1. Introduction:

After checking the national situation in France, we noted that some decision has to be taken concerning a transition period linked to the renewal of safety adviser certificates in complement to the proposals of the July working group.

The limit for transposing directive EC 96/35 was 31 December 1999. Most of member states didn’t have regulations on safety advisers before. Therefore, most of the certificates have been issued in 1999 and 2000.

These certificates will expire in 2004 and 2005. In most of the Contracting Parties concerned, the competent authority will have to renew a very big number of certificates in a short time.

The conditions of renewal for these certificates have to be decided on this Joint Meeting. It is desirable for this certificate that will be valid for five more years, to be renewed under the conditions approved by the Joint Meeting. But this is not possible if the competent authority has not enough time to adapt its procedures. Furthermore it seems that most of competent authorities are waiting for this Joint Meeting to take a decision to organise their national procedures for the certificate's renewal.

Consequently, we propose to extend the validity of the certificates expiring in 2004 and 2005 for six months [one year].

2. Proposal:

Add a new paragraph 1.6.1.x to read as follows:

"1.6.1.x Safety advisers certificates issued before 31 December 2000 have a validity period extended to five years and six months [six years]."