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Working Party on Road Transport

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

Twenty-second session
Geneva, 15 October 2019

Report of the Group of Experts on the European Agreement concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport on its twenty-second session

I. Attendance

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its twenty-first session in Geneva on 15 October 2019, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: France, Germany, Monaco, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great and Northern Ireland.
3. The following non-ECE members participated: Algeria, Egypt and Jordan.
4. The European Union, the European Commission and the following non-governmental organizations were represented: Confederation of Organization in Road Transport Enforcement (Corte), In Group, International Road Transport Union (IRU), Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Association of Automobile and Urban Passenger Transport Enterprises, Continental Automotive GmbH, NP "SRTS" Scania LV AB, Stoneridge Electronics Ltd. and Tachokomplekt Ltd. participated as observers.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/50).

III. Programme of Work

A. Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

6. At the last session, the Russian Federation and the European Commission had reiterated their earlier positions (indicated in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.3). At this session, the Group of Experts reviewed ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.3 again

and agreed to a number of changes. The Group requested the secretariat incorporate those changes and issue ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.4 for the next session.

B. Appendix 1C

7. At the last session, the Group held in-depth discussions focusing on three main, outstanding issues (in relation to Appendix 1C): data protection, the strength of DSRC signal transmission which may make the DSRC system non-operational, and the use of CEN references in the context of DSRC. At this session, the European Commission submitted Informal documents No.1 and 2 which contain specific amendment proposals addressing all three outstanding issues and reflect the preparatory work undertaken by the Russian Federation, European Commission, CORTE, and IRU. The Group of Experts reviewed Informal documents No. 1 and 2, agreed to make some changes, and requested the secretariat to issue the revised documents at the next session. A possibility of introducing a five year transitional period into the AETR Agreement to facilitate a switch from CEN standards to ISO standards was discussed. The European Commission was invited to revert to the Group on a few remaining questions in those documents.

C. Dedicated short range communication (DSRC)

8. In the context of its discussions about Informal document No.2, in particular Table 14.1 item D4 (**) (page 16), the Group of Experts agreed that the vehicle unit's DSRC can only be activated upon receiving a signal from the road side DSRC equipment. The Group of Experts was informed that the vehicle's unit DSRC responds with the same strength as it receives from the road side DSRC equipment. The Russian Federation was invited to suggest an alternative text to reflect this understanding at the next session in relation to the explanatory note for D4 (**).

D. Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the "AETR area"

9. The Group of Experts briefly reviewed this topic and agreed to keep this item on the agenda. The Group will be invited to continue its discussions on the subject.

IV. Amendment of Article 14

10. The secretariat informed the Group of Experts that Turkey's amendment proposal to open the AETR Agreement to accession by Lebanon would take effect on 8 January 2020 (C.N.503.2019.TREATIES-X1.B.21).

11. The secretariat reminded the Group of Experts that in order to accommodate the request of the Government of Egypt to amend Article 14 (to make the country eligible to accede), an AETR contracting party was required to formally submit an amendment proposal. The Group of Experts agreed that the in principle approval of such an amendment proposal should be submitted to SC.1 for adoption at its October 2019 session.

V. TACHOnet

12. The European Commission submitted ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.1 which takes 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). The Group of Experts discussed the document and provided a number of comments and questions to the proponent. The European Commission requested that ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.1 be presented at the forthcoming session of SC.1. The Group of Experts agreed and also invited the European Commission to take the Group's

comments into account and to submit ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.2 at the next session of the AETR Group of Experts.

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

13. The Group of Experts reiterated its commitment to intensifying its work with the objective of finalizing Appendix 1C as soon as possible. To this end, the Group decided to continue its discussions at a strategic level at the 114th session of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1).

VII. Other Business

14. The Group of Experts did not discuss any other business.

VIII. Date and Place of Next Meeting

15. The next meeting is scheduled for 24 February 2020 in Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 16 December 2019.

IX. Adoption of the Report

16. The Group of Experts adopted the report of this session.
