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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security

**REPORT OF THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INLAND
TRANSPORT SECURITY ON ITS SECOND SESSION
(Geneva, 9-10 October 2007)**

I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security held its second session from 9 to 10 October 2007.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Germany; Russian Federation; Slovenia; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom. A representative of the European Community (EC) was also present.
3. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was represented.
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Federation for Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA); International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

II. INTRODUCTION

5. Ms. Eva Molnar, Director of the Transport Division, delivered an introductory statement elaborating on various linkages between transport, security and trade/transport facilitation.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)

6. The Group of Experts adopted the agenda (ECE/TRANS/AC.11/3) with one additional item to (Other business) concerning the election of Deputy Chairperson.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 2)

7. The Expert Group adopted the report from the first session that took place on 24-25 May 2007 (ECE/TRANS/AC.11/2).

V. REGULATORY INITIATIVES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (Agenda item 3)

8. The Expert Group was informed of and discussed a national contribution by Germany (Informal document No. 7 (2007)) and Informal document No. 1 (2007) prepared by the secretariat. Informal documents No. 4 (2007) and 5 (2007) were not discussed due to the absence of those submitting them. The objective of Group's discussions was to make progress towards developing an inventory of regulatory initiatives at the national level. In this context, the secretariat stressed that Informal document No. 1 (2007) – which is a very preliminary draft – will be modified upon receiving national submissions and/or comments. The secretariat encouraged the experts to provide further comments and suggestions in order to improve and/or validate the information contained in Informal document No. 1 (2007). The secretariat noted that information about regulatory initiatives in France and the United States had already been collected and it is expected to be included in the next draft.

9. During the discussion, Russia offered to submit its national contribution while the European Commission's (EC) expert pointed out inconsistencies – to be corrected - with regard to national descriptions of dangerous goods regulatory initiatives in the European Union.

10. Experts from Russia gave an extensive presentation about the Federal Law “On Transport Security” of 9 February 2007, which provides the legal framework for a common state transport security system in the Russian Federation.

11. There was also some discussion concerning the issue of costs of new security requirements, the benefits flowing from them, as well as the ability of the private sector to absorb and/or pass along these additional costs.

VI. REGULATORY INITIATIVES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL (Agenda item 4)

12. The Expert Group discussed contributions by the European Commission on the subject of Authorized Economic Operator (Informal document No. 6 (2007)), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Informal document No. 11 (2007)) and a note prepared by the secretariat (Informal document No. 2 (2007)).

13. The objective of Group's discussions was to make progress towards developing the final report. In this context, the EC expert offered to submit additional documents to complement

information contained in Informal document No. 6 (2007). The expert also offered various suggestions on how to improve Informal document No. 2 (2007) while Informal document No.11 (2007) is to become an integral part of an inventory of regulatory initiatives at the international level. The Expert Group took note of and agreed on those changes.

14. Finally, a presentation about “International Working Group on Land Transport Security” was made. This International Working Group does not aim at developing new standards but serves as a forum to exchange information and experience on best practices. The Expert Group took note of and welcomed the presentation.

VII. STANDARDS, INITIATIVES, GUIDELINES, BEST PRACTICES BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR (Agenda item 5)

15. The Expert Group discussed Informal document No. 3 (2007) prepared and introduced by the secretariat. A number of comments were made to improve upon the first draft. The Expert Group agreed that this inventory would contain only information provided by and/or about the International Road Transport Union, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and “Industry Guidelines for the Security of the Transport of Dangerous Goods” developed by a number of industry associations and presented to the Expert Group by a delegate from the European Chemical Industry Council. Finally, the ISO introduced three Informal documents No. 8, 9 and 10 (2007).

VIII. FINAL REPORT (Agenda item 6)

16. The Expert Group discussed how to proceed in terms of preparing recommendations and/or proposals to UNECE members to improve inland transport security. It was noted that any proposals should stress the benefits of enhancing inland transport security.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 7)

17. Due to the absence of Chairperson, Mr. Rene van Bever, the Expert Group elected a Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Erich Schmid of Germany.

X. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 8)

18. The Expert Group decided that the next session would be held on 26 November 2007.
