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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

**Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of
Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)**

Thirty-third session

Geneva, 16 October 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between European Commission Services and
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Information by the secretariat to the Contracting Parties to the AETR on the status of the extension of the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission Services and ECE for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 via signing an Administrative Arrangement

Submitted by the secretariat

1. This document contains information on the status of the extension of the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 via signing an Administrative Arrangement.

Information by the secretariat to the Contracting Parties to the AETR on the status of the extension of the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission Services and ECE for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 via signing an Administrative Arrangement

1. The Contracting Parties to the European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) may wish to recall that by 31 December 2022 the validity of the application of the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission Services and ECE, thereafter MoU, was coming to an end. For a further application of the MoU an Administrative Arrangement (AA) would need to be signed by the European Commission Services (the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC)) and by ECE.
2. The draft AA had been presented to and discussed by the Group of Experts on AETR (GE.21) at its thirtieth session on 17 October 2022, where two contracting parties complained about suspension of services by JRC which were covered by the MoU (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/68, para. 11-13). Finally, GE.21 requested the secretariat to inform the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) about discussion related to the extension of the AA (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/68, para.23).
3. At its 117th session on 18-20 October 2022, SC.1 by vote authorized the ECE secretariat to sign the AA for an extension of the application of the MoU for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/418, para. 17).
4. In the preparation for signing the AA, the United Nations secretariat conducted a comprehensive legal review of the situation.
5. Following the review, and in order to sign the AA as early as possible, the ECE secretariat has had several meetings with the European Commission from top to technical levels. The two parties have been exploring different solutions to remove the legal barriers which still prevent the ECE secretariat to sign the extension to the MoU via the AA.