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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Road Transport

(Geneva, 28-30 October 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION \***

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 October 2003

**INFORMATION DAY ON THE DIGITAL TACHOGRAPH**

27 October 2003

Informal document

Tuesday 28 October 2003

1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/SC.1/372
2. Adoption of the report of the ninety-sixth session TRANS/SC.1/371  
TRANS/SC.1/371/Add.1
3. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations of interest to the Working Party
  - (a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies ECE/TRANS/152
  - (b) International organizations

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\* Delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division) and to transmit it at least two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by email ([caroline.jeunet@unece.org](mailto:caroline.jeunet@unece.org)). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are required to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please telephone the ECE secretariat (extension 73242).

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|----|--|---|
| 4. | Implementation of the AETR   | TRANS/SC.1/2003/2<br>TRANS/SC.1/371/Add.1                     |
| 5. | Road transport infrastructure  |   |
|    | (a) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)      |   |
|    | (i) Status of prior amendments to the AGR                                |   |
|    | (ii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex I   | TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/38<br>TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/36                      |
|    | (iii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex II | TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/38<br>TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/36<br>TRANS/SC.1/2003/3 |
|    | (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project                    | TRANS/SC.1/2003/4   |
|    | (c) Blue Corridor Project  | TRANS/SC.1/2003/6   |

Wednesday, 29 October

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| 6. | Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operation  |  |
|    | (a) Development of provisions on the facilitation of international road transport (R.E.4)  | TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.2<br>TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.2/Add.1<br>Informal document N°1            |
|    | (b) Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe | TRANS/SC.1/2003/5  |
|    | (c) Development of a Protocol to the CMR   | TRANS/SC.1/2003/1 and Add.1<br>TRANS/SC.1/2001/7<br>TRANS/SC.1/2002/2 and<br>Adds.1, 2 and 3 |
|    | (d) Review of questions concerning facilitation of international road transport  |  |
|    | (i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)  | TRANS/SC.1/2003/8  |
|    | (ii) Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments on road transport   |  |

- (iii) Harmonization of fiscal and other measures affecting road transport

Thursday, 30 October

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|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 7.  | Transport, Environment and Health     | ECE/AC.21/2003/6  |
| 8.  | Draft programme of work for 2004-2008 | TRANS/SC.1/2003/7 |
| 9.  | Election of Officers                  |                   |
| 10. | Other business                        |                   |
|     | Date of next session                  |                   |
| 11. | Adoption of decisions                 |                   |

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**EXPLANATORY NOTES <sup>1</sup>**

27 October 2003

**INFORMATION DAY ON THE DIGITAL TACHOGRAPH**

Monday, 27 October 2003, the day before the ninety-seventh session starts, will be devoted to an Information day on the digital tachograph. The full programme of the Information day with the names of speakers and subjects will be available in September.

At its sixty-fifth session, the Inland Transport Committee, in view of the concerns expressed by some delegations regarding the difficulties that inspection authorities in non-EU countries would encounter as from 2004 in inspecting EU vehicles equipped with the digital tachograph, supported in principle the proposal by SC.1 to organize, late in 2003 or early in 2004, another information day similar to the one held in October 2001.

In order to define the subjects to be covered by the Information day, the secretariat sent a questionnaire to member States. The majority of the replies (Informal document) showed an interest in enforcement procedures, smart card issuance and administration and the exchange of data on smart card issuance.

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<sup>1</sup> For reasons of economy, delegates are kindly requested to bring to the meeting copies of the documents received by mail prior to the meeting or downloaded from the Internet.

28 October 2003

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item is the adoption of the agenda.

2. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE NINETY-SIXTH SESSION

The Working Party is invited to adopt the report on its ninety-sixth session which was prepared after the session by the secretariat.

3. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-fifth session (18-20 February 2003), approved the report of the Working Party on its ninety-sixth session (TRANS/SC.1/371 and Add.1) (ECE/TRANS/152, para. 40).

All SC.1-related issues considered by the Committee will be taken up under the respective agenda items.

SC.1 will be informed of the request made by the Committee to the secretariat to carry out an analysis of the implementation of transport-related UNECE agreements and conventions.

(b) International organizations

Representatives of international organizations at the session are invited to present information regarding their activities to the Working Party and to provide the secretariat with a short summary of their interventions which may be reflected in the report of the session.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AETR

The Working Party will be informed about the status of proposed amendments to Article 12 of the AETR on checking procedures which was transmitted to Contracting Parties on 27 May 2003 by depositary notification C.N.512.2003.TREATIES-1.

The Working Party will also have before it an amendment proposal by France (TRANS/SC.1/2003/2) aimed at clarifying the situation for non-EU vehicles equipped with a digital tachograph before the entry into force of the digital tachograph provisions in the AETR in 2008 or 2009 (TRANS/SC.1/371/Add.1).

## 5. ROAD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

### (a) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

#### (i) Status of prior amendments to the AGR

The Working Party will be informed about the date of entry into force of draft amendments to the AGR adopted by SC.1 at its ninety-sixth session in 2002 and transmitted to Contracting Parties by depositary notification C.N.162.2003.TREATIES-1, dated 24 February 2003.

#### (ii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex I

The Working Party may wish to adopt a proposal made by Germany to extend the E 441 to Hof (New overall reference: E 441: Chemnitz – Plauen - Hof) as approved by the nineteenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR on 6 May 2003 (TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/38, para. 5).

Regarding the proposal to amend Annex I to the AGR submitted by Azerbaijan (extension of the E 002 through Ordubad, Djulfa, Nakhchivan, Sadarak to the border with Turkey) (TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/38, para. 6), the secretariat has contacted the authorities of Armenia and Turkey to check that the proposal is agreeable to them. The Working Party will be informed of any information received from those countries.

#### (iii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annex II

The Working Party may wish to consider and adopt proposals for amendments to Annex II concerning the environment and safety in tunnels as approved at the nineteenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR. The proposals are contained in Annexes 1 and 2 of TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/38.

At its ninety-sixth session in October 2002, the Working Party had endorsed the proposals for amendments to Annex II of the AGR adopted by the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR at its eighteenth session (TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/36, annex 2), on the basis of a proposal by the TEM Project. It decided, however, to wait for the other existing proposals for amendments to Annex II to be adopted so that all the proposals concerning this Annex could be transmitted globally as a package to the Secretary-General. The secretariat has prepared a consolidated text of all the proposals to amend Annex II (TRANS/SC.1/2003/3).

### (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project

The Working Party will be informed about progress made since its last session on the development of the TEM Project (TRANS/SC.1/2003/4).

### (c) Blue Corridor Project

At its ninety-sixth session, the Working Party was informed by the secretariat about developments in the Blue Corridor Project on the use of natural gas as a motor fuel in the

international transport of goods and the establishment of corridors to be used by vehicles powered by natural gas.

The Working Party will have before it the final report of the Task Force on the Blue Corridor Project and may wish to discuss the further implementation of the Project including possibilities for financing.

29 October 2003

6. HARMONIZATION OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT AND FACILITATION OF ITS OPERATION

(a) Development of provisions on the facilitation of international road transport (R.E.4)

At its sixty-fifth session in February 2003, the Inland Transport Committee took note of the fact that SC.1 had been unable to finalize the revision of R.E.4 because of the numerous comments on the new draft text.

The ITC stressed that the final text must be completed at the next session of SC.1, so that it could be submitted to the Committee for adoption at its sixty-sixth session in February 2004. It further stated that it was in favour of including in the Resolution provisions for access to the profession of road transport operator in that this subject formed part of the recommendations of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnel and requested the secretariat to include the relevant provisions in the existing draft, taking as a basis the provisions already adopted by other international bodies (ECMT and EU) and to submit the full text to member States as rapidly as possible for a final opinion.

The new draft (TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.2) was sent to member States in June 2003 with an explanatory table on the different changes proposed (TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.2/Add.1). The Working Party will be informed about the modifications and reservations announced by member States. The final text adopted at the ninety-seventh session will be submitted for adoption by the Inland Transport Committee at its session in February 2004.

(b) Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe

The Working Party will be informed about the progress of discussions on the new draft text of Annex 8 to the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods which is under consideration for adoption by the WP.30 Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention.

The Working Party will be informed about the replies received to the questionnaire concerning the issuance of visas to professional drivers (TRANS/SC.1/2003/5). The Inland Transport Committee examined the responses to the questionnaire at its sixty-fifth session in February 2003 and was informed about developments in this field in the European Union.

The ITC had noted that the opinions of the different countries were very divided on the follow-up to be given within UNECE. The Committee, therefore, requested SC.1 and WP.30 to

analyse the replies in depth and submit their conclusions to the sixty-sixth session of the ITC in 2004. At the same time, it requested the secretariat to keep up an exchange of information with the European Commission. In response to this request, the secretariat sent an invitation to the European Commission to attend the ninety-seventh session of the Working Party and to present its work in this field.

Several delegations once again expressed their concern regarding the difficulties experienced by professional drivers. The delegations of Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine requested the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts on visa problems within SC.1. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its readiness to prepare a draft multilateral agreement on facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers engaged in international transport by road. It was proposed to include as a mandate of the ad hoc group the following:

- to study the experience gained in other modes of transport;
- elaboration of a single set of documents for obtaining visas by professional drivers;
- elaboration of a draft agreement on facilitation of border crossing aimed at simplification of the visa obtaining procedure by professional drivers engaged in international transport by road.

(c) Consideration of the development of a Protocol to the CMR

At its ninety-sixth session, the Working Party considered a draft text for a Protocol to the CMR, for the inclusion of electronic data interchange (EDI) in its procedures (TRANS/SC.1/2001/7) prepared by Professor J. Putzeys of Unidroit. It also considered responses to a questionnaire sent out by the secretariat (TRANS/SC.1/2002/2 and Adds. 1, 2 and 3) asking countries to define their positions on the new draft Protocol. All responses had been largely in favour of the development of a Protocol.

The representative of Germany, however, raised a number of points which, in her opinion, had not yet been resolved in the draft Protocol presented, particularly with reference to the electronic signature. In order to make progress, SC.1 asked the German delegation to submit specific proposals.

The proposals of Germany are contained in document TRANS/SC.1/2003/1. The position of IRU can be found in document TRANS/SC.1/2003/1/Add.1.

(d) Review of questions concerning facilitation of international road transport

(i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)

The Working Party may wish to consider the report of the President of the Council of Bureaux of the Green Card System (TRANS/SC.1/2003/8) and the updated list of Inter-Bureau Agreements on international third-party motor insurance.

(ii) Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments in the field of road transport

Information on the status of accession to UN/ECE legal instruments on road transport will be provided by the secretariat.

30 October 2003

7. TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Working Party will be informed about the results of the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) held on 10 and 11 April 2003 (ECE/AC.21/2003/6).

8. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2008

The Working Party will have before it its draft programme of work for 2004-2008 (TRANS/SC.1/2003/7). The Working Party is expected to revise and approve its programme of work which will then be adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-sixth session in February 2004.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Working Party is invited to elect its officers (Chairman and Vice-Chairman) for 2004-2005.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party may wish to consider any other business under this agenda item.

Date of next session

The Working Party will be informed about the dates selected for its ninety-eighth session in 2004.

11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

The Working Party will adopt a brief list of decisions taken at its ninety-seventh session on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the secretariat.

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# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

## Conference Registration Form

**Return to secretariat by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by E-mail (caroline.jeunet@unece.org).**

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Date

Working Party on Road Transport, ninety-seventh session, 27-30 October 2003

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Participant

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Family Name

First Name

Mrs.




Ms.

Participation Category

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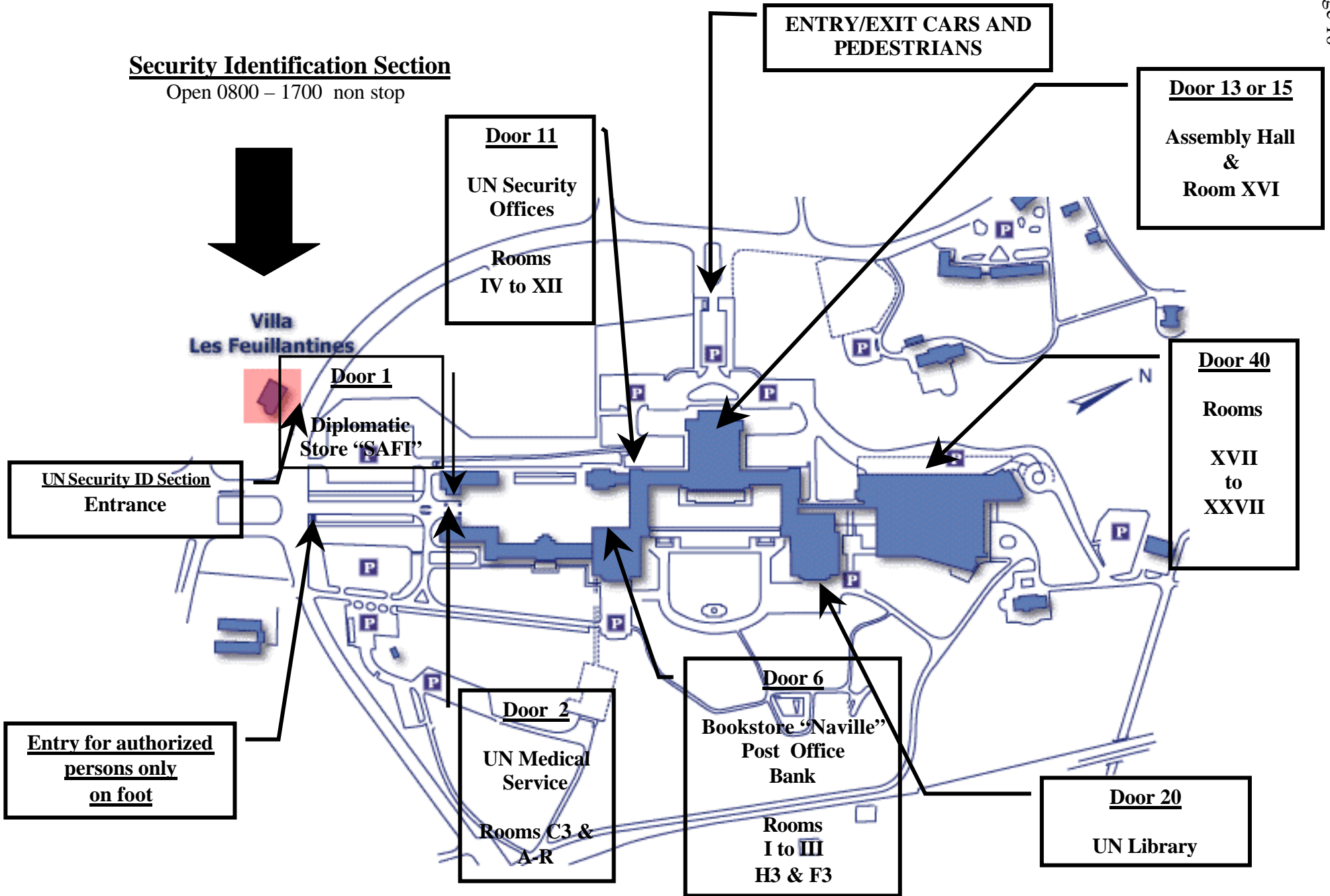
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