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# Economic Commission for Europe

## Inland Transport Committee

28 September 2017

### Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

#### Seventy-third session

Geneva, 10-13 October 2017

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

#### Other business

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## Organization of WP.11

### Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands

1. The Netherlands supports in principle the amendment of rule 35 of the rules of procedure of WP.11 concerning the voting on amendments of the annexes.
2. However, improving progress in WP.11 and the development of the ATP may need more than amending the voting procedure alone. Below a number of options for improvement are given
3. Quality of the proposals;

Although proposals are drafted with the best intentions, no proposal will be perfect or even possible to translate in the official languages.

- Editorial committee

Even before the deadline for official documents, this committee may advise delegations on proposals. Early as possible, drafts of official documents shall be checked for terminology and contents. The committee may also advise on the layout and length of the proposals. The committee shall be composed of the chair or vice chair(s), secretariat and other interested parties preferably covering all the three official languages.

- Use of informal documents

The use of informal documents should be encouraged to make comments and suggestions known on official documents. This way delegation can better prepare themselves on the meeting and their position. It should be considered to first bring new subjects to the meeting in the form of an informal document to gather opinions and comments. Taking these opinions and comments into account may improve the acceptability of a new proposal.

4. Informal working groups

In informal working groups differing points may easier be resolved by a more open and direct communication.

- Informal working groups

As stated in paragraph 10 of document ECE/TRANS/WP.11/2015/10 informal working groups meetings outside the plenary meeting could resolve particular issues or issues that become known during the plenary meeting. Working groups can be organized during meeting times of the plenary on specific technical matters or in the

lunchtime or after the afternoon session for the more general ones such as development of wording.

- Intersessional working groups

For issues that are more fundamental intersessional working groups may be mandated to discuss a particular topic. An informal working group is to be established by WP.11 with mandate containing the topic to discuss. The Informal-working group shall report to WP.11 including advice or proposals for amendments. The informal working group shall be hosted by a contracting party and shall be conducted in the English language without translation.

5. Frequency of the WP.11

Meetings that are more frequent will have the advantage to increase the number of decision moments, besides this, a shorter interval will keep the pressure on the development of proposals.

Disadvantages are more travel expenditure and more costs for the UNECE. As a compromise, therefore we should consider shorter meetings. If we transfer detail discussion to informal working groups this should however be possible.

Where other working parties of the UNECE meet twice a year, it is suggested to meet three times every two years.

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