

Terms of Reference
for the Group of Experts on Charging Policies
adopted by the Regional Road Transport Committee on 12 June 2001

The Terms of reference have been established in accordance with the Joint Statement (adopted by the Regional Road Transport Committee at its third session, Heraklion, Greece, 4-6 October 2000) on the implementation of Article 8 (Charging Policies) of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of International Road Transport of Goods in the SECI Region signed by the Ministers responsible for Transport on 28 April 1999 in Athens.

1. The Group of Experts shall be composed of experts designated by SECI participating States having signed the MoU. Experts from the European Commission, the ECMT and the UNECE as well as other experts, as invited by the Chair, may participate at the meetings of the Expert Group.
2. The Group of Experts shall study possibilities for a gradual convergence of charging policies for international road transport of goods in SECI participating States as well as for the adoption of relevant European Union standards and resolutions of the ECMT.
3. In order to achieve this objective, the Group of Experts shall:
 - (a) analyse all tolls (distance related) and road user charges (time related) applied in the SECI participating States, including special charges, such as for road vehicles with excess weight and dimensions, etc. Special rates for charges based on bilateral road transport agreements shall also be studied;
 - (b) study the determination of basic and commonly accepted components of charging systems and their compliance with the agreed-upon principles of cost-relatedness, non-discrimination and transparency;
 - (c) prepare proposals for harmonized charging policies for international road transport of goods in the SECI participating States in line with relevant European Union standards and the relevant resolutions of the ECMT based on the principles of cost-relatedness, non-discrimination and transparency, without excluding any of these principles;
 - (d) propose mechanisms and possible deadlines for implementation of such charging policies in SECI participating States.
4. The Group of Experts shall report on its activities to the Regional Road Transport Committee. A final report on the results of its work shall be transmitted to the Committee for consideration and adoption by the end of the year 2002.
5. The Group of Experts will be convened, as required, by the Party hosting the meetings of the Regional Road Transport Committee.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the Regional Road Transport Committee apply also to the Expert Group.
