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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Geneva, 17-27 September 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Standards

Amendment of cooperation agreement with CEN-CENELEC

Transmitted by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)^{1, 2}

Introduction

1. The procedure for cooperation with CEN and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) was subject to discussion by the Joint Meeting at its last session in March 2013 and some amendments were agreed upon (see Report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/130, paragraphs 13 – 15 and Annex III).

2. Part of this discussion was the question whether or not the Working Group on Standards could also discuss technical issues related to standards submitted for reference in RID/ADR/ADN which were not introduced in the standardization process through national committees.

This has never been the case so far and CEN – CENELEC are opposed to a duplication of debates on technical comments of their standards. The first paragraph of the cooperation procedure to read as follows:

- The terms of reference of the Working Group are restricted to commenting as to whether a standard complies with the requirements of the RID/ADR/ADN. Technical comments have to be transmitted to the relevant Technical Committees of CEN-CENELEC via the national committees.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010-2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para.106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7(c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2013/57.

3. It has to be reminded that technical comments on standards already published must first be included as new items in the programme of work of standardization organisations, which is normally done only at the request of a national committee.

Statement

4. The technical comments have to be discussed at the level of the technical body and not within a regulating body.

Justification

5. The standardization organization work in a context defined by their statutes. All the members of the drafting body have to be able to comment and discuss the comments openly. This can only happen within the standard drafting bodies.

The European Union has recently reconfirmed the framework of their collaboration with the European Standardization Organisations (EU Regulation 1025/2012) which defines the context of the intervention of the Member States in the standardization process. Mixing of roles and duties need to be avoided.
