



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Road Transport

##### 117<sup>th</sup> session

Geneva, 18-20 October 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the 117th session\* \*\*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 October 2022, salle XXV.

## 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:
    - (i) Status of the Agreement;
    - (ii) Group of Experts.
  - (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries:
    - (i) Status of the Agreement;
    - (ii) Amendments to the Agreement;
    - (iii) Implementation of the Agreement.
  - (c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road:
    - (i) Status of the Convention;

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\* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division's website (<https://unece.org/transport/events/sc1ge22-group-experts-operationalization-ecmr-1st-session>). For the translation of the official documents, delegates can access the public Official Document System (ODS) on the following website: <http://documents.un.org/>

\*\* Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000535/registrations/8412/>.

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 75964). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <https://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

- (ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (Protocol);
  - (iii) Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Additional Protocol);
  - (iv) Group of Experts on operationalization of the Additional Protocol.
- (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 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 bodies and other United Nations organizations;
- 9. Election of officers.
- 10. Other business.
- 11. Date of next session.
- 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.1/417

### 2. Inland Transport Instruments

#### (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport

##### (i) Status of the Agreement

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) Agreement.

##### (ii) Group of Experts

The Chair of the AETR Group of Experts will inform 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.

At the last session, SC.1 expressed support for a proposal by the AETR Group of Experts to amend article 14 in order to open up the agreement globally, using the example of article 45 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic: "This Agreement is open for accession by all States Members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party to the Agreement."

SC.1 also encouraged a contracting party to the agreement to formally submit an amendment proposal. As an amendment proposal has yet to be received, AETR contracting parties will be encouraged to consider submitting such.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/416, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/64, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/66

#### (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries

##### (i) Status of the Agreement

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

##### (ii) Amendments to the Agreement

At the 114<sup>th</sup> 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 the last session. As there was no update by any SC.1 member, SC.1 decided to defer making a decision.

At the last session, to facilitate consideration of this matter by contracting parties, the Chair requested the secretariat to invite representatives of other UN regional commissions to provide information on their equivalent regional agreements.

(iii) *Implementation of the Agreement*

As part of the implementation of ITC Strategy until 2030 (contained in ECE/TRANS/2022/3), task 5.4 identifies an opportunity to establish an implementation monitoring mechanism for infrastructure agreements where none exists. SC.1 will be invited to consider and discuss this matter, assisted by the secretariat.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2022/3

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

(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*

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

(iii) *Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Additional Protocol)*

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

(iv) *Group of Experts on operationalization of the Additional Protocol*

At the last session, SC.1 decided to establish a formal group of experts on the operationalization of the eCMR procedure for 2 years (2022 and 2023) to discuss and if possible agree on the requirements of article 5 of the Additional Protocol to CMR including the objective/scope, the high level architecture, and the conceptual specifications for a future environment that would support the conclusion and exchange of electronic consignment notes in accordance with the provisions of CMR and its Additional Protocol. Such work would also include an impact assessment of possible implementation scenarios of a future eCMR environment.

Following approval by ITC and EXCOM in first half of 2022, the Group of Experts was established and met for the first time on 4-5 July. It met for the second time on 4-6 October. The Chair of the Group of Experts will inform SC.1 on the progress to date of the Group of Experts.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/2022/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/2

(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 the last session. Due to disruptions to usual work processes arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, such meeting/s did not take place in 2020.

At the last session, the secretariat informed SC.1 that it had followed up with the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey to ascertain their continued interest in this matter. The secretariat shared the replies received from Switzerland and Turkey on 18 and 30 November 2020 respectively. In summary, Switzerland and Turkey indicated that they would not be continuing their involvement in discussions on the proposed agreement.

In light of these developments as well as the challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic on passenger services, SC.1 decided to keep this item on its agenda but to suspend further discussions on this topic until the transport sector has had the opportunity to more fully recover (i.e. in 2023 or 2024).

The European Commission will be invited to provide an update on the status of the Protocol to the Interbus Agreement regarding regular and special regular services which has been open for signature and ratification since 23 October 2020.

#### **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 its 114<sup>th</sup> session, SC.1 requested that Latvia, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Turkey discuss the alternative definitions listed in paragraphs 47 and 48 of the report from that session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/412), and agree on a definition of “bilateral transport” as a new subpoint 4.1.9 in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1 to be submitted for its 115<sup>th</sup> session.

At the 115<sup>th</sup> session, Poland submitted Informal document No. 5 in place of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2019/3/Rev.1. There was no agreement between Poland, the Russian Federation and Turkey on a joint proposal.

At the last session, the Chair renewed the invitation to the proponents to work together to either submit a joint proposal or separate proposals at this session. Poland will be invited to provide an update.

### **3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport**

#### **Digital/smart road infrastructure**

At the last session, Poland volunteered to make a presentation on its digital systems for taxi services and other similar transport services for the purpose of registration of fiscal transactions and collection of taxes through the use of virtual devices at this session.

Members of SC.1 will also be invited to offer presentations on this topic at the next session.

### **4. Regional, Interregional and Global Inland Transport Policy Dialogues**

#### **Quantitative restrictions imposed on international road transport of goods**

At its 114<sup>th</sup> session, the European Commission advised that the transit charges which Turkish hauliers pay in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania were compatible with the European Union-Turkey Customs Union. The representative of Austria referred to a decision of the European Court of Justice C629/16 which declared the system of bilateral quotas to be in line with the European Union-Turkey Customs Union.

At the last session, Austria provided information on two cases, including C629/16, regarding dispute settlement and suggested that the dispute settlement system as agreed in the treaty on the customs union was the best avenue for resolving such disputes. As there was no further contribution, SC.1 decided to retain this item on its agenda at this session should there be an interest in revisiting it.

## **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).

At the last session, Latvia emphasised the role of road safety audits and technical inspections as one of several tools to accomplish the goal of safe infrastructure for all road users and to prevent accidents. SC.1 decided to retain this item on its agenda for further discussion.

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

The Secretary of the UNECE Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes will be invited to provide an update on the work 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). At the last session, SC.1 had expressed interest in being informed of the outcomes of a conference that was held in Moscow on 15-16 November 2021 on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts: Deployment of New Technologies and Materials for Maintaining Design Road Characteristics During Adaptation of Transport Infrastructure to Climate Change.

Also at the last session, the secretariat advised SC.1 that it had been in contact with the European Commission on the possibility of obtaining shapefiles relating to E-roads from the TEN-T database. An update will be provided at this session.

#### *(iii) Benchmarking for transport infrastructure*

The Secretary of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (WP.5/GE.4) will be invited to provide an update on the work of the group which has been identifying 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 may also provide an update on the responses received to a questionnaire on transport maintenance and operation costs which was circulated at the end of 2021.

### **(b) Trans-European North-South Motorway Project**

At the last session, the TEM Project Manager gave a presentation on substantive progress of the TEM project and also suggested possibilities for collaboration between the TEM Project Group and SC.1, such as the preparation of a paper on best practices on road safety audits and technical inspections. The Chair welcomed the suggestion and invited SC.1 members, with the assistance of the secretariat, to be involved in the preparation of the paper or other appropriate document for this session.

The TEM Project Manager will be invited to introduce the paper and/or provide an update.

## **6. Facilitation of international road transport**

### **International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)**

At the 113<sup>th</sup> session of SC.1, the Managing Director of the Council of Bureaux (CoB) shared that CoB wished to abolish the requirement to print the Green Cards in green colour and to issue them in PDFs in black on white colour. SC.1 expressed its support for, and approved, CoB's request. It also invited CoB, if CoB deemed it necessary, to provide an amendment proposal to annex 1 of the Revised Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (RE.4) at the 114<sup>th</sup> session (para 37, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/410).

At the 115<sup>th</sup> session of SC.1, the Managing Director made a presentation to inform SC.1 about recent developments in the “Green Card system”, including the possibility to have the green card as a PDF on electronic devices. SC.1 invited CoB to table a proposal on this at its 116<sup>th</sup> session.

At the last (116<sup>th</sup>) session, the Managing Director of the Council of Bureaux (CoB) tabled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/4 which contained a proposal to have the possibility of the international motor insurance certificate (green card) presented as a PDF on electronic devices. The paper also proposed that Annex 1 of RE.4 should be a separate/standalone consolidated resolution. SC.1 decided to defer its discussion on ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/4 to this session after SC.1 members had the opportunity to consult capitals and other relevant authorities.

For this session, CoB has tabled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1 as an alternative to ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/4. ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1 contains the proposal to have the possibility of the international motor insurance certificate presented as a PDF on electronic devices and some editorial changes to Annex 1. It also reflects the earlier change approved by SC.1 at its 113<sup>th</sup> session.

CoB has also tabled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/2 which provides details on recent developments in the “Green Card system” over the past year.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/410, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2021/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1,  
ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/2

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

At the 111<sup>th</sup> session of SC.1, Belgium and Germany submitted a proposal for changes to SC.1’s terms of reference and rules of procedures (Informal document (2016) Nos 3 and 4). At the 115<sup>th</sup> session, Germany submitted ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2 which consolidated the changes from the earlier informal documents. At the last session, SC.1 considered the existing and proposed new text contained in the preamble and the annex by adopting a paragraph by paragraph reading of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2. The Chair requested SC.1 members to provide their feedback (if any) to Germany and the secretariat by 30 June 2022 so that ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2/Rev.1 may be prepared for this session reflecting the feedback received on the preamble and annex.

At this session, SC.1 will commence its reading and consideration from Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2/Rev.1

### **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.

The Secretary will inform SC.1 about the launch of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021 to 2030 which occurred in October 2021 after the last session. A presentation with details on the contents of the Global Plan will be given.

On 3 May 2022, the ITC Chair and the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division wrote to the Chairs of every ITC working party advising of, and seeking input on, several matters including the following three which are relevant to SC.1. Firstly, the implementation of the ITC Strategy as relevant for each working party. Updates to the implementation status of the ITC Strategy by providing necessary additions and changes to the status column in ECE/TRANS/2022/3 were requested by 21 October 2022. Accordingly, the Secretary has prepared ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/3 with suggested responses. SC.1 will be invited to review the document, and approve or make changes as necessary.

Secondly, “[n]oting the completion of the ECE Road Safety Action Plan in 2020, following the end of the first Decade of Action for Road Safety, [ITC] requested the secretariat to develop a revised ECE Road Safety Action Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, for consideration and possible adoption by the Committee at its eighty-fifth session.”

Thirdly, ITC requested “the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Bureau, to prepare for the next Committee session an overview of current activities in the field of information and computerization technologies and intelligent transport systems carried out by Working Parties of ITC and link it, where appropriate, with the 70th ECE central theme in 2023 which will be on ‘Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the UNECE region’.”

The Secretary will provide information on these matters, suggest responses and seek SC.1’s approval or guidance as appropriate.

Finally, in light of SC.1’s continuing interest and request at its last session, the Secretaries of the Global Forum on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will be invited to provide an update on the activities of their working parties. The secretariat will also provide an update on its project on car sharing and carpooling in Central Asian countries.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2022/3, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/3

**9. Election of officers**

SC.1 will be invited to elect its officers for the period October 2023 to September 2025. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of SC.1 (Rule 12, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1) 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 Dr. Roman Symonenko from Ukraine (Chair), Ms. Annija Novikova from Latvia (Vice-Chair) and Mr. K Lewczak from Poland (Vice-Chair). In addition, Rule 29 of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1 stipulates that “Voting and elections of officers shall be held in accordance with Rules 37 to 39<sup>1</sup> of the Rules of Procedure of ECE.”

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<sup>1</sup> In the current (fifth revised edition) of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.5), the updated reference is to rules 41 to 43.



According to Rule 38<sup>2</sup>, “All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.”

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1, E/ECE/778/Rev.5

**10. Other business**

As part of the implementation of ITC Strategy until 2030 (ECE/TRANS/2022/3), task 5.1 refers to relevant working parties administering legal instruments under their purview, and as part of this work, assessing and/or reviewing legal instruments. SC.1 will be invited to consider and discuss this matter, assisted by the secretariat.

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

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/2022/3

**11. Date of next session**

The Working Party will be informed that its next session has been scheduled for 17 to 19 October 2023. The deadline for the submission of documents is 31 July 2023.

**12. Adoption of the report**

The Working Party will adopt the report of this session.

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<sup>2</sup> The updated reference is to rule 42.