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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-ninth session
Geneva, 13 June 2022

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

I. Attendance

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its twenty-ninth session in Geneva on 13 June 2022, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following ECE member States participated, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
3. The following non ECE member States participated: Jordan and Lebanon. The State of Palestine participated as an observer.
4. The representative of the European Union, EuroMed Transport Project, Iran National Inventions and Innovation Team, and the following non-governmental organizations were represented: Association of International Road Carriers, Euro Tachograph Solutions, International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Confederation of Organization in Road Transport Enforcement (CORTE). Continental Automotive GmbH and Stoneridge AB participated as observers.

II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)

5. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/65).

III. Programme of Work (agenda item 2)

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

6. At the last session, the Chair invited the Russian Federation and European Union to continue discussions to find a compromise solution related to ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2 (Portugal's proposal to amend AETR Articles 10, 13, 14 and 22 to respectively facilitate the inclusion of a new Appendix 1C, to determine the relevant implementation dates, to introduce the possibility of accession by regional economic integration organizations, and to change the amendment mechanisms for appendices). At this session, the European Union informed the Group that no bilateral meetings have been held while the Russian Federation reiterated that its position remains unchanged as per ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3. The Chair again invited both parties to hold consultations to make progress on resolving all outstanding issues.

B. Appendix 1C

7. The secretariat has made ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 (Portugal's proposals to modify Annex IC in order to adapt the European Union specifications on the smart tachograph to the AETR legal framework (as Appendix 1C)) available in French and Russian. The Russian Federation indicated – upon preliminary analysis - that some provisions may have to be revised and that it intends to provide more extensive comments and/or amendment proposals at a future session. The European Union stressed that it is important to conclude discussing ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 as soon as possible. The Chair urged the Russian Federation to submit comments and revisions in writing so they can be tabled and discussed at the next session.

C. Application of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”

8. The Group continued discussions on this subject. It appears that divergencies between the European Union legislation and the AETR Agreement exist and that it is important to work towards closing this gap. To this end, the European Union is preparing amendments to AETR. Given the importance of this subject, this item will remain on the agenda of this Group.

IV. TACHOnet (agenda item 3)

9. The European Union did not submit a revised version of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3 (a proposal to introduce a new Appendix 4 on exchange of information). The Group will be invited to discuss the revised document (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.4) when submitted.

V. Election of Deputy Chair (agenda item 4)

10. The Group elected by vote Mr. Eric Mathevet (France) for the position of the Deputy Chair. The nominee of the Russian Federation (Ms. Natalya Zadonskaya) was excluded from the vote through the application of ECE/EX/2022/L.6 of the Executive Committee, on which the Group decided by another vote.

VI. Other Business (agenda item 5)

11. The secretariat informed the Group about the results of questionnaire on the application of paragraph 1 of Article 12 related to enforcement measures (Informal document No.1). The Chair invited all those who have not responded to the survey to reply.

Belarus and the Russian Federation reported they have faced shortages of electronic components necessary to produce digital tachograph cards and proposed organizing a special session to discuss introducing new provisions into the AETR Agreement that would address the extraordinary situations where two contracting parties cannot continue properly implementing the AETR Agreement because of circumstances beyond their control (force majeure). To this end, the Russian Federation submitted an in-session amendment proposal (attached in Annex).

VII. Date and Place of Next Meeting (agenda item 6)

12. The next meeting is scheduled for 17 October 2022 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 22 July 2022.

VIII. Adoption of the Report (agenda item 7)

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

Annex

[Russian only]

Предложение Российской Федерации по внесению изменений в ЕСТР

Статью 3 ЕСТР дополнить подпунктом 3 следующего содержания:

«3. а) В случае наступления в Договаривающейся стороне Соглашения обстоятельств непреодолимой силы, препятствующих применению на своей территории к международным автомобильным перевозкам, совершаемым любым транспортным средством, положений статьи 10 настоящего соглашения, Договаривающаяся сторона может заявить о таких обстоятельствах, проинформировав секретариат Рабочей группы по автомобильному транспорту Европейской экономической комиссии.

Целью такого заявления должно быть определение возможности Договаривающейся стороны вместо использования контрольных устройств/карточек водителя, предусмотренных в приложении к настоящему Соглашению с внесенными в него поправками, ограничиться требованием предъявить всякий раз, когда этого потребует инспектирующее должностное лицо, ежедневные регистрационные листки, заполненные от руки каждым членом экипажа за текущий день и предыдущие 28 календарных дней.

б) Договаривающаяся сторона при заявлении об обстоятельствах, указанных в пункте а) настоящей статьи заявляет и о мерах, принимаемых для обеспечения устранения таких обстоятельств, а также о сроке на который распространяется указанное заявление. При этом максимальный срок заявления не должен превышать 2 года.

с) Секретариат Рабочей группы по автомобильному транспорту Европейской экономической комиссии официально уведомляет компетентные органы всех Договаривающихся сторон о наступлении у Договаривающейся стороны обстоятельств, указанных в пункте а) настоящей статьи, и об опубликовании в Официальном бюллетене Европейских сообществ заявления Договаривающейся стороны, и одновременно с этим направляет такую информацию Генеральному секретарю, сопроводив ее копией соответствующих текстов.

д) Договаривающиеся стороны могут поддержать такое заявление, тем самым подтвердив согласие на принятие и возможность осуществления мер в соответствии с п. а) на своей территории. д) Договаривающиеся стороны могут поддержать такое заявление, тем самым подтвердив согласие на принятие и возможность осуществления мер в соответствии с п. а) на своей территории.