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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Road Transport****118<sup>th</sup> session**

Geneva, 17-19 October 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Annotated provisional agenda for the 118th session \***

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 October 2023, salle IX.

**I. Provisional Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Inland Transport Instruments:
  - (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport:
    - (i) Status of the Agreement;
    - (ii) Group of Experts.
  - (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries:
    - (i) Status of the Agreement;
    - (ii) Amendments to the Agreement;
    - (iii) Implementation of the Agreement.
  - (c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road:
    - (i) Status of the Convention;
    - (ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (Protocol);
    - (iii) Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Additional Protocol);

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\* Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002249/>.

Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext.75716 or 75964).

- (iv) Group of Experts on operationalization of the Additional Protocol.
- (d) New legal instrument(s) Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS).
- (e) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4):
- 3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport:
- 4. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility
  - (a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure:
    - (i) Road safety inspections and audits;
    - (ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes.
  - (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway Project
- 5. Facilitation of international road transport:
  - (a) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card);
  - (b) Workshop on Cross-border insurance of motor vehicles.
- 6. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
- 7. Activities of interest to the Working Party:
  - (a) National delegations;
  - (b) International organizations;
  - (c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations;
    - (i) ITC related;
    - (ii) Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5);
    - (iii) Car sharing and car pooling.
- 8. Other business.
- 9. Date of next session.
- 10. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/419

### 2. Inland Transport Instruments

#### (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport

##### (i) Status of the Agreement

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR).

##### (ii) Group of Experts

The Chair of the AETR Group of Experts will inform SC.1 on the work of the AETR Group of Experts, especially on the work of the Group of Experts to reconcile the AETR regime in European Union and non-European Union AETR contracting parties following the introduction of the smart tachograph in the European Union on 15 June 2019.

At the 116<sup>th</sup> session, SC.1 expressed support for a proposal by the AETR Group of Experts to amend article 14 in order to open up the agreement globally, using the example of article 45 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic: "This Agreement is open for accession by all States Members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party to the Agreement." SC.1 also encouraged a contracting party to the agreement to formally submit an amendment proposal. The secretariat will inform the Working Party on whether an amendment proposal has been received.

At the last session, SC.1 decided to authorize the ECE secretariat to sign the Administrative Arrangement between ECE and European Commission Services on continuing activities envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission Services and ECE of 2009, for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024. The secretariat and the European Commission have held meetings to discuss possible solutions to the legal barriers which prevent the secretariat to sign the Administrative Arrangement. Additional meetings have been proposed to further discuss. The secretariat will provide an update on this matter and possibly also recommendations in Informal Document No. 1.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/328, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/70, Informal Document No. 1

#### (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries

##### (i) Status of the Agreement

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

##### (ii) Amendments to the Agreement

At the last session, the Chair reminded SC.1 participants to consult their capitals on whether it would be appropriate to open AGR to accession by non-ECE member States, so that a discussion and decision may preferably be reached at this session given that this decision has been deferred since the 115<sup>th</sup> session.

To facilitate consideration of this matter by contracting parties, the Chair at the 116th session requested the secretariat to invite representatives of other United Nations regional commissions to provide information on their equivalent regional agreements.

At the last session, Türkiye tabled Informal document No. 2 which contained a proposal amendment to Annex I of the agreement with reference to E99, E691, E881, E981 and E982. The Chair requested that the document be tabled as a formal document at this session for SC.1's endorsement.

Also at the last session, the secretariat raised potential aspects of the agreement which could be the subject of future work or proposal amendments. This included the addition of road safety audits to Annex II of the agreement. SC.1 will be invited to discuss this matter in conjunction with agenda item 4(b) on the TEM Project.

(iii) *Implementation of the Agreement*

At the last session, SC.1 requested the secretariat's assistance in preparing a survey to be sent to contracting parties to the agreement to enquire about the status of implementation on their territories. This is linked to task 5.4 of the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030. The secretariat will be invited to provide an update on the requested survey.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/1, Informal document No.2

**(c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road**

(i) *Status of the Convention*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Convention.

(ii) *Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (Protocol);*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Protocol to the Convention.

(iii) *Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Additional Protocol)*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Additional Protocol to the Convention, including any new accessions since the last session.

(iv) *Group of Experts on operationalization of the Additional Protocol*

The Group of Experts on operationalization of eCMR (GE.22) met six times from July 2022 to July 2023. It has tabled a report comprised of documents ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/2 to 5 which reflect the revisions that were made at its sixth session. It was intended that the concepts and processes when agreed would form the basis of the high-level architecture of the future eCMR system.

Statements were made by the European Commission, and IRU associations Transport en Logistiek Nederland and Latvijas Auto Association which were included in Annexes I and II of the meeting report of the sixth session of GE.22 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/12). Iran (Islamic Republic of) made a reservation which is included in Annex III of the same meeting report.

The Group of Experts acknowledged the work done so far and the effort made by the experts in order to prepare the draft conceptual and functional specifications of the future eCMR system in accordance with its mandate and work plan.

The Group of Experts also acknowledged that there were some points in the analysis contained in the documents that require further elaboration for the Group to give concrete recommendations to SC.1 and to finalize the conceptual and functional specifications. Therefore, the Group of Experts, with the exception of Iran (Islamic Republic of) which expressed a reservation, requested an extension of its mandate under its current terms of

reference and workplan to complete its tasks and report to SC.1 at its 119<sup>th</sup> session in October 2024. It requested the secretariat to include this request in SC.1's agenda for this session.

IRU and its members raised several concerns which are included in the formal documents to be considered under this topic. IRU also requested that a hybrid solution (i.e. foreseeing an option for the transport operator or driver to present the e-CMR data in different ways so it is humanly readable), is included in the future work of GE.22, should its mandate be renewed.

To facilitate SC.1's discussion and decision/s, the Chair of the Group of Experts will be invited to summarize the work of the Group of Experts, its report and the recommendations made.

SC.1 is invited to consider documents ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/2 to 5 which contain the points in the analysis that require further processing by the Group of Experts before recommendation/s to SC.1 can be made. For clarity, these documents also contain comments made by the meeting participants at the sixth session of the Group of Experts.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/12, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/2 to 5

#### **(d) New legal instrument(s) Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (Omnibus)**

At its 114<sup>th</sup> session, SC.1 resumed its discussion with the attendance of representatives from the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey. The Russian Federation indicated that it was prepared to accept the proposed wording reflected in paragraph 3 of Article 25 of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3 but not the "alternate wording" option. The Russian Federation withdrew its reservation to the text of paragraph 10 of Annex VI. In addition, the Russian Federation proposed additional text to the "Important notice" part of the application for authorization contained in Annex I. The Chair requested that the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey work together (e.g. through "Friends of Chair" meetings or other informal methods) to finalize the text of the draft agreement, and to submit a finalized text for adoption at the last session. Due to disruptions to usual work processes arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, such meeting/s did not take place in 2020.

At its 115<sup>th</sup> session, the secretariat informed SC.1 that it had followed up with the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey to ascertain their continued interest in this matter. The secretariat shared the replies received from Switzerland and Turkey on 18 and 30 November 2020 respectively. In summary, Switzerland and Turkey indicated that they would not be continuing their involvement in discussions on the proposed agreement. SC.1 decided to keep this item on its agenda but to suspend further discussions on this topic until the transport sector has had the opportunity to recover from the Covid 19 pandemic (i.e. in 2023 or 2024).

SC.1 will be invited to reopen a discussion on this matter if it wishes to do so.

At the last session, the European Commission shared that the Protocol to the Interbus Agreement regarding regular and special regular services (which has been open for signature and ratification since 23 October 2020) had been ratified by the European Union but requires at least two other contracting parties besides the European Union to enter into force. The European Commission will be invited to provide an update at this session.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3

#### **(e) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)**

##### **The relationship between the origin of goods and transport operations**

At the last session, Poland and Türkiye tabled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/4 with a proposed definition. At the request of Poland, and as the Russian Federation was not present for this agenda item, SC.1 agreed to postpone its discussion on this item until this session.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/4

**3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport**

Digital/smart road infrastructure

This item has been a regular feature in SC.1's agenda since its 113th session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/410). With a view to educating and raising awareness on the topic given its relevance to road transport, members of SC.1 will be invited to give a presentation on this topic if they wish to do so.

**4. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility****(a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure***(i) Road safety inspections and audits*

At the last session, Latvia facilitated the discussion on this topic by emphasising the role of road safety audits (RSA) and technical inspections (RSI) as one of several tools to accomplish the goal of safe infrastructure for all road users and to prevent accidents. Ukraine volunteered to present its good practices at this session. SC.1 invited Latvia and Ukraine to work with the TEM member countries in documenting their RSA and RSI good practices.

Latvia and Ukraine will be invited to provide an update, and SC.1 will be invited to discuss this matter in conjunction with agenda item 4(b) on the TEM Project.

*(ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes*

The Secretary of the ECE Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes (WP.5/GE.3) provided an update on the work of the group which over the past year has included the creation of maps overlaying climate change projections, and an analysis of possible impacts and areas of vulnerability. He requested input by March 2023 from SC.1 participants on a survey to collect data on disruption in road transport operations due to heavy precipitation and heatwaves and related information. This is for the compilation of business cases for climate change adaptation. SC.1 requested an update at this session.

SC.1 will also be invited to discuss this topic in the context of its work program, including opportunities for collaboration with WP.5/GE.3.

**(b) Trans-European North-South Motorway Project**

At the last session, the TEM Project Manager elaborated on potential areas of contribution to SC.1 including analytical works and the identification of current practices in the road infrastructure safety management of TEM member countries and within the ECE region. In addition, guidelines for the implementation of necessary road infrastructure safety management procedures, and a review of the AGR agreement from the perspective of the inclusion of road safety audits and road safety inspections, were also suggested as potential contributions.

The TEM Project Manager will be invited to give an update.

**5. Facilitation of international road transport****(a) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)**

At the last session, SC.1 approved changes to Annex 1 of R.E.4 per ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1 with the following change in paragraph 3 of Annex 1 as reflected in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1: deletion of the text "in a Portable Document Format (PDF)".

The secretariat will provide details on where the revised RE.4 may be found on the SC.1 website.

The Managing Director of the Council of Bureaux (CoB) will be invited to provide her yearly update on “Green Card system” over the past year.

**(b) Workshop on Cross-border insurance of motor vehicles**

At the last session, SC.1 was invited to participate in a workshop on cross-border insurance of motor vehicles jointly organized by \*ESCAP, ECE, \*\*ECLAC, \*\*\*ECA and \*\*\*\*ESCWA on 19 October 2022. Presentations were given by the insurance card organizations responsible for administering the Green, Blue, Orange, Brown and Yellow cards. The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop were contained in Annex 3 of the report of the last session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/418). The secretariat will update SC.1 on developments in this matter since the last session.

**6. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

At the last session, SC.1 commenced its reading and consideration of Rules 1 to 28 of the Rules of Procedure contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2. SC.1 requested that Germany submits a revised document which reflects the changes made and the proposed rules to be revisited at this session.

The secretariat will also inform SC.1 of the operationalization of the revised ITC Terms of Reference, and a follow up step that was included under Task 4.3 of the Implementation of ITC’s revised TOR and Strategy until 2030 (ECE/TRANS/2023/3): “Operationalize ITC TOR and Rules of Procedure (ROP) and achieve necessary alignments to ITC TOR/ROP by its subsidiary bodies”. “Draft Recommendations for Harmonized Elements in the TOR of ITC Working Parties” may be found in Annex II of ECE/TRANS/2023/4/Rev.1. The secretariat will inform SC.1 of recommendations relevant to SC.1’s TOR and ROP.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/2023/4/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/6

**7. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations**

**(a) National delegations**

National delegations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective countries.

**(b) International organizations**

IRU has tabled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/7 which contains a resolution on the issue of driver shortage issue which was adopted at its recent General Assembly. IRU will be invited to present a short statement on this matter.

Representatives of other international organizations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective areas of work.

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\* Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
 \*\* Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
 \*\*\* Economic Commission for Africa  
 \*\*\*\* Economic Commission for Western Asia

**(c) Activities of interest to the Working Party**

*(i) ITC related*

The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations entities of interest.

In particular, the secretariat will inform SC.1 of the outcomes from ITC's 85th session in February 2023 relevant to SC.1. These include the Ministerial Declaration on "Harnessing the full potential of inland transport solutions in the global fight against climate change" (ECE/TRANS/328/Annex II), ITC revised TOR and Strategy until 2030, the 2023 review of ITC working parties' mandates, revised ECE Road Safety Action Plan for 2023-2030 (ECE/TRANS/2023/7), extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts on AETR, and new trend towards electric vehicle charging infrastructure (ECE/TRANS/2023/23).

To the extent that these aspects are not covered within the other agenda items, the secretariat will provide information and seek feedback from SC.1 on the revised ECE Road Safety Action Plan for 2023-2030, update on progress on ITC Strategy until 2030, feedback on recommended information for the review of ITC Working Parties, and ITC's request to SC.1 to consider and make proposals on road transport developments in view of the electrification of light-duty vehicles (LDVs) and heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) and how to best arrange the development of charging infrastructure, and the invitation to collaborate with WP.24 to find solutions serving transport haulage as well as last mile deliveries.

At the last session, SC.1 requested the secretariat to prepare a presentation on the legal instruments under SC.1's purview for discussion at this session. This is related to Task 5.1 of the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030 (ECE/TRANS/2022/3) which referred to relevant working parties administering legal instruments under their purview, and as part of this work, assessing and/or reviewing legal instruments.

*(ii) Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)*

The Secretary of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will be invited to provide an update on WP.5's work given the synergy with SC.1's work.

*(iii) Car sharing and car pooling*

The secretariat will be invited to provide an update on this project which anticipates the organization of a final workshop.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/328 Annex II, ECE/TRANS/2023/7, ECE/TRANS/2023/23, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/8, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/9

**8. Other business**

SC.1 may wish to consider other issues under this agenda item.

**9. Date of next session**

The Working Party will be informed that its next session has been scheduled for 15 to 17 October 2024. The deadline for the submission of documents is 31 July 2024.

**10. Adoption of the report**

The Working Party will adopt the report of this session.

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