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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Twenty-first session

Geneva, 17 June 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-first session***

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 17 June 2019
Salle VIII

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Programme of Work:
 - (a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis;
 - (b) Appendix 1C;
 - (c) Dedicated short range communication;
 - (d) Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/sc1/sc1.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (roadtransport@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=1153MQ> or complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail (roadsafety@unece.org). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 75716 or 75964). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

3. Amendment of Article 14.
4. TACHOnet.
5. Reconciliation of “AETR regimes” in the European Union and non-European Union contracting parties after 15 June 2019.
6. Other Business.
7. Date and Place of Next Meeting.
8. Adoption of the Report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt the session’s agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/48).

2. Programme of Work

(a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

At the nineteenth session, the Russian Federation and the European Commission reiterated their earlier positions (indicated in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.3). The Chair had urged the parties to reconsider their positions. Due to time constraints, the Group of Experts were unable to discuss this item and decided to retain it on the agenda for this session.

(b) Appendix 1C

At the eighteenth session, the Group of Experts had continued its review of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1 until point “gg (out of scope)” on page 15 in the English version. It did not have the opportunity to continue its review at the last (nineteenth) session.

At the last session, the European Commission tabled Informal document No. 1 entitled “Smart Digital Tachograph Technical Analysis for the Amendment of Regulation 799/2016”, Informal document No. 2 containing tables of equivalence between Annex 1C in Regulation (European Union) 2016/799 and the AETR Agreement and Informal document No. 3 containing a proposal to smooth the impact of the smart tachograph implementation on the territories of non-European Union AETR contracting parties. The Russian Federation tabled Informal documents Nos. 5, 6 and 7 which provided general and specific comments on the text of draft Annex 1C.

The Group of Experts requested the European Commission to amend draft Annex 1C (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1) to incorporate the proposed/requested changes contained in Informal document Nos. 2, 6 and 7, and to submit ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 in English and French for discussion and adoption at this session. In lieu, the European Commission submitted for this session Informal document No.1.

(c) Dedicated short range communication

At the last session, the Russian Federation proposed that the Group of Experts consider the issue of the possibility of switching off dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) manually or automatically in countries where its use may not be legal. The Russian Federation raised the question of the strength of the signal within the territory of the Russian Federation. The European Commission was invited to revert on this question at this session.

(d) Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”.

At the last session, the Group of Experts did not further discuss the application of Regulations No. 561/2006 and 165/2014 nor did it attempt to harmonize the two regimes for driving times

and rest periods. Due to time constraints, the Group of Experts agreed to keep this item on the agenda so that it can be revisited at future sessions if so desired.

3. Amendment of Article 14

At the last session, the Government of Egypt addressed the Group of Experts and also tabled a letter which requested the opening of the AETR Agreement to Egypt for accession (Informal document No. 4). The Group took note of this and agreed to forward the request to SC.1.

To facilitate this, the Group agreed that the following amendment to Article 14 of the AETR Agreement to allow Egypt to accede to it would be necessary and requested the secretariat to forward it to SC.1 for consideration at its upcoming 114th session.

“Article 14

This Agreement shall be open for signature until 31 March 1971 and thereafter for accession, by States members of the Economic Commission for Europe and States admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 or 11 of the Commission's terms of reference. Accessions under paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference shall be limited to the following States: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.”

Subject to the above proposal being adopted by SC.1, the Group of Experts invited an AETR Contracting Party to formally submit this proposal to the Secretary-General. The Group of Experts will be invited to indicate if any proposal in this regard is forthcoming.

4. TACHOnet

At the last session, the Group requested that the European Commission submit ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.2/2019/1/Rev.1 for the next session taking into account the feedback received on the graphs, diagrams and references to European Union and European Commission regulations in Informal document No. 4 (February 2019).

5. Reconciliation of “AETR regimes” in the European Union and non-European Union contracting parties after 15 June 2019

At the last session, the Group of Experts agreed on a set of high-level principles to reconcile the AETR regime in European Union and non-European Union contracting parties after 15 June 2019 (Annex of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/47). The Group also agreed that the non-EU AETR Contracting Parties would provide their agreement or objection to the high-level principles in writing to the secretariat by 15 March 2019. At this session, the secretariat will provide an update on the replies in writing which it has received.

6. Other Business

The secretariat will update the Group of Experts on the key outcomes of the 81st session of the Inland Transport Committee including the request by the Group at its last session for an extension of its mandate which expires on 30 June 2019.

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other business.

7. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 15 October 2019 in Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 31 July 2019.

8. Adoption of the Report

The Group of Experts will adopt the report of this session.