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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Berne, 25-28 March 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of Informal Working Groups**Report on the third and fourth meetings of the informal
working group on e-learning****Transmitted by the Government of Germany and the International
Road Transport Union (IRU)*,******Introduction**

1. Based on the mandate given by the Joint Meeting during its Autumn 2023 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/170, paragraph 58) a third meeting of the informal working group (IWG) on e-learning was held virtually on 14 November 2023. The items scheduled for that meeting were continued to discuss at a fourth meeting on 12 December 2023. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Ivan Schmelczer, representative of IRU, and with Ms. Gudula Schwan, representative of Germany, acting as a Vice-Chair.

2. The following Contracting Parties to ADR and/or ADN, participated in the third meeting: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Türkiye and United Kingdom. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Fuel Distributors (ECFD), International Road Transport Union (IRU), International Union of Railways (UIC). The total number of participants was 28.

3. The following Contracting Parties to ADR and/or ADN, participated in the fourth meeting: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), European Barge Union (EBU), European Confederation of Fuel Distributors (ECFD), European Skippers' Organisation (ESO), International Road Transport Union IRU, International Union of Railways (UIC). The informal working group on Training of Experts of the ADN Safety Committee was also present. The total number of participants was 35.

* A/78/6 (Sect.20), table 20.5.

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2024/23.



Pework for the meetings

4. Germany created a proposal that was circulated to the invited participants. There was an opportunity to have a pre-discussion about the proposal.
5. Spain could not participate in the meeting. Therefore, Spain sent comments for the proposal in advance of the event. Taking into account some other comments, Germany prepared a modified version for the meeting.
6. The provisional agenda for the third meeting was the following:
 - Introduction
 - Discussion of the proposal submitted by Germany
 - Finalising the proposal for the next Joint Meeting (March 2024)
 - Involvement of the ADN Safety Committee/the Informal Working Group on Training of Experts
 - Closure

Third meeting (14 November 2023)

7. At the previous meetings of the IWG, participants agreed in applying the e-learning training option for the refresher training, only. Therefore, the proposal document contained amendments to 8.2.2.5. A new 8.2.2.5.4 was planned to be inserted in ADR. In this new paragraph, provisions for e-learning were introduced. It contained provisions for limitation, access control, quality and connection to face-to-face training.
8. Participants requested to clarify the term "e-learning" to separate this term from other distance learning solutions where the instructor is available on-line. The IWG agreed that there is a need to deal with an e-learning training as a self-study module in the refresher training programme.
9. Some participants disagreed in regulating the details for this e-learning part of the training and with the limitation for maximum 50 % of the duration of the complete course. However, many participants requested to regulate it in detail.
10. The proposal raised the demand for a consequential amendment in 8.2.2.6 for the approval of the e-learning by the competent authority.
11. During this meeting, the IWG could not finish the items of the provisional agenda. Therefore, a new meeting was scheduled to December 2023.

Fourth meeting (12 December 2023)

12. In the meantime, comments and suggestions were received from Denmark, Sweden, ECFD and IRU. There was a demand for inserting new definitions of e-learning and remote training in 1.2.1 of ADR. Germany created a discussion paper for this meeting upon the comments received.
13. Participants requested to clarify the previously used definitions. The informal working group agreed that the term "e-learning" in this document is used for a self-learning phase that is asynchronous with the instructor. That means, the instructor is not available during self-learning. Consultation with an instructor is possible in the remaining part of the theoretical training or in the practical training. This self-learning opportunity is available for the refresher training only.
14. The IWG went through the proposed new 8.2.2.5.4 sentence-by sentence to create a final form. A consequential amendment was considered to the structure of the training in 8.2.2.3.1.

15. Germany created a new version of the discussion paper that contains the most recent modifications. This document was sent to the participants per e-mail. Participants were invited to send written comments for the fifth meeting of the IWG in January 2024.

Further action

16. Since the planned agenda was not completed, a new meeting of the IWG was requested. The next meeting is scheduled on 31 January 2024 at 1 p.m. Central European Time.

17. The actual version of the discussion paper is contained in informal document INF.7

18. The IWG plans to create an informal document for the Joint Meeting in March 2024 about the result of the next session of the IWG.
