



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Seventy-fourth session

Geneva, 8-12 October 2018

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Activities of ECE bodies of interest to the Working Party:

Inland Transport Committee

Outcome of the eightieth session of the Inland Transport Committee on the work of the Working Party

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. At its seventy-third session, the Working Party considered ways to improve its methods of work. During the discussions held in plenary, it requested the secretariat to draft an informal document containing several proposals to modify Rule 35 of its Rules of Procedure.
2. Following the request of the Working Party, the secretariat drafted informal document INF.12. The Working Party considered the options proposed and after discussion adopted an amendment to Rule 35. The decision was taken by a majority of full members present and voting. Rule 35, as amended, reads as follows:

“Rule 35

- (a) Decisions concerning amendments to ATP shall be taken only in the presence of at least one third of the Contracting Parties. They shall chiefly be taken by consensus but in the absence of consensus, then by a majority of the full participants present and voting, provided that there are no more than three votes against the proposal;
- (b) Decisions concerning amendments to the ATP Handbook shall chiefly be taken by consensus but in the absence of consensus, then by a majority vote in favour, provided that there are no more than three votes against the proposal;

(c) All other decisions shall chiefly be taken by consensus but in the absence of consensus, decisions shall be taken by a majority of the full participants present and voting.”.

3. This decision was submitted to the eightieth session (20 to 23 February 2018) of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) for endorsement. The Committee considered the work of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs under item 5 (j) (“Strategic questions of a modal and thematic nature: transport of perishable foodstuffs”) of its agenda. After discussion, it:

“**endorsed** the decision to extend the 2018 session of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) to five days; **welcomed** the WP.11 ongoing process to improve its methods of work (a matter that on numerous occasions in the past had complicated the ability to keep pace with technological advancement) and **noted** the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure as reflected in ECE/TRANS/WP.11/237. The Russian Federation **requested** that this issue be further discussed at WP.11.”.

Proposal

4. Taking into account the outcome of the discussions at the ITC, the Working Party is invited to reconsider the changes to the Rules of Procedure in conjunction with the outcome of the round table discussion on the ways of improving the Working Party methods of work.
