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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-fourth session

Geneva, 13 October 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Revised annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session*,**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 am on Tuesday, 13 October 2020, Salle XXVII.

The twenty-fourth session of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport, initially scheduled to be held in Geneva on 15 June 2020, has been postponed due to the risks related to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The twenty-fourth session of the Group of Experts is now scheduled to take place on 13 October 2020.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Programme of Work:
 - (a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis;

* 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 ECE 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=oGuY0Ttml> at the latest one week prior to the session. 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.

- (b) Appendix 1C;
 - (c) Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC);
 - (d) Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”.
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. It should be noted that this document revises the annotated agenda prepared for the session of 15 June 2020 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/54) which did not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/54/Rev.1

2. Programme of Work

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

At the last session, the Group of Experts reviewed ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.4, agreed on some changes, and requested the secretariat to prepare ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.5 for the current session. At this session, the Group will be invited to discuss this document.

At the last session, the Group of Experts also discussed the need to introduce a provision on the transition mechanism necessary to facilitate the introduction of “smart tachographs” once Appendix 1C enters into force. As a result, the Group agreed to work simultaneously on Appendix 1C, amendment to Article 13 (transitional period), and to reflect on drafting an interim agreement that would aim at providing mutually agreed road map on completing the work on Appendix 1C and its subsequent implementation. At this session, the Group will be invited to continue discussing this topic, in particular ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2020/1 submitted by the Russian Federation which contains amendments to Article 13.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2017/2/Rev.5, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2020/1

(b) Appendix 1C

At the last session, the Group discussed Informal document No.1 (February 2020), made a number of changes proposed by the European Commission, and agreed that these changes would ultimately be reflected in future ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1. In addition, following bilateral consultations between the Russian Federation and European Commission, the Group of Experts agreed on a number of changes to Informal documents No.1/Rev.1 and No.2/Rev.1 (October 2019). These changes will also be ultimately reflected in future ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1. The Group of Experts will be invited to continue discussing ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1 with a view of tabling ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1, in particular ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2020/2

which provides a draft final version of Appendix 1C (except the tables of contents which remain to be modified) submitted by the Government of Croatia in its role of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The secretariat has made ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2020/2 available with track changes (Informal document No.1) to identify proposed amendments relative to ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2020/2, Informal document No.1

(c) Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC)

At the last session, while discussing Informal document No. 2 (October 2019), 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. At this session, the Russian Federation proposed the alternative text and the Group agreed to it. The Group may wish to discontinue this agenda item.

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

The Group will be invited to continue its discussions on this subject.

3. Amendment of Article 14

The secretariat will remind 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 is required to formally submit an amendment proposal. The secretariat will invite the Group to consider amending Article 14 to make – for example - all United Nations member States eligible to accede (as per the ITC Strategy in ECE/TRANS/288/Add.2).

4. TACHOnet

At the last session, the European Commission presented ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.2. The Russian Federation and secretariat proposed a number of changes. The Russian Federation suggested that the document as well as TACHOnet in general be a subject of bilateral discussions with the European Commission prior to the next session of the AETR Group of Experts in June. Both the Russian Federation and European Commission will be invited to provide an update.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.2/2019/1/Rev.2

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 reiterated its commitment to finalizing Appendix 1C as soon as possible. The Group of Experts will be invited to provide an update.

6. Other Business

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other business.

7. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 22 February 2021 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 1 December 2020.

8. Adoption of the Report

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