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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

119th meeting

Geneva, 16 December 2021

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Update on Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period

Extension of Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period

Revision

Background

1. As of end December 2021, the scheduling of meetings of the official calendar is still impaired by mitigating measures to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduced availability of conference room capacity at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
2. To ensure business continuity, and also taking into account a potential continuation of COVID-mitigation measures, the secretariat proposes to extend the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period. This would permit the membership to retain the option of taking business-critical decisions, as needed. It is understood that the applicable special procedures would not be used if formal meetings can be held.

Draft Decision

The Executive Committee:

3. Authorizes the Chair of the Commission to continue using the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period, initially adopted on 6 April 2020, for taking decisions of the Executive Committee until 30 June 2022;
4. Extends until 30 June 2022 the Special Procedures approved for subsidiary bodies of the:
 - (a) Inland Transport Committee as contained in document ECE/EX/2020/L.4, initially adopted on 29 May 2020;
 - (b) Committee on Sustainable Energy, as contained in document ECE/EX/2020/L.4, initially adopted on 29 May 2020;
 - (c) Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, as contained in document ECE/EX/2020/L. 10, initially adopted on 5 October 2020; and
 - (d) Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, as contained in document ECE/EX/2020/L.11, initially adopted on 5 October 2020.

5. Extends until 30 June 2022 procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation, as contained in document ECE/EX/2020/L.12, and initially adopted on 5 October 2020 by the Executive Committee;
 6. Underlines that these arrangements are exceptional and time-limited and requests the Secretariat to report back to the Executive Committee on their implementation throughout the COVID-19 situation.
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