



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/2000/17
25 January 2000

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-fourth session, 4-7 April 2000,
agenda item 13))

OTHER BUSINESS

Role of Vice-Chairmen

Transmitted by the Vice-Chairman from Israel

1. Background
- 1.1. The Working Party on Road Safety (WP.1), at its thirty-third session (28 September - 1 October 1999), decided that the work of the small groups of member States should be coordinated by the Vice-Chairmen of the Working Party. Furthermore, this role should be active not only during sessions but between the semi-annual sessions as well.
- 1.2. The Working Party requested the Vice-Chairmen to make a proposal in a short document for the thirty-fourth session on the modalities of such coordination (TRANS/WP.1/67, para. 70).
- 1.3. The following is the proposal, which includes further comments as to the role of Vice-Chairmen in the activity of WP.1.

2. The current situation

2.1. The work of the Working Party today is carried out in several ways:

- (a) Administrative and professional work done by the Secretary of the Working Party (a United Nations employee);
- (b) The actual conducting of the meetings during the semi-annual sessions by the Chairman (not a UN employee);
- (c) Ad hoc, privately performed, tasks carried out by individual countries, tailored to the needs of WP.1 and normally requested by the Working Party;
- (d) Tasks performed by small groups of countries, members of WP.1, in response to a request by the Working Party during the session;
- (e) The two Vice-Chairmen have so far not had an executive role in WP.1 and not much was put upon them to perform. Their role has been quite formal, with no specific, routine or ad hoc assignments.

3. Results

- 3.1. Heavy burden on Chairman, both at home and in Geneva;
- 3.2. The Secretary of WP.1 has been assigned important and vital roles in prearranging the meetings customarily held in Geneva;
- 3.3. Volunteering countries have been preparing special topics for discussion in the meetings, both individually and through small groups;
- 3.4. At times, groups of countries have been assigned special, ad hoc tasks during sessions and between sessions; and
- 3.5. Vice-Chairmen were not normally assigned any specific (ad hoc or routine) tasks.

4. Purposes of proposal

The proposal is designed to achieve the following:

- 4.1. To take some of the burden off the Chairman during the sessions of WP.1;
- 4.2. To use the two Vice-Chairmen more actively as professional advisers to the Chairman;
- 4.3. To better advance the performance of various tasks put forward by WP.1; and
- 4.4. To improve and advance the work of small groups of countries, which has been assigned to them by the Working Party. This includes tasks during the session as well as between the semi-annual sessions.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. Vice-Chairmen will be elected for periods of two years, during which a Chairman is not elected;
- 5.2. Vice-Chairmen will actively assist the Chairman and the Secretary of WP.1:

5.2.1. During sessions

- (a) As professional advisers on various matters on WP.1's agenda;
- (b) Advancing the performance of informal groups of countries;
- (c) Taking part, ad hoc, in conducting WP.1 meetings, as and if requested by the Chairman.

5.2.2. Between sessions

- (a) Monitoring the work of small groups of countries, assigned various tasks by the Working Party;
 - (b) To ascertain the quality and the delivery of the work on time;
 - (c) To assist the Chairman in performing his duties by advancing new initiatives and preparing discussions.
- 5.3. It is expected that such involvement on the part of both Vice-Chairmen will enable WP.1 to perform more effectively, a wider scope of activities with fewer delays;
- 5.4. Vice-Chairmen will perform these tasks on a voluntary basis with no financial reward. However, a formal token of appreciation of the work of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen is not to be ruled out;
- 5.5. It is expected and hoped that such broader involvement of the Vice-Chairmen will enable WP.1 to expand its activities and come closer to being a world-wide entity. This, in comparison to the traditional European scope of activities heretofore adopted by WP.1;
- 5.6. This proposal will be discussed by the Working Party at its thirty-fourth session in April 2000.
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