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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

118th session

Geneva, 17-19 October 2023

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda

Activities of interest to the Working Party:

**Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
bodies and other United Nations organizations**

Implementation of ITC Strategy 2030 – tasks relevant to the Working Party on Road Transport

Note by the Secretariat

Each year, ITC working parties have an opportunity to provide updates and amend the description related to their respective contributions to the implementation of the ITC Strategy. The secretariat has prepared this document with suggestions related to the activities and contributions of SC.1 in 2023. The Working Party is invited to discuss the document, make changes and complete text as highlighted (in yellow) based on the outcomes of its 118th session.

Suggested updates related to SC.1's activities in 2023 as reflected in ECE/TRANS/2023/3

1. For task 4.3 “Adjust ITC rules or procedures” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests inserting the following text, “**At its 118th session (October 2023), SC.1 discussed the “Draft Recommendations for Harmonized Elements in the Terms of Reference of ITC Working Parties” using ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/6 which contained recommendations relevant to the terms of reference and rules of procedure of SC.1. SC.1... [insert text based on session outcomes on this item].**”

2. For task 4.6 “Hold consultations and build cooperative relationship with other UN regional commissions” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests updating the existing text as follows: “A workshop on cross-border insurance of motor vehicles was jointly organized by ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA, as part of SC.1’s 117th session on 19 October 2022. ~~The participants recommended that another workshop be organized in 2023~~ **A follow up workshop was organized on 31 October 2023 for participants** to further exchange experience and identify common challenges and potential solutions to further enhance cooperation between the card systems.”

3. For task 5.1 “Service and administer legal instruments” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests updating the existing text as follows: “~~At its 117th session, SC.1 agreed to begin~~ **started** a review of the eleven legal instruments which it administers **by assessing each legal instrument for its current and future relevance. SC.1... [insert text based on session outcomes on this item]** ~~at its next session, and requested the secretariat to prepare a presentation or document to facilitate a discussion. In addition, for the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), SC.1 has invited representatives from other UN regional commissions including ESCAP (117th session) and ECA (118th session) to provide information on their equivalent regional agreements as part of its practice of being informed on regional good practices and their potential relevance to the agreement.~~”

4. For task 5.3 “Amend the legal instruments with geographical and procedural barriers (by 2025)” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests updating the existing text as follows: “At its 116th session, SC.1 expressed support for, and encouraged, a contracting party to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) to formally submit an amendment proposal to amend article 14 in order to open up the agreement globally. An amendment proposal has yet to be submitted. SC.1 and its Group of Experts on AETR will continue to raise this matter at their sessions until a contracting party steps forward to submit such.

~~At its 114th session (October 2019), SC.1 has commenced discussions to consider whether it would be appropriate to open the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) to accession by non-ECE member States. At its 118th session (October 2023), SC.1... [insert text based on session outcomes on this item]. To facilitate further discussion, at SC.1’s request, the secretariat invited UNESCAP to present on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network at SC.1’s 117th session. SC.1 appreciated the presentation and requested the secretariat to invite other United Nations regional commissions to present on other regional agreements at its next session. The Chair also reminded SC.1 participants to consult their capitals on whether it would be appropriate to open AGR to accession by non-ECE member States.~~

...

~~- the discussion on the process to open up the instrument has taken place in the relevant working party (reference e.g. to discussion in SC.1 regarding AETR).”~~

5. For task 5.4 “Review relationship of the existing legal instruments and make recommendations (by 2022)” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests updating the existing text as follows: “- At its 117th session, SC.1 requested the secretariat’s assistance in preparing a survey to be sent to contracting parties to the agreement to enquire about the status of implementation of AGR on their territories. **At its 118th session, SC.1 discussed**

the proposed survey, made changes and requested the secretariat to circulate it to AGR contracting parties.”

6. For task 5.14 “Promote the accession to and operationalization of the e-CMR (from 2019)” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests updating the existing text as follows: “SC.1, at its 114th session (October 2019), formed an informal group of experts on e-CMR to prepare a paper, with the support of the secretariat, detailing the research and other actions needed and/or recommended for the operationalization of e-CMR to be tabled at a future ITC session. The paper was completed and submitted at the 116th session of SC.1. SC.1 noted the information and conclusions of the paper, and has submitted it to ITC at its 84th session. SC.1 also decided to establish a formal group of experts on the operationalization of the eCMR procedure for two years (2022 and 2023) to discuss and, if possible, agree on the requirements of article 5 of the eCMR Additional Protocol. ITC and EXCOM approved the establishment of such a group of experts (in Feb and May 2022). GE.22 met **six times from July 2022 to July 2023. It tabled a report comprised of documents ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/2 to 5 which reflect the revisions made at its sixth session. As there were some points in the analysis contained in the documents requiring further elaboration before the Group of Experts can give concrete recommendations to SC.1 and finalize the draft conceptual and functional specifications of the future eCMR system, the Group of Experts, with the exception of Iran (Islamic Republic of) which expressed a reservation, has requested an extension of its mandate under its current terms of reference and workplan to complete its tasks and report to SC.1 at its 119th session in October 2024**~~three times in 2022. It adopted a programme of work and made good progress on prioritizing its objectives, focusing on the analysis of the provisions of article 5 as well as of the main provisions of the CMR Convention to be transformed in an electronic environment with the main objective to be the preparation of the high level architecture of the future eCMR system and its functional specifications.~~

The ISDB project was finalised and a report was prepared that (a) summarizes the views and requirements of the ten member States of ECO region for the future eCMR system, and (b) describes the functional specifications of the future eCMR system based on ECO member States requirements to be submitted to the Group of Experts on the operationalization of eCMR for their consideration.”

7. For task 5.24 “Assess the impact of climate change on transport infrastructure” in the “Status” column, the secretariat suggests inserting the following text, “**At its 118th session (October 2023), SC.1... [insert text based on session outcomes relevant to climate change mitigation such as on agenda items 4(a)(ii) and 7(c)(i)].**”

6. For task 5.14 “Promote the accession to and operationalization of the e-CMR (from 2019)”, the text currently reads, “SC.1, at its 114th session (October 2019), formed an informal group of experts on e-CMR to prepare a paper, with the support of the secretariat, detailing the research and other actions needed and/or recommended for the operationalization of e-CMR to be tabled at a future ITC session. The paper was completed and submitted at the 116th session of SC.1. SC.1 noted the information and conclusions of the paper, and has submitted it to ITC at its 84th session. SC.1 also decided to establish a formal group of experts on the operationalization of the eCMR procedure for two years (2022 and 2023) to discuss and if possible agree on the requirements of article 5 of the eCMR Additional Protocol, and is requesting ITC and EXCOM approval for the establishment of such a group of experts.” The secretariat recommends updating the text as follows: “...the requirements of article 5 of the eCMR Additional Protocol.; Following ~~and is requesting~~ ITC and EXCOM approval for the establishment of such a group of experts, GE.22 was established and had three meetings in 2022. A programme of work was developed and adopted by the group with priority of discussions should be given to the provisions of article 5 followed by discussions on the draft high-level architecture including the main stakeholders and scope/objectives of a future eCMR environment.”
