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Revision of terms of reference and rules of procedure of SC.1

Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Working Party on Road Transport

Note by the secretariat

This document is a first draft of the revised version of the SC.1 terms of reference and rules of procedure. The revisions include references to relevant documents adopted by the Executive Committee and the Economic Commission for Europe of UNECE.

Terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Working Party on Road Transport

1. The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and under the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). It will act in conformity with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.5) and consistent with the legal instruments listed in the annex.

2. SC.1 will operate in accordance with the “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE” (ECE/EX/1) as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in 2006. These guidelines include the status and characteristics of a Working Party, including the review of its mandate and extension every five years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the UNECE Transport Division.

3. SC.1 will also operate in accordance with the “Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies” (E/ECE/1468, Annex III) adopted by the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2013. These guidelines include rules of procedure for ECE bodies, communication with member States, accreditation process for participants/representatives to intergovernmental bodies, nomination and election of Chair and other members of the Bureaux of intergovernmental bodies, functions of the Bureaux, and procedures for the adoption of decisions and reports of intergovernmental bodies.

4. Subsidiary bodies of SC.1, such as expert bodies or advisory groups, will be established and function in accordance with the “Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE” (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) approved by the UNECE Executive Committee in 2010.

5. Consistent with the objective of the UNECE transport subprogramme to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport, SC.1 will initiate and pursue actions aimed at promoting the development and facilitation of international road transport of goods and passengers. To this end, SC.1 will:

(a) Promote the development and facilitation of international road transport through the harmonization and simplification of rules, requirements, administrative procedures and documentation;

(b) Define a coordinated plan for the construction and upgrading of roads of international importance (E-road network). The network will be based on a consistent and easily identifiable numbering system and will meet minimum established technical standards;

(c) Promote the extension of the E-road network, develop its characteristics in terms of technological developments and traffic flows and reinforce its safety and environmental protection aspects;

(d) Contribute as appropriate to the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) Project to facilitate the development of integrated international road infrastructure;

(e) Draw up and revise international legal instruments in order to meet the above objectives while taking road safety and the environment into account;

- (f) Encourage new accessions to the Conventions and Agreements listed in the annex;
 - (g) Develop and revise the Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4). Endeavour to make it a reference document for disseminating recommendations and best practices in international road transport;
 - (h) Promote the international motor insurance card system (Green Card);
 - (i) Promote the harmonization of taxation and other measures in order to prevent discriminatory practices in international road transport;
 - (j) Encourage exchanges of data and information between countries, particularly on the facilitation of border-crossing and the legal provisions that countries have adopted on road transport or that have an impact on road transport;
 - (k) Collaborate closely with the other subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee on issues of common interest concerning road transport, particularly the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport, Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs and Working Party on Transport Statistics;
 - (l) Foster cooperation and collaboration with other United Nations bodies including United Nations regional commissions, the European Commission, international organizations including the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), and non-governmental organizations on issues of common interest;
 - (m) Organize seminars and workshops on relevant topics as the need arises;
 - (n) Create a working environment that facilitates the fulfilment by Contracting Parties of their obligations set forth in international legal instruments;
 - (o) Promote openness and transparency of the work of SC.1.
6. These Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure do not modify the provisions of the legal instruments listed in the annex.

Annex

Legal instruments, currently in force, under the competence of SC.1

- European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), of 15 November 1975;
- European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), of 1 July 1970;
- Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), of 19 May 1956;
- Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), of 5 July 1978;
- Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the electronic consignment note (e-CMR) ;
- Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR), of 1 March 1973;
- Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR), of 5 July 1978;
- Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles Engaged in International Goods Transport, of 14 December 1956;
- Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles Engaged in International Passenger Transport, of 14 December 1956;
- Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles for Private Use in International Traffic, of 18 May 1956;
- General Agreement on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport, of 17 March 1954.
