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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

105<sup>th</sup> session

29 October 2018

Geneva, 6-9 November 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Status of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and related issues**

### **Change to the current title of ADR**

**Transmitted by the Government of Austria**

#### **Introduction**

1. Austria took note of the ITC's aim to act as the UN's competence centre for inland transport for the whole world. A Conference of the Parties to remove the word "European" in the title of ADR is in line with this policy.
  2. Austria is aware of the legal irrelevance of this act. Article 6 of ADR remains unchanged. It already allows a very wide range of states worldwide to accede. The most recent example for accepting this invitation is Nigeria. However, the proposal is – and is intended to be – a promotion of the convention.
  3. Austria sees the advantages of harmonised provisions covering an area as large as possible. Whereas for air and sea mode global conventions are obviously necessary and can be handled, the situation for inland transport seems to be different. There are no worldwide carriages and the conditions are much more inhomogeneous.
  4. Concerns arise, for example from the one member one vote principle in connection with the rules of procedure requiring the presence of at least one third of the Contracting Parties. It is easy for European countries to participate in the meetings in Geneva. That's different for more remote and for poorer regions and might make the Working Party inquorate.
  5. If enough delegates attend the meetings, safety and economic aspects will differ much more than today and – according to the majorities – either slow down important developments for some contracting parties or overcharge others.
  6. According to Article 14 of ADR five Contracting Parties are enough to impede planned changes of the Annexes. In a more heterogenic situation than now, this might serve as an instrument to achieve political aims not connected to dangerous goods.
  7. Austria therefore invites the Working Party to reflect once more whether it considers it reasonable to encourage as many states as possible to accede ADR. Alternatively, it could help as a model for other regions or individual states to adopt dangerous goods regulations with the possibility to adapt them according to their social and economic circumstances.
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