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Working Party on Road Transport

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

Nineteenth session

Geneva, 15 and 16 October 2018

Report of the Group of Experts on European Agreement concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport on its nineteenth session

I. Attendance

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its nineteenth session in Geneva on 15 and 16 October 2018, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Belarus, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great and Northern Ireland.
3. The representative of a non-ECE member states also participated: Lebanon.
4. The European Union, the European Commission on Joint Research Centre (JRC), and the following non-governmental organizations were represented: EuroMed Transport Support Project, International Road Transport Union (IRU). Continental Automotive and In Group participated as observers.

II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)

5. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/44).

III. Programme of Work (agenda item 2)

A. Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

6. The Russian Federation and the European Commission reiterated their earlier positions (indicated in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.3). The Chair urged the parties to reconsider their positions and make progress at the next session.

B. Appendix 1C

7. The European Commission made a presentation on the amendments of Regulation European Union 2016/799 (Informal document No. 1) and their possible impact on the Group's discussion of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1. It was decided to consider individual amendments contained in Informal document No.1 (or formally in Regulation European Union 2018/502) while discussing ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1. The secretariat was requested to make a copy of the "Smart Digital Tachograph Technical Analysis for the Amendment of Regulation 799/2016" (to be provided by the European Commission) publicly available to help understand the changes in the original Regulation European Union 2016/799.

8. The Group of Experts continued its review of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1 until point "gg (out of scope)" on page 15 in the English version.

9. At the last session, Turkey submitted Informal document No. 6 (June 2018) concerning issues related to procurement of smart tachograph cards. At this session, the Group—in particular Turkey and the European Commission—exchanged views on a possibility of receiving tachograph cards in an AETR contracting party while having them approved in any other contracting party. In this context, Turkey sought the relevant changes to point "xx (workshop card)" in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1. The European Commission explained that this was not possible. Turkey requested that a transitional arrangement after 15 June 2019 be discussed at the next session. Turkey also advised that vehicle manufacturers based in the countries of non-European Union AETR contracting parties had requested a solution for receiving workshop cards as of March 2019.

10. The Group of Experts took note of the availability of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/3 (formerly Informal document No. 1 of June 2018) in the three ECE official languages.

C. Dedicated short range communication

11. At the last session, Turkey had requested that the Group resume discussion of Informal document No. 2 (June 2018) which proposed to include V2X technologies for the remote communication function of smart tachographs. Turkey advised that it no longer wished to discuss this document.

12. The Russian Federation proposed considering the possibility of switching off DSRC manually or automatically in countries where its use may not be legal.

13. The European Commission made a presentation on the DSRC transmitter which covered the position of the antennae.

D. Application of Regulation No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”

14. The Group of Experts did not further discuss the application of Regulation Nos. 561/2006 and 165/2014 nor did it attempt to harmonize the two regimes for driving times and rest periods. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda so that it can be revisited at future sessions if so desired.

15. The European Commission did not have any update on changes to Regulation No. 561/2006.

IV. Amendment of Article 14 (agenda item 3)

16. At the last session, Turkey had indicated its willingness to be a proponent of the proposal to amend Article 14 in order to make Lebanon eligible to accede. At this session, Turkey informed the Group of Experts that it has begun the necessary steps to submit such an amendment proposal to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.

V. TACHOnet (agenda item 4)

17. The European Commission submitted Informal document No. 4 which contained draft text on a possible annex to the AETR Agreement related to TACHOnet. It also provided an update on expected time frames for delivery in 2019.

18. The European Commission was invited to keep the Group of Experts updated on progress at future sessions.

VI. The Memorandum of Understanding which recognizes the Joint Research Centre as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-European Union AETR Contracting Parties

19. The secretariat informed the Group about a new Supplement to extend the Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and the European Commission Services which recognizes JRC as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-European Union AETR contracting parties which was signed by all parties (Informal document No. 2).

VII. Reconciliation of “AETR regimes” in the European Union and non-European Union contracting parties after 15 June 2019 (agenda item 6)

20. The Group of Experts commenced its discussion on the reconciliation of the differences in “AETR regimes” in European Union and non-European Union contracting parties that will result after the compulsory adoption of the smart tachograph by European Union AETR contracting parties after 15 June 2019. Among others, informal document No. 3 proposed principles on how to accept European Union vehicles equipped with smart tachographs on the territories of non-European Union AETR contracting parties.

21. The Group of Experts decided to create an informal group of experts to expedite their discussions on Appendix 1C. The Russian Federation and the Chair offered to coordinate the group and to contact the volunteers interested to be part of the informal group.

VIII. Other Business (agenda item 7)

22. The Group of Experts did not discuss any other business.

IX. Date and Place of Next Meeting (agenda item 8)

23. The next meeting will take place on 18 February 2019 in Palais des Nations in Geneva.

X. Adoption of the Report

24. The Group of Experts adopted the report of this session.
