
Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Sixtieth anniversary of ADR

1 November 2017

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Transmitted by the government of the Netherlands

Introduction

1. The government of the Netherlands welcomes the proposed discussions on the development of the ADR and the work of the working party in the next decades during the scheduled round table discussions (see ECE-TRANS-WP15-103-GE-INF8).

2. The transport of dangerous goods has reached its current level of safety through decades of collaborative effort based on the best available expertise and experience in the field of transport of dangerous goods. Only through continued joint effort can the regulations be equipped with the necessary tools for the future.

3. Looking ahead towards the future, we can think of several challenges that are worth further discussions within the framework of the regulations. In this perspective, we note the following subjects for discussion:

- Transport of dangerous goods is an inevitable activity in today's society. However, the public is becoming more risk-averse and more openly critical towards transport of dangerous goods in their local communities. Elevating the safety level with classical (objective) technical or administrative solutions alone may no longer be sufficient to address the growing concerns of the public or increase their (subjective) sense of safety. We therefore would like to take this opportunity as a momentum of thinking of further discussions of new approaches, such as probabilistic risk-management tools or risk-governance models that can address the technical and administrative aspects of transport safety but in addition take into account the concerns of society.

- Could less specific requirements be acceptable when it comes to the regulations on transport of dangerous goods? Emphasize more on general requirements in transport regulations and lower the level of detail in the regulatory framework? Simplification of the regulatory text and simplification of the work processes may help make the most of the limited resources and time that participants involved in the work on the transport regulations have allocated to them.

- Possibilities for using more intensively the rapidly advancing internet-based tools (like the development of the "internet of things") and communication tools. Organizing, for example, commentary moments or certain specific topics through internet sessions to facilitate decision making during the WP.15 meeting. Transition to digital dynamic regulations in which all changes are up-to-date is also worth considering making communication and availability of regulations more efficient and transparent.

- Making technological innovations possible and encourage the principles of “safe by design” so that certain types of incidents can be ruled out in the future. Making innovations possible can be useful to further enhance safety and in case of security (prevention of theft), to prevent damage to the dangerous goods during carriage (alerting system).

4. The government of the Netherlands is interested in hearing the views of others on these matters.
