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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

115th session

Geneva, 14-16 October 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the 115th session** **

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Room XXIV Geneva, starting at 9:30am on Tuesday, 14 October 2020.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Inland Transport Instruments:
 - (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR);
 - (i) Status of the Agreement;
 - (ii) AETR Group of Experts.
 - (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR):
 - (i) Status of the Agreement;
 - (ii) Amendments to the Agreement.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp1.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by email (roadtransport@un.org). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=69Dmzv> or complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (roadsafety@un.org).

Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext.75716 or 72401). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website (www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

- (c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR):
 - (i) Status of the Convention;
 - (ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR);
 - (iii) Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR).
- (d) New legal instrument(s):

Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS).
- (e) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4):

The relationship between the origin of goods and transport operations.
- 3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport:

Digital/smart road infrastructure.
- 4. Regional, Interregional and Global Inland Transport Policy Dialogues:

Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods.
- 5. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility:
 - (a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure;
 - (i) Road safety inspections and audits;
 - (ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes;
 - (iii) Benchmarking for transport infrastructure;
 - (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project.
- 6. Facilitation of international road transport:

International Motor Insurance System (Green Card).
- 7. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
- 8. Activities of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) National delegations;
 - (b) International organizations;
 - (c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies and other United Nations organizations.
- 9. Other business.
- 10. Date of next session.
- 11. Election of officers
- 12. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/413

2. Inland Transport Instruments**(a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)***(i) Status of the Agreement*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the AETR Agreement, including about the interest of the Government of Egypt to seek amendment of Article 14 to make the country eligible to accede to the AETR Agreement.

(ii) AETR Group of Experts

The Chair of the AETR Group of Experts will update SC.1 on the work of the AETR Group of Experts, especially on the work of the Group of Experts to reconcile the AETR regime in European Union (EU) and non-EU AETR contracting parties following the introduction of the smart tachograph in the EU on 15 June 2019 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/53).

At the 114th session, the European Commission presented ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.1, submitted by Austria, which contains draft text on a possible new annex to the AETR Agreement related to TACHOnet. The European Commission is invited to provide an update on the status of TACHOnet.

Also at the last session, SC.1 considered the issue of changing the name of the AETR Agreement by deleting the term “European” from the title, and agreed to keep this issue on the agenda of future sessions. Making this change would be consistent with the fact that there are currently five non-European countries which are eligible to accede to the Agreement and also with the ITC Strategy document’s (ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2, table 1) priority actions to amend legal instruments with geographical and procedural barriers by 2025. The working party is invited to revisit this discussion if there is interest.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.1 and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/53

(b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)*(i) Status of the Agreement*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of AGR.

(ii) Amendments to the Agreement

At the 114th session, the secretariat drew attention to article 5 of AGR which covers eligibility to become a contracting party. SC.1 members agreed to consult their capitals on whether it would be appropriate to open the Agreement to accession by non-ECE member States, and to revert on this matter at this session.

(c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR)*(i) Status of the Convention*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Convention.

(ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR)

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Protocol to the Convention, including any new accessions since the last session.

(iii) *Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (eCMR)*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Additional Protocol to the Convention, including the number of accessions since the last session.

At its 114th session, SC.1 endorsed a “without prejudice” guidance note on the legal aspects of e-CMR (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2018/1/Rev.1) and requested the secretariat to make it available in English, French and Russian on SC.1’s website. The secretariat will provide an update.

Also at the last session, SC.1 decided to create an informal group of experts comprising of Germany, Latvia, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey, IRU and the European Commission to prepare a draft paper for SC.1’s consideration at the next session. The paper detailing research and other recommended actions was requested by ITC at its eighty-first session in February 2019. The chair of the informal group of experts will be invited to introduce the proposed table of contents of the draft paper (Informal document No.1) and to give an overview of the work, timelines and progress of the informal group to date.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2018/1/Rev.1, Informal document No.1

(d) **New legal instrument(s):**

Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS)

At its 114th session, SC.1 resumed its discussion with the attendance of representatives from the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey. The Russian Federation indicated that it was prepared to accept the proposed wording reflected in paragraph 3 of Article 25 of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3 but not the “alternate wording” option. The Russian Federation withdrew its reservation to the text of paragraph 10 of Annex VI. In addition, the Russian Federation proposed additional text to the “Important notice” part of the application for authorization contained in Annex I.

The Chair requested that the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey work together (e.g. through “Friends of Chair” meetings or other informal methods) to finalize the text of the draft agreement, and to submit a finalized text for adoption at this session. Due to disruptions to usual work processes arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, such meeting/s did not take place in the first half of 2020. The Chair will provide an update at this session.

The European Commission will be invited to provide an update on the status of the protocols to the InterBus Agreement (one for the extension of the scope of regular services and another to provide access of Morocco to the InterBus agreement) that were adopted by the Council in 2018.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3

(e) **Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)**

The relationship between the origin of goods and transport operations

At the last session, Poland submitted ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3 which contained an amendment proposal to revise R.E.4 to include a definition of “bilateral transport” as a new subpoint 4.1.9.

SC.1 requested that Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Turkey discuss the alternative definitions listed below, and agree on a definition to be proposed in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1 for this session. Members of SC.1 were also invited to contact the representatives of Poland directly with further alternatives.

Poland and Russian Federation proposal:

- 4.1.9 "Bilateral transport means a road transport operation undertaken by a laden or unladen vehicle registered in one country, the point of departure of which is from the territory of registration of the vehicle, and the destination of which is in the territory of the other country, or vice versa."

Turkey proposal:

- 4.1.9 "Bilateral transport means a road transport operation undertaken by a vehicle registered in one country, the point of departure of which is from the territory of registration of the vehicle, and the destination of which is in the territory of the other country, or vice versa, which does not fall under the definition of third country traffic in paragraph 4.1.7."

Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Turkey are invited to present ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1 and/or to provide an update on their discussions.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1

3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport

Digital/smart road infrastructure

At the eighty-first session of ITC, the Committee encouraged SC.1 to continue its work on smart roads (ECE/TRANS/288, para. 35). In light of this, as well as the priority placed by the ITC 2030 Strategy on supporting new technologies and innovations in inland transport, SC.1 reaffirmed the relevance of this item in its agenda at the last session.

At the last session, Liechtenstein expressed its interest in providing a presentation at this session on managing a vehicle's life cycle with blockchain technology.

Members of SC.1 will be invited to share or present initiatives on the digitalization of road systems or road infrastructure in their countries at the next session.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/288

4. Regional, Interregional and Global Inland Transport Policy Dialogues

Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods

At its 112th session, SC.1 discussed a European Commission (EC) study on the economic analysis of an agreement between the European Union and Turkey which had estimated that Turkey and the European Union had sustained large financial losses due to transport quotas and restrictions. Turkey had requested the European Commission to investigate the transit charges which Turkish hauliers pay in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania and to advise if these charges were incompatible with the European Union-Turkey Customs Union.

At the last session, the European Commission advised that, having looked into this issue, it had not found any incompatibility with the Customs Union. The representative of Austria referred to a decision of the European Court of Justice C629/16 which might be of interest, and which declared the system of bilateral quotas to be in line with the European Union Turkey Customs Union. SC.1 agreed to keep this item on its agenda for the next session so that Turkey and the European Commission could provide an update on any further analysis on this matter if desired.

5. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility

(a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure

(i) Road safety inspections and audits

At its 114th session, SC.1 decided to consider the topic of safe and sustainable road infrastructure in general as a new item on its agenda for future sessions (para 25, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/412).

SC.1 will be invited to suggest topics of interest on this item for discussion at this or the next session.

(ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes

At the last session, the Secretary of the UNECE Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes provided an overview of the report of the group which has been analysing the impacts of climate change on main transport assets in the ECE region (Informal document WP.5/GE.3 No.6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2019/3). SC.1 appreciated the information and requested that the Secretary of the Group of Experts provide an update at this session.

Members of SC.1 were also encouraged to provide shapefiles (i.e. projection such as EPSG 3857, and at least one field containing the E-road number/s) of the E-roads in their countries to the secretariat which could be used to update the E-roads map.

The representative of Germany suggested that the secretariat could also obtain the shapefiles relating to the E-roads from the TEN-T database. The secretariat will provide an update at this session.

(iii) Benchmarking for transport infrastructure

At the last session, the Secretary of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (WP.5/GE.4) presented the work of GE.4 which is in relation to the identification of models, methodologies, tools and good practices for evaluating, calculating and analysing transport infrastructure costs across all modes (road, rail, inland water ways and intermodal terminals). The Secretary of the Group of Experts also informed SC.1 of the UNDA project on developing Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators. SC.1 appreciated the information, and requested that the Secretary of the Group of Experts provide an update at this session.

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

The TEM Project Manager is invited to table a report (Informal document No. 1) and to present on the substantive progress of the TEM project since the last session.

At the last session, SC.1 requested the UNECE Transport Regional Adviser to convey to the TEM Project Manager the interest of SC.1 in TEM project activities, and to suggest areas of synergy and possibilities for collaboration between SC.1 and TEM Project Group at this session. The Transport Regional Adviser will be invited to address SC.1 on this matter.

Documentation

Informal document No. 2

6. Facilitation of international road transport

International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)

The Working Party will be informed by the Secretary-General of the Council of Bureaux about recent developments in the “Green Card system” (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/1).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/1

7. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

In 2016, Belgium and Germany submitted a proposal for changes to SC.1 terms of reference and rules of procedures (Informal document (2016) Nos 3 and 4). At the last session, SC.1 resumed its discussions which it had previously postponed. Germany facilitated discussion on Informal document No. 4.

For this session, SC.1 requested that Germany submit a formal document with proposed changes after verifying the suggested text from the relevant ECE working party guidelines with the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2). Germany will be invited to provide an update on the proposed changes to SC.1's terms of reference. The secretariat will take the opportunity to brief SC.1 on the Inland Transport Committee's (ITC) Rules of Procedure which were adopted at its 82nd session in February 2020 (paras 17 and 18, ECE/TRANS/294).

Documentation

Informal document (2016) Nos 3 and 4, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2, ECE/TRANS/294

8. Activities of interest to the Working Party

(a) National delegations

National delegations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective countries.

(b) International organizations

Representatives of international organizations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective areas of work.

(c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies and other United Nations organizations

The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations entities of interest to the Working Party.

The ITC Secretary is invited to provide an overview of the key outcomes and relevant items of interest and follow up (if any) for SC.1 from the eighty-second session of ITC.

In light of the increasing synergies of the work of SC.1 with those of the Global Forum on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the Global Forum for the World Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), SC.1 invited the Secretaries of WP.1 and WP.29 to attend this session, and to provide an overview on items with relevance for SC.1 from their recent and/or future sessions. In particular, the Secretary of WP.1 will be invited to provide an update on WP.1's initiative to establish a new legal instrument on the use of automated vehicles in road traffic, including the establishment of a new Group of Experts dedicated to such. The Secretary of WP.29 will be invited to provide an update on the status of the framework document on safety of automated vehicles, and the work of the informal group of experts on regulating autonomous/automated and connected vehicles (including cyber security) (otherwise known as WP.29/GRVA).

9. Other business

The secretariat will make a presentation on a car-sharing and car-pooling project which is currently underway and which focusses on Central Asian countries. SC.1 will be invited to review and support the guidelines that have been developed for this project (Informal document No. 3 (in English) and Informal document No. 4 (in Russian)).

SC.1 may wish to consider other issues under this agenda item.

Documentation

Informal document No. 3, Informal document No. 4

10. Date of next session

The Working Party will be informed that its next session has been scheduled for 13-15 October 2021.

11. Election of officers

The Working Party will be invited to elect its officers for the period November 2020 – October 2022. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of SC.1 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1, Chapter V, Rule 12) stipulate that “every two years, SC.1 shall, at the end of the session of the second year, elect from the representatives of members of the ECE, a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, who shall take office at the start of the session of the year following their election. The officers shall be eligible for re-election.” The current SC.1 officers are Mr. R. Symonenko from Ukraine (Chair) and Mr. K. Lewczak from Poland (Vice-Chair).

12. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt the report of this session.
