

WP29 procedure voting will take a lot of time. The Commission has paved the way with the pedestrian regulation and will follow the same procedure for the new CRS regulation. However, a formal working document is necessary to be provided to Council and Member States before any EU level voting can be achieved. Therefore, the GRSP document needs to be fully completed before the working document is deemed ready for publication by the WP.29 secretariat. Only if the official WP29 document is ready, the EU voting process can begin.

The translation needs to happen for WP29 into Russian and French. The document may go to TCMV based only on the English document. Translation into 23 EU languages is required for the other voting procedures in the EU. This job will take at least a few months. The chairman indicated that if WP29 votes this June, it can come into effect by June 2013. The Commission noted that this is probably too optimistic given the expected delays also on the EU level.

The Commission representative introduced Mr Florent Herlitz who is the lawyer working for the automotive unit of DG ENTR. He explained the current procedure (it will change probably this year) and timeline with regard to accession to new UNECE regulations. The procedure for the adoption of amendments to UNECE Regulation is different (mega decision) and not relevant here.

The EU accession procedure is based on the Council Decision 97/836/EC (the '97 Decision on the '58 Agreement). It was mentioned that there are plans to update this '97 Decision to be in line with the Lisbon Treaty, as this has not yet been addressed.

The different steps are as follows. Firstly the UN text must be stable with a WP29 number. A draft EU act (Council Decision) is drafted to accede to the UN text. The document is sent into inter-service consultation (relevant departments can provide comments and input) which will take a few weeks and could lead to modified text. Once agreed it will go into a written procedure. The text needs translating into EN, FR and DE for its adoption by the Commission, subsequently this text of this draft Decision will have to be available in all 23 EU languages in order to be transmitted to the Council and European Parliament.

The Council will organize a working group and the technical document will be presented and reviewed. Once the Council has voted in favor of the document, it is transmitted to the European Parliament for its consent.

Although the EP could commence its work as soon as the Commission transmits the document to Council and EP, which is done at the same time, it starts when it is officially seized by the Council. EP will begin its work on the document and discuss it during the committee meetings dealing with trade issues (INTA committee). After this committee voting has taken place and the text is accepted, it will be transmitted to the EP for a plenary session vote.

Once the Council has received the consent (i.e. final OK or NOK) from the EP, it will then put it on its agenda for formal adoption during one of the next meetings (COREPER level (i.e. Permanent Representative level) and then Council level). Once this has been done, the Council Decision text is adopted and will be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

These legal steps can take up to \pm 10 months from the initial proposal. The Commission will provide an informative flowchart at a later stage to complement the explanation.