

Status report on the hosting of DETA

I. Introduction

1. The UNECE World Forum on Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) has since 2003 considered various options to set up a system that would allow type approvals granted according to UN Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement to be managed electronically.
2. The draft Revision 3 to the 1958 Agreement introduces DETA through outlining in its Article 5 and Schedule 5 the provisions for "...utilizing the secure internet database established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe...", and defines the rights and obligations of system stakeholders.
3. The entry into force of Rev. 3 to the 1958 Agreement is expected in September 2017. Until then, the goal of the UNECE secretariat is to provide DETA to the member States.

II. Financing DETA

4. The Informal Working Group (IWG) on DETA explored ways to finance DETA. Among several options, hosting DETA and covering the related costs through the UNECE Regular Budget was the option proposed to WP.29. The World Forum WP.29 and the Inland Transport Committee decided in that sense.
5. Since then, UNECE faced a number of budget cuts affecting both the number of staffs and material.

III. Actions undertaken by the WP.29 secretariat

6. A memo on DETA informing the UNECE senior management was drafted on spring 2016.
7. The DETA activity was added to the budget narrative for 2018 and 2019 as reflected in the documentation (Entry 13 on page 18) submitted to EXCOM at its December 2016 session.
8. The Director of PMU explained to WP.29 the procedure for adoption of Programme Budgetary Implications (PBIs).
9. During the EXCOM meeting in December 2016, following a discussion initiated by a Member State, the UNECE secretariat removed the Entry 13 in the document mentioned in para. 7 above.
10. Noting the risk related to the timeline, the WP.29 Secretariat, the IWG on DETA Chair and Secretary together with key experts from the Russian Federation and Germany drafted a working paper to propose, as an interim solution, the establishment of an Extra Budgetary Project for the installation of DETA within the UNECE premises and would in parallel seek for the approval of the inclusion of DETA in the UNECE Regular Budget in the biennials starting from the 2020.
11. The secretariat informed ITC on the tight time line and the possibility to find a short term solution. ITC decided to request UNECE to finance DETA from its Regular Budget, not authorizing explicitly to work the basis of an Extra Budgetary Project.
12. At its March 2017 session, WP.29 supported the ITC decision.

13. At the 91st EXCOM session in March 2017, the Chair of ITC presented the request of ITC for a decision by the ECE Commission on securing the necessary Regular Budget for DETA. EXCOM request the UNECE secretariat to organize informal consultations with member States on this issue. The representative of member State stated that UNECE doesn't have to request additional budget as DETA would not be a new activity: the exchange of Type Approval documentation is already mandated by the Revision 2 of the 1958 Agreement. The representative of another member State explained that his Country, not being Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement would not agree to include DETA in the Regular Budget of UNECE.

14. Several informal consultations were organized by the UNECE secretariat. The member States reiterated their position.

15. The last informal working paper on this matter proposing a way forward was drafted by the representative of EU proposing, as an interim solution, the establishment of an Extra Budgetary Project for the installation of DETA within the UNECE premises and would in parallel seek for the approval of the inclusion of DETA in the UNECE Regular Budget in the biennials starting from the 2020. No informal or formal discussion or decision was taken on this document.

16. In this situation without a financing solution, the secretariat cannot take initiative to purchase or install DETA. The secretariat is encouraging the member States to find a win/win or compromise solution on the financing aspect of DETA.

IV. Risks and opportunities

17. It is likely that DETA won't be available at the time of entry into force of Revision 3 to the 1958 Agreement.

18. The secretariat took note of the request of WP.29 to purchase DETA from a qualified supplier, in the best interest (buying a system that was already successfully tested, limiting costs related to trainings, if any etc.) of the Contracting Parties.

19. The Automotive Industry indicated to finance some costs related to the "Unique Identifier" function, once DETA would be sustainably installed at UNECE.

20. In order to increase the value of DETA, the secretariat recommends that WP.29 explores the possibility to accept that DETA would not only host Type Approval Documentation according to UN Regulations annexed to the 1985 Agreement but would allow also the storage of compliance documentation applicable in the territory of the Contracting Parties to the 1998 Agreements and / or all UN member States, provided that the appropriate data protection is guaranteed.