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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

114th session

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Eighty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee

Working Party's Terms of Reference

Note by the secretariat*

Introduction

1. During its 113th session, the Working Party noted with interest the continued work on the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee's strategy until 2030. It noted that the Committee had encouraged all working groups to review their Terms of Reference and, where appropriate, to harmonize them with those of the Committee.
2. The secretariat prepared the following proposal of amendments to the Terms of Reference for consideration by the Working Party.
3. This proposal is based on the current Terms of Reference as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1 and on the Draft Recommendations for Harmonized Elements in the Terms of Reference of ITC Working Parties contained in Annex II of Committee document ECE/TRANS/2023/4/Rev.1.
4. In addition, as a follow-up to the discussion on document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2023/5/Rev.1, the Working Party may wish to add the text in square brackets below to its draft Terms of Reference.

Proposal

5. Replace the Terms of Reference in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1 by the following:
"1. The Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (hereinafter referred to as WP.15) will act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter ECE) and under the general supervision of its parent body, the Inland Transport Committee (hereafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of ECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5) and ITC (E/RES/2022/2 and ECE/TRANS/316/Add.2).

* A/77/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.6



2. WP.15 will operate in accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within ECE as approved by the ECE Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1). These guidelines refer to its status and characteristics, including the review of its mandate and extension every five years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the ECE Sustainable Transport Division.

3. WP.15 will:

(a) Initiate and pursue actions aimed at enhancing the safety and security of the inland transport of dangerous goods and protecting the environment during such transport[, including the development of standards, recommended practices and guidance material for transports not falling within the scope of RID, ADR and ADN];

(b) Promote the facilitation of international transport of dangerous goods by harmonizing the relevant regulations and rules and the administrative procedures and documentation requirements to which this transport is subject;

(c) Develop and update the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), concluded in Geneva in 1957, the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN), concluded in Geneva in 2000, and other relevant legal instruments on the transport of dangerous goods that ITC may charge it with administering;

(d) Encourage the accession of new countries to the Agreements mentioned above;

(e) Ensure harmonization of ADR and ADN with other relevant legal instruments on the transport of dangerous goods by other modes of transport on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals of the United Nations Economic and Social Council;

(f) Encourage participation in its activities by fostering cooperation and collaboration with countries, the European Commission, international governmental and non governmental organizations concerned with the transport of dangerous goods and the other United Nations regional commissions and other organizations or bodies of the United Nations system with a view, among other things, to discussing and resolving problems relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the provisions of ADR, ADN or other relevant legal instruments;

(g) Collaborate closely with the other subsidiary bodies of ITC, particularly the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) and any other relevant ECE body on matters of common interest relating to the transport of dangerous goods;

(h) Draw up and implement a programme of work relating to its activities;

(i) Create a working environment that facilitates fulfilment by the Contracting Parties of the obligations set forth in the legal instruments concerned by the activities of the Working Party, and an exchange of views on the interpretation of these instruments or the resolution of problems connected with their enforcement;

(j) Ensure openness and transparency during its meetings.

4. These Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure apply to WP.15 and do not modify the provisions of the relevant legal instruments.”

Follow-up

6. The Working Party may wish to adopt these draft amended Terms of Reference and submit them to the ITC for adoption and further request the ITC to subsequently bring them to the attention of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for approval.

7. Once the Terms of Reference will be approved by EXCOM, the secretariat will prepare a new consolidated version of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure to replace ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1.
