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Working Party on Road Transport

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Programme of work and biennial evaluation

Programme of Work, 2014-2018

Note by the secretariat

1. The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) approved its 2012–2016 programme of work at its 106th session in 2011 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2011/5 and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396).
2. The Working Party may wish to examine and revise its draft programme of work for 2014-2018 and, in particular, the continued relevance of priorities assigned to individual work elements and the expected outputs identified for this period.

Draft Programme of Work for 2014–2018

Programme Activity 02.14: ROAD TRANSPORT (Trans-European network for motorways (TEM) Project)

Description:

3. The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) promotes the development and facilitation of international transport by road—of goods and passengers—by harmonizing and simplifying the rules and requirements to which such transport is subject to. To meet this objective, SC.1 draws up, manages and updates international legal instruments. SC.1 is also a parent body to technical expert groups such as those concerning the digital tachograph rules or transport of passengers by coach and bus. It also draws up non-binding recommendations and best practices in international road transport such as Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4). Finally, SC.1 promotes the third party motor liability insurance law (Green card system).

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Road Transport will pursue the following activities:

Continuing Activities

- (a) Implementation and amendment of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

Priority: 1

Description:

In order to adapt the European road network to future requirements, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will take suitable action to implement the Agreement and amend as necessary its provisions taking into account the evolution of traffic flows, as well as the safety and security of the network.

Output expected:

- Development and adoption of amendments to the AGR including, if and when deemed necessary, new E-roads.
- Development of AGR standards which have the purpose of enhancing road safety, environmental protection and energy saving.
- Preparation and adoption of any necessary amendments to the AGR regarding the provisions on road safety audits and possibly on security.
- Monitoring the implementation of AGR standards along the E-Roads network.
- Preparation and dissemination of a questionnaire concerning implementation of AGR standards.

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

Priority: 2

Description:

In order to assist in the further development of the TEM network as part of an integrated international road infrastructure, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will continue its close cooperation with TEM.

Output expected:

- Review of ongoing and expected future progress of the TEM network and consideration of possibilities to contribute to its further development (e.g., combined transport, financing).
- Monitoring of the development of the TEM Project and providing assistance to the TEM Project whenever possible and appropriate.

- (c) Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations

Priority: 1

Description:

In order to simplify and harmonize requirements concerning international road transport and the facilitation of its operations, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will elaborate and update, as necessary, appropriate international legal instruments and/or recommendations and will consider selected aspects of international transport of passengers and goods by road, particularly those related to the facilitation of road transport between countries and sub-regions in the UNECE area including the simplification and harmonization of administrative procedures and documentation.

Output expected:

- Identification and execution of the necessary steps in order to ensure effective implementation of the European Agreement on the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and particularly of the provisions on the digital tachograph.

Priority: 1

- Working towards the objective of the successful implementation of the provisions concerning the regulation of driving times and rest periods for professional drivers by the Contracting Parties.

Priority: 1

- Achieving the effective and fully operational implementing systems for the digital tachograph in non-EU AETR countries.

Priority: 1

- Consideration of questions concerning the Green Card International Motor Insurance System, including encouraging and facilitating membership to the Green Card System as well as considering possibilities for the establishment of a similar international motor insurance system for countries beyond the area covered by the Green Card System.

Priority: 2

- Development of proposals to promote the harmonization of fiscal and other measures in order to avoid any discriminatory practices in international road transport.

Priority: 2

Activities of limited duration

- (d) Consideration of the possibility to modify the Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4) in certain areas such as the security of passenger and goods transport and in relation to the access to the profession of the road transport operator

Priority: 2

- (e) Consideration of new challenges, opportunities and developments in the facilitation of international road transport between countries and sub-regions in the UNECE area and beyond, including quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods.

Priority: 1

Output expected:

- Cooperation including joint meetings where appropriate with other UNECE bodies such as the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) on the facilitation of border crossing e.g. visa issuance to professional drivers, the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) on the safety of infrastructure.
- Adoption of a new global multilateral legal instrument on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus

- (f) More effective implementation of transport-related UNECE agreements and conventions.

Priority: 1

Output expected:

- To define and put in place well-functioning implementation monitoring mechanisms for the legal instruments dealt with by the Working Party;
- To operationalize the Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), concerning the electronic consignment note (e-CMR).

- (g) Group of Experts on the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Output expected:

To examine and assess the problematic aspects of implementing the Agreement and to develop proposals for their solution. These include the questions relating to the prevailing legal instrument, third country rights and obligations under the agreement, the relationship between the Agreement and the European Union parallel/coinciding legislation, the matter of art. 22*bis* and the difficulties related to the implementation of the digital tachograph.