

**Joint Statement**  
**to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**  
**on the Facilitation of International Road Transport of Goods in the SECI Region**  
**signed by Ministers responsible for Transport on 28 April 1999 at Athens**

**on the implementation of Article 8 of the MoU on**  
**Charging Policies**

**adopted by the Regional Road Transport Committee on 5 October 2000**

The Parties, with a view to implementing Article 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding, aiming at a gradual convergence of charging policies for international road transport of goods as well as to adopt the European Union standards and relevant resolutions of the ECMT through the implementation of the principles of cost-relatedness, non-discrimination and transparency, without excluding any of these principles agreed on the following:

1. **Cost relatedness (tolls/user charges)**

Tolls are based on the distance travelled and user charges are based on the duration of the use of the infrastructure. They shall be differentiated in relation to the cost caused by road vehicles.

The Parties shall ensure that either tolls or user charges be levied upon carriers by the end of 2002. Tolls and user charges shall not be levied simultaneously for the same road section. Additional tolls or user charges for certain elements of infrastructure (bridges, tunnels, etc.) may be maintained.

The Parties shall take adequate measures to permit the payment of tolls or user charges at any time with different means of payment.

The tolls or user charges shall be related to the cost of constructing, improving, maintaining and operating the infrastructure concerned.

Each Party shall identify elements in line with their policies concerning tolls or user charges. This process may be facilitated by a special study for the determination of basic and commonly accepted components of charging systems.

2. Non-discrimination

The Parties shall take all appropriate steps to abolish all tolls or user charges levied on a discriminatory basis by the end of 2002, all national and international carriers being subject to the same level of tolls or user charges.

3. Transparency

The Parties shall ensure the availability of the information regarding their national charging system as well as the elements of their basis with a view to arriving at a gradual convergence of charging policies. The UN/ECE secretariat is requested to update the relevant international Information System on charges, when necessary.

4. Reporting Mechanism

The above mentioned issues should be studied by an ad hoc group of experts to be established by the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC) by mid-2001. The ECMT should be invited to assist in the work of the group of experts. The group of experts may meet, whenever necessary, upon request of the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC).

The group of experts, considering the results of its study, should also evaluate the level of implementation of the above principles and prepare a report for consideration and adoption by the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC). This task should be finalized by the end of the year 2002.

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