turkey, whose Article 7 deals specifically with visa issuance facilitation for drivers in international road transport.

F. REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK (ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGIES)
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU FOR THE YEARS 2000 - 2002

Documentation: Informal Document No. 20 (2001) prepared by the UNECE secretariat; Report of the first session of the Committee, in particular its Annex II.

34. The Committee reviewed its programme of work, including its action plan and strategies for the implementation of the MoU taking account of progress made in the various fields covered by the MoU and dealt with by the Committee. It noted that much of its work and activities provided for in the MoU and requested to be undertaken by the Committee were well on track and could be finalised in line with the deadlines provided for in the MoU.

35. The Committee requested the UNECE secretariat to keep a record of the past activities and to update its programme of work in line with the decisions taken by the Committee at its present session (Annex V).

36. A progress report on work carried out by the Committee in 2001 prepared by Turkey in accordance with Article 4 of the Terms of References of the Committee is annexed to this report (Annex VI).

G. HOST AND VENUE OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
(in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the MoU)

37. The Committee noted that at present none of the SECI participating States had offered to host the sessions of the Committee in 2002. The Committee requested the UNECE secretariat to inform the SECI Agenda Committee about the need to identify a host country for 2002 and

invited all SECI participating States to consider the possibility of hosting the sessions of the Committee in 2002 and to inform the UNECE secretariat accordingly.

38. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to possibly host the sessions of the Committee in 2003.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Vehicle tracking system

39. The representative of TURKPRO made a presentation on the use of a vehicle tracking system to be applied in Turkey which provided for GPS and GSM based vehicle tracking facilities allowing real-time communication with the road vehicles and its drivers, thus considerably improving safety and control of vehicle movements. The Committee would consider this issue at its next session on the basis of a physical and financial feasibility study to be undertaken by TURKPRO.

(b) Secretariat services

40. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the expertise, high-quality documentation and secretariat services provided by the UNECE secretariat, which has substantially contributed to the effective work carried out in the Committee. The Committee requested the UNECE secretariat, in accordance with article 12 of the MoU to continue to provide these services, including the ad-hoc groups of experts.

(c) Host country

41. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Turkish Government, in particular to the Ministry of Transport, for the professional organisation of the fifth session of the Committee and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants in Antalya.

I. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

42. The Committee adopted the present conclusions of its fifth session.

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(Antalya, 11-12 October 2001)

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ANNEX I

Questionnaire on roads servicing international traffic in the SECI participating countries¹ (E-Roads)

According to Article 6 of the MoU and Article 3 of the Protocol to the MoU on the implementation of Article 6, the Parties should determine those sections of their E-Road network which are not yet in line with European Community (EC) regulations on maximum dimensions and weights in international road transport² and will strive to upgrade these sections. The Parties shall inform the Regional Road Transport Committee accordingly.

The present questionnaire (page 15) developed by the UNECE secretariat aims at gathering all the information available on one E-Road section: with regard to its habilitated parts, to the parts that are being upgraded and those which are planned to be upgraded. With regard to ongoing or planned rehabilitation, the questionnaire gathers information about the time period within which these works will have been terminated. Page 16 contains an example of a filled-in questionnaire.

RRTC representatives are invited to complete this questionnaire and return it to the UNECE secretariat by the end of November 2001.

¹ As per 19 September 2001, all twelve SECI countries had adopted the Memorandum of Understanding on Road Transport Facilitation in the SECI region. These countries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

² Directive 96/53 EC 1996 and Directive 97/27 EC 1997

QUESTIONNAIRE

on **E-Roads sections** in the SECI participating states **which have already been upgraded***, which are currently **being upgraded** and those which are **planned to be upgraded**, to allow for the use of goods road vehicles complying with the regulations of the European Community on maximum dimensions and weights in **international road transport**

Copy the following table and paste it as many times as E-Roads you have. You can insert additional rows corresponding to the number of sections to be included under each E-Road subdivision (upgraded, being upgraded and planned to be upgraded sections).

E-Road Number	Upgraded Sections <i>(starting from/ending at town, place, border):</i>	Name	Classification	Length (km)	Conformity with EU regulations Yes No	Remarks	
	Sections whose upgrading is ongoing <i>(starting from/ending at town, place, border):</i>	Name	Classification	Length (km)	Expected date for completing the upgrading	Remarks	
	Sections which are planned to be upgraded <i>(starting from/ending at town, place, border):</i>	Name	Classification	Length (km)	Scheduled dates to begin and complete the upgrading	Remarks	

Example: The data contained in the following example has pure illustrative purposes and no informative value (it only shows a way of filling-in the questionnaire).

* Please refer to the information posted on our web site under Road Transport Information System: http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/seci_table.htm

E-Road Number E 80	Upgraded Sections <i>(starting from/ending at town, place, border):</i> Kapikule-Istanbul-Bolu-Amasya-Erzincan-Gürbulak	Name	Classification	Length (km)	Conformity with EU regulations Yes No	Remarks*
		Kapikule- Edirne West Junction	State road	11	Yes	Remarks can include information related to the functioning and maintaining of the upgraded sections as well as any other pertinent information such as expected modifications in the road legislation etc.
		Edirne West Junction-Istanbul-Kaynasli Junct.	Motorway	475	Yes	
		Kaynasli Junction (Bolu Mountain Passage)-Abant Junction	State road	23	Yes	
		Abant Junktion – Karabük 1 Junction	Motorway	73	Yes	
		Karabük 1 Junction – Amasya –Erzincan-Erzurum-Gürbulak	State road	1218	Yes	
	Sections whose upgrading is ongoing <i>(starting from/ending at town, place, border)</i>	Name	Classification	Length (km)	Expected date for completing the upgrading	Remarks*
		Istanbul Peripheral Roads maintenance and rehabilitation of bridges and viaducts	???	???	31.12.2002	Remarks can include information on the advancement of the project, on difficulties encountered, on expected delays etc.
		Sakarya-Kazanci-Bolu-Ankara	Motorway	402	31.12.2001	
	Sections which are planned to be upgraded <i>(starting from/ending at town, place, border)</i>	Name	Classification	Length (km)	Scheduled dates to begin and complete the upgrading	Remarks*
		Kinali-Sakarya	Motorway	410	30.06.2003-31.12.2004	Remarks can include information on eventual administrative and legal procedures to be completed, on expectations concerning the beginning and end of the upgrading etc.
		Bolu Mountain Passage	Dual carriageway	18.8	31.03.2002-31.12.2003	

* Remarks shall include all pertinent additional information aiming at giving users the clearest possible picture of the current situation and of expected future developments.

ANNEX II

**Quota free regime for “green” and “greener and safe”
goods road vehicles**

(in accordance with Article 3 paragraph 3 MoU and the Joint Statement on the Implementation of Article 3)

The table included below presents the status of implementation, as of 31 July 2001, of Article 3 paragraph 3 of the MoU providing for a **quota-free regime for bilateral and transit road transport of goods among SECI participating States, for “green” and “greener and safe” lorries**. The quota-free regime is not affected by the requirement for all or a certain number of these lorries to pay certain road transport charges or to have a permit as far as the number of “green” and “greener and safe” lorries of a SECI country allowed to enter another SECI country is, in principle, unlimited.

The Governments of Hungary and Slovenia have entered reservations to Article 3, paragraph 3, and are not expected to comply with its provisions.

The Committee agreed at its fifth session on a common interpretation of the provisions of Article 3 on a quota free regime for bilateral and transit transport for “green” and “greener and safe” lorries. The Committee noted in particular **that it is allowed under such a regime to require permits as well as road users charges as long as no limitations on the number of such permits were imposed**.

In the light of these clarifications, RRTC representatives are invited to review this table and to send to the UNECE secretariat an updated version of it by the end of November 2001.

This table shows the status of implementation of Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU providing for a **quota-free regime** for bilateral and transit road transport of goods among SECI participating States, for **“green” and “greener and safe” lorries**. Governments of Hungary and Slovenia have entered reservations to Article 3, paragraph 3, and are not expected to comply with its provisions.

Status: July 2001

	ALBANIA* (AL)	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)	BULGARIA (BG)	CROATIA (HR)	GREECE (GR)	HUNGARY	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	ROMANIA	FYROM	SLOVENIA	TURKEY	
AL		O	R						O			AL
BiH	O			X		O			O	O	O	BiH
BG	R			X	O				X		X	BG
HR		X	X		X	X		O	O	X	O	HR
GR			O	X			O		X	O	X	GR
H		O		X					X			H
MD					O			O	O			MD
RO				O			O		O	R	R	RO
MK	O	O	X	O	X	X	O	O		X	X	MK
SLO		O		X	O			R	X			SLO
TR		O	X	O	X			R	X			TR
	ALBANIA	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	BULGARIA	CROATIA	GREECE	HUNGARY	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	ROMANIA	FYROM	SLOVENIA	TURKEY	

Legend

- X** Provisions of the Joint Statement, adopted by the Committee at its third session, have already been included into relevant bilateral road transport agreements.
- O** No quantitative restrictions (quota) for lorries in bilateral and transit traffic.
- R** No quantitative restrictions for bilateral traffic.

- No road transport agreement.
- Implementation has yet to be done.
- Not applicable.

* Albania has signed bilateral agreements with Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Romania, FYROM, Slovenia and Turkey, which provide for quantitative restrictions with a possibility of issuing more permits if needed.

ANNEX III

Accession to international agreements

(in accordance with Article 4 of the MoU)

The present Annex contains information on the status of accession to UNECE Agreements as contained in the MoU as of 1st October 2001.

Detailed and up-to-date information is available at the UNECE website (Transport Division) (<http://www.unece.org/trans/>).

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STATUS OF ACCESSION TO UN/ECE AGREEMENTS AS CONTAINED IN THE MOU

The following tables present an overview of the present status of the 16 UN/ECE Agreement with regard to accession by SECI participating States. Information is provided on the following UN/ECE Agreements:

- (1) Convention on Road Traffic (08.11.1968)
 - (2) European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (01.05.1971)
 - (3) Convention on Road Signs and Signals (08.11.1968)
 - (4) European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (01.05.1971)
 - (5) Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (01.03.1973)
 - (6) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in international Road Traffic (AETR) (01.07.1970)
 - (7) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (19.05.1956)
 - (8) Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (04.06.1954)
 - (9) Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (18.05.1956)
 - (10) Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (14.11.1975)
 - (11) International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (21.10.1982)
 - (12) European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (30.09.1957)
 - (13) Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) (01.09.1970)
 - (14) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) (15.11.1975)
 - (15) European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC)(01.02.1991)
 - (16) Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installation (AGTC) (17.01.1997) (not yet in force)
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UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT FACILITATION CONVENTIONS

Status: 1st October 2001

Acceptance by SECI participating States

Country	United Nations Transport Facilitation Convention							
	(1) Road Traffic, 1968	(2) Suppl. Road Traffic, 1971	(3) Road Signs & Signals, 1968	(4) Suppl. Road Signs & Signals, 1971	(5) Protocol Road Markings, 1973	(6) AETR 1970	(7) CMR 1956	(8) Temp.Imp.P.R.Ve. 1954
Albania	X							
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bulgaria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Croatia	X	X	X			X	X	X
Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Republic of Moldova	X					X	X	
Romania	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Slovenia	X	X				X	X	X
F.Y.R.O.M.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Turkey						X	X	X
Yugoslavia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Legend: X = Ratification, accession, definite signature;

S = Signature

UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT FACILITATION CONVENTIONS

Status: 1st October 2001

Acceptance by SECI participating States

Country	United Nations Transport Facilitation Convention							
	(9) Temp.Imp. C.R.Ve. 1956	(10) TIR Conv. 1975	(11) Har. Fr. C. Goods, 1982	(12) Dang. Goods (ADR) 1957	(13) ATP 1970	(14) AGR 1975	(15) AGTC 1991	(16) Protocol AGTC 1997
Albania		X						
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Bulgaria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	S
Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	S
Republic of Moldova		X		X				
Romania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slovenia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
F.Y.R.O.M	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Turkey		X				X	X	
Yugoslavia	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Legend: X = Ratification, accession, definite signature; S = Signature

ANNEX IV

Conclusions of the first session **of the Group of Experts on Charging Policies** **held in Antalya (Turkey)** **9 and 10 October 2001**

ATTENDANCE

1. The first session of the Group of Experts on Charging Policies, established by the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC) in accordance with the mandate provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Facilitation of International Road Transport of Goods in the SECI Region, and in the Joint Statement to the MoU on the implementation of Article 8, was held on 9 and 10 October 2001 in Antalya (Turkey).
2. The session was co-chaired by Mrs. Ümit Armangil, Ministry of Transport of Turkey and Mr. Martin Magold, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat.
3. The session was attended by experts of the following SECI participating States: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia (attached is a list of participants).

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: Informal document No.1 (2001) prepared by Turkey and the UNECE secretariat; Informal document No. 1/1 (2001)

4. The Group of Experts adopted its agenda.

B. MANDATE OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS

Documentation: Informal document No. 2 (2001).

5. The Group of Experts took note of its mandate for work (Annex I).

C. REVIEW OF RESERVATIONS TO ARTICLE 8 OF THE MOU

Documentation: SECI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); Reports of the first, second, third and fourth sessions of the Regional Road Transport Committee.

6. The Group of Experts noted that the UNECE secretariat had invited the Government of Slovenia to review the reservation it had made to Article 8, paragraph 3 of the MoU. An answer to this request was still outstanding.

D. CONCLUSIONS WITH REGARD TO ROAD TRANSPORT CHARGES IN THE SECI REGION

Documentation: SECI/RRTC Road Transport Information data – Informal document No.3 (2001); ECMT Recommendations – Informal document No. 3/1 (2001); PHARE Multi-Country Transport Programme, Final Report – Executive Summary.

7. The Group of Experts had an exchange of views on the level, composition and use of road transport charges in the countries of the region, pertaining, in particular to (a) road transport user charges (time based charges), (b) tolls (distance based charges for motorways and/or ordinary roads), (c) other charges (transit, entry fees, charges for excess weight and dimensions, fees for special structures such as bridges, tunnels, etc), (d) fuel taxes and (e) vehicle taxes.

8. The Group of Experts considered these road transport charges in the light of the criteria which were stipulated in Article 8 of the MoU, particularly cost relatedness, non-discrimination and transparency, as well as in the light of the so-called “*acquis communautaire*”, including EC Directive 1999/62/EC (Annex II). The Group also considered a note received from the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), Mr. Stephen Perkins, addressing among others several criteria for determining charges in accordance with an efficient use of infrastructure.

9. The Group of Experts was informed by experts from Turkey about their proposal of a methodology regarding the calculation of cost due to the deterioration of the pavement imposed by traffic (Annex III). The Group of Experts welcomed this detailed information and invited all SECI States participating in this work to provide similar written information (if any) to the Group of Experts at the next session with a view to establishing acceptable methodology/ies regarding the calculation of road transport charges leading to a gradual convergence of charging policies.

10. With a view to facilitating the identification of areas that may require action at the national or regional level in order to bring the existing road transport charging system of the countries in the region in line with or at least closer to the provisions of Article 8 of the MoU and the “*acquis communautaire*”, the Group of Experts developed a matrix table to be filled-in by the participating experts following the session (Annex IV). The UNECE secretariat was requested to transmit this table to all SECI participating States in order to obtain a complete picture on the compatibility of the existing road transport charges with the requirements of the MoU and the “*acquis communautaire*”.

11. On the basis of the above information, the Group of Experts decided to continue its work aiming at a gradual convergence of charging policies for international road transport of goods in the countries of the region based on a common approach for the calculation of road transport charges.

E. HOST AND VENUE OF THE SECOND SESSION

12. The Group of Experts welcomed the offer of Turkey to host its second session in early December 2001. More detailed information on the exact venue and date of the session would be communicated to all participating States in due course.

F. SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE

13. The Group of Experts felt that the UNECE secretariat's input was essential for the work of the Group and should therefore continue to provide secretariat support for its activities and meetings and requested all interested countries to intervene at the appropriate level, with a view to providing the necessary resources to the UNECE secretariat in this respect.

G. HOST COUNTRY

14. The Group of Experts expressed their appreciation to the Turkish Government for their expert advice on the technical issues and for the professional organization of the first session of the group of experts.

H. ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSION

15. The Group of Experts adopted the present conclusions.

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ANNEX V

Programme of work (action plan and strategies) for the implementation of the MoU for the years 2000 to 2002

Article 3 of the MoU

Short term

- objective A: Implementation of a quota free regime for “green” and “greener and safe” goods road vehicles (Article 3, paragraph 3 of the MoU)
- Deadline: End of 2000
- Status: Objective not yet achieved by some States
- Work: UNECE secretariat to prepare status report for May 2002 session
- Means: UNECE secretariat to monitor implementation and transmit, if necessary, reminder letters to Ministers of Transport

Short term

- objective B: Promotion of combined transport (Article 3, paragraph 5 of the MoU)
- Deadline: Continuing (for regular review)
- Status: Work is continuing.
- Work: Identification of measures that will be endorsed by the Committee, as appropriate, to promote combined transport in the region
- Action: Documentation to be established by all Parties to the MoU
- Means: Regular monitoring and consideration by the Regional Road Transport Committee

Longer-term

- objective C: Quota free regime for bilateral and transit road traffic (Article 3, paragraph 2 of the MoU)
- Deadline: End of 2002
- Status: Work is continuing
- Work: Establishment of recommended procedures and provisions (clause type) for inclusion into bilateral transport agreements and, eventually, inclusion into the multilateral framework agreement on road transport
- Action: Draft proposals by the Parties to the MoU
Regular monitoring (every six months) through questionnaires to be issued by the secretariat

Means: Consideration and adoption at the sixth session of the Regional Road Transport Committee in early 2002
Progress to be monitored regularly by the Committee until the end of 2002 and beyond, if necessary

Article 4 of the MoU

Objective: Accession to the 16 international transport treaties established in the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as identified in the MoU

Deadline: End of 2002

Status: Albania, Romania and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have acceded / succeeded to a number of agreements. Ratification procedures are ongoing in Turkey

Work: Establishment of a regular status report

Action: Monitoring of the status of accession and assistance during these legal and administrative procedures by the secretariat

Means Regular considerations at the sessions of the Regional Road Transport Committee
Assistance to be provided by those SECI participating States having already acceded to the relevant Agreements and by the UNECE secretariat, if required.
UNECE TIR secretariat to conduct training courses for Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on implementation of TIR Convention (with target date: 1 October 2001) in Belgrade (July 2001)

Article 5 of the MoU

Objective: Harmonization of maximum permissible weights and dimensions with those applicable in the European Community as well as weighing procedures

Deadline: Continuing (for regular review)

Work: Review of existing practice

Action: Regular provision of relevant information by Parties to the MoU

Means: Regular consideration at the sessions of the Regional Road Transport Committee

Article 6 of the MoU

Objective: Preparation of a Protocol to the MoU on relevant E-Roads (incl. identification of sectors already able to accept road vehicles complying with European Community

requirements, identification of sectors not yet upgraded and provision of information on plans for upgrading these sections)

- Deadline: End of 2000
- Status: Protocol has been adopted by the Committee on 5 October 2000
- Work: New questionnaire on current and planned road construction and upgrading adopted by the Committee on 12 October 2001.
- Means: UNECE secretariat to modify present questionnaire and provide information on results of E-Road census 2000 relating to SECI region

Article 7 of the MoU

- Objective: Establishment of a vehicle weight certificate
- Deadline: End of 2001
- Status: Text of Protocol and annexed International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) adopted in principle by the Committee on 12 June 2001
- Work: National consultation procedures with all Ministries and authorities concerned
- Action: Preparation of a document on national issues related to the application of the IVWC
- Means: Formal adoption by Committee in May 2002 and signatures by States

Article 8 of the MoU

- Objective: Rationalization and gradual convergence of charging policies
- Deadline: Continuing (for regular review)
- Status: Joint Statement on the implementation of Article 8 of the MoU on charging policies adopted by the Committee on 5 October 2000
- Work: Permanent monitoring by UNECE of road user charges and related policies, particularly those concerning E-Roads identified in accordance with the Protocol to the MoU on E-Roads
- Action: Documentation to be regularly submitted by the Parties to the MoU via the UNECE secretariat. Preparation of documentation for ad hoc expert group
- Means: Second session of the ad hoc expert group of RRTC on charging policies to be held in December 2001 in Turkey
- Regular consideration and monitoring by the Regional Road Transport Committee

Article 9 of the MoU

Objective: Establishment of an information system on charges related to road transport
Deadline: End of 2000
Status: System is operational since mid-2000 and is operated and maintained by the UNECE. Host: UNECE sever in Geneva
Work: Maintenance of the permanently updated information system via questionnaires transmitted regularly (every six months) by the UNECE secretariat to all Parties to the MoU
Action: Preparation and updating of a (regular) questionnaire prepared by the secretariat

Article 10 of the MoU

Objective: Facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers
Deadline: Continuing (for regular review)
Status: Exchange of information on best practices has been completed
Work: Establishment of a compendium on best practices by the end of 2002
Action: Preparation of the compendium by parties yet to be identified
Means: Regular consideration at the sessions of the Regional Road Transport Committee

Article 11, paragraph 2 of the MoU

Objective: Preparation of a draft multilateral framework agreement on road transport
Deadline: Not yet fixed
Status: Document on approaches and elements to be included has been prepared
Work: Preparation of an outline of a framework agreement
Action: Review of existing relevant rules as well as bilateral and multilateral legislation
Means: Consideration by the Regional Road Transport Committee in May 2002

ANNEX VI

Progress Report on the activities of the Regional Road Transport Committee

prepared by the Government of Turkey

(in accordance with Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee)

1. Background-results

In the course of 2001, the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC) has met twice: its fourth session was held from 11 to 12 June 2001 in Istanbul and its fifth session was held in Antalya, from 11 to 12 October 2001. The Committee has made progress on the implementation and monitoring of the provisions of the MoU on the Facilitation of International Road Transport of Goods, in particular with regard to the introduction of an International Goods Road Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC), the harmonisation of charging policies, and the preparation of a Multilateral Framework Agreement.

Meanwhile, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia became a Party to the MoU as of 18 September 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.

Additionally, developments on the implementation of a quota free regime for “green” and “greener and safe” goods road vehicles, the accession to the international transport treaties established in the framework of the UNECE as identified in the MoU and the preparation of a new comprehensive questionnaire on E-Roads by UNECE secretariat have been discussed during the abovementioned meetings.

More specifically, the RRTC:

- has discussed elements, proposed by the UNECE secretariat in co-operation with the Republic of Turkey, to be taken into account for the preparation of a Multilateral Framework Agreement;
- has finalised the Protocol on the introduction of an International Goods Road Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC);
- has established an *ad hoc* Group of Experts on charging policies. The Group held its first meeting on 9-10 October 2001 in Antalya;
- has considered the new questionnaire developed by the UNECE Secretariat which aims at gathering information on the E-Roads sections whose upgrading is ongoing, on plans for rehabilitation and also on the time period within which these plans are expected to be fulfilled.

2. Follow up

The sixth meeting of the RRTC is scheduled to be held in 2002, date and venue to be determined.

By this occasion, the Turkish Chair expresses her gratitude to the UNECE staff for their secretarial support and to the OIML for their contributions to the preparation of an International Vehicle Weight Certificate.