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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****105th session**

Geneva, 6–9 November 2018

Item 8 on the provisional agenda**Other business****Publication of questions of interpretation of ADR****Transmitted by the Government of France****Summary*

Executive summary: How to publish the questions of interpretation addressed by the Working Party to facilitate the implementation of ADR.

Background documents: Document: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/242, paras. 50–51

1. At the 104th session of the Working Party, in May 2018, discussions were held on the future of the Working Party and how its work could contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. A number of ideas were put forward for the improvement and development of the work of the Working Party, for example better assisting with the implementation of ADR by means of more visible information on the questions of interpretation raised during sessions.
3. The best medium for the widest possible dissemination of these questions of interpretation is in our view the ECE website. However, a good deal of work upstream would be needed to enable publication and facilitate user searches, for example by defining topics, headings and keywords.
4. The Working Party has for many years dealt with a range of matters of interpretation under a specific agenda item, and it is thus relatively easy to extract them from the various reports. However, a comprehensive review would almost certainly be needed, not least in order to check that they were still valid in the light, for example, of possible developments in the regulations, and to ensure that they were self-explanatory in the given context.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2018–2019 (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/237, annex V (9.1)).



5. For example, at its 104th session, the Working Party considered a matter relating to the interpretation of the terminology used in 5.4.1.1.1 (f) in the transport document, reflected in the report as follows:

“Informal document: INF.28 (France)

40. The representative of France said she wished to hear the Working Party’s opinion on the way quantities were expressed in the transport document, in accordance with 5.4.1.1.1 (f). The question was whether the units required under 1.1.3.6 should be used, i.e., the quantities should be expressed in volume for liquids, gross mass for articles and net mass for solids, or whether 5.4.1.1.1 (f) allowed alternatives, such as the expression of quantities of liquid in terms of mass. The delegations that expressed a view considered that 5.4.1.1.1 (f) allowed for the free choice of the appropriate units and that the information in 1.1.3.6.3 concerning the quantity applied only to exempted transport, in accordance with 1.1.3.6.”

6. The report extract covering this particular issue seems sufficiently clear and self-explanatory, but this is not always the case for more complicated topics, which in many cases would require reading the relevant reference document.

7. We would like to know the Working Party’s views on how to go about this quite substantial task: set up a special working group on the matter, set aside a certain amount of time at each session, etc.
