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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

Group of Experts on the Operationalization of eCMR

First session

Geneva, 4-5 July 2022

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work

Programme of work

Submitted by the Secretariat*

This document contains the framework for a proposed program of work to be discussed and adopted by the Group of Experts at its first meeting on 4-5 July 2022.

* This document was submitted late due to the late approval of the Expert Group by EXCOM.

I. Background

1. At its 116th session in October 2021, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) decided to establish a formal group of experts on the operationalization of the eCMR procedure for 2 years (2022 and 2023) to discuss and if possible agree on the requirements of article 5 of the Additional Protocol to CMR including the objective/scope, the high level architecture, and the conceptual specifications for a future environment that would support the conclusion and exchange of electronic consignment notes in accordance with the provisions of CMR and its Additional Protocol. Such work should also include an impact assessment of possible implementation scenarios of a future eCMR environment.
2. The Group of Experts should define/describe in particular (non exhaustive list):
 - Scope / Objectives of a future eCMR environment;
 - Stakeholders of the eCMR environment;
 - High level architecture of the eCMR environment;
 - The method for the issuance and the delivery of the electronic consignment note to the entitled party;
 - An assurance that the electronic consignment note retains its integrity;
 - The manner in which the party entitled to the rights arising out of the electronic consignment note is able to demonstrate that entitlement;
 - The way in which confirmation is given that delivery to the consignee has been effected;
 - The procedures for supplementing or amending the electronic consignment note;
 - The procedures for the possible replacement of the electronic consignment note by a consignment note issued by different means.
 - Conceptual specifications;
 - Impact assessment.
3. At its eight-fourth session in February 2022, the Inland Transport Committee endorsed the Group of Experts' terms of reference. This was approved by the Executive Committee of UNECE (EXCOM) in May 2022.
4. The secretariat has prepared this document to facilitate the discussion and agreement by the Group of Experts of its programme of work at its first meeting.

II. Sessions foreseen

2022 Meetings are in hybrid mode (i.e. in person and virtual attendance are possible)

1 st session	4-5 July 2022 10:00 to 13:00, 15:00 to 18:00	EN, FR and RU (for 4 out of the 6 hours). 2 hours will be in EN only (without interpretation). The timing of the EN only session will be communicated to registered participants in the days prior to the meeting.
2 nd session	4-6 October 2022 10:00 to 13:00, 15:00 to 18:00	As above
3 rd session	9 November 2022 15:00 to 18:00 10-11 November 2022 10:00 to 13:00, 15:00 to 18:00	As above
2023 Meetings are in person only (i.e., virtual attendance is not possible)		
4 th session	25-27 January 2023 10:00 to 13:00, 15:00 to 18:00	EN, FR and RU (whether it is 4 or 6 hours of interpretation will be confirmed closer to the date).
5 th session	3-5 April 2023 10:00 to 13:00, 15:00 to 18:00	As above
6 th session	5-7 July 2023 10:00 to 13:00, 15:00 to 18:00	As above

The Group should submit its final report to the 118th session of SC.1 scheduled for 17 to 19 October 2023. The deadline for the submission of documents is usually at the end of July

III. Proposed tasks and outputs of GE.22

<i>Sessions foreseen</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Output</i>
1 st Session (4-5 July 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the program of work • Brainstorming on the main tasks to be discussed and possible decision on outputs • High level architecture of the eCMR environment • Stakeholders of the eCMR environment • Scope / Objectives of a future eCMR environment • Presentations from pilot projects – initiatives on eCMR – relevant regulations 	Approved program of work
2 nd Session (4-6 October 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on draft high-level architecture including the main stakeholders and scope / objectives of a future eCMR environment. • Presentations of projects regarding digitalization of other UN Conventions -good practices – current experience • Discussions – brainstorming on the procedures being described in Article 5 of the eCMR protocol and of other important provisions. Specifically (non exhaustive list): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Authentication ○ Mutual recognition ○ The method for the issuance and the delivery of the electronic consignment note to the entitled party ○ An assurance that the electronic consignment note retains its integrity ○ The manner in which the party entitled to the rights arising out of the electronic consignment note is able to demonstrate that entitlement ○ The way in which confirmation is given that delivery to the consignee has been effected ○ The procedures for supplementing or amending the electronic consignment note ○ The procedures for the possible replacement of the electronic consignment note by a consignment note issued by different means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document by the secretariat on the draft high-level architecture based on discussions of the first meeting
Deadline for formal documents: 26 July 2022		
3 rd Session (9 November (pm) and 10-11 November 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on draft high-level architecture including the main stakeholders and scope / objectives of a future eCMR environment • Presentations of projects regarding digitalization of other UN Conventions -good practices – current experience • Discussions – brainstorming on the procedures being described in Article 5 of the eCMR protocol and of other important provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If required, revised document by the secretariat on the draft high-level architecture based on discussions of the second meeting
Deadline for formal documents: 31 August 2022		

<i>Sessions foreseen</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Output</i>
<p>4th Session (25-27 January 2023)</p> <p>Deadline for formal documents: 16 November 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the high-level architecture including the main stakeholders and scope / objectives of a future eCMR environment. • Detailed discussion on the procedures being described in Article 5 of the eCMR protocol and of other important provisions. • Discussion on the structure of draft conceptual specifications • Discussion on the structure of draft impact assessment • Presentations of projects regarding digitalization of other UN Conventions -good practices – current experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final document by the secretariat on the high-level architecture based on discussion of the third meeting; • Preparation by the secretariat of a document that describes the procedures discussed during the previous session including good practices implemented while digitalizing other international agreements / conventions
<p>5th Session (3-5 April 2023)</p> <p>Deadline for formal documents: 23 January 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the document that describes the procedures • Discussions on the document prepared by the secretariat that describes the draft conceptual specifications • Discussions on the document prepared by the secretariat that describes the draft impact assessment • Discussion on the final report of the group of experts to be submitted at the 118th session of Working Party on Road Transport on 17-19 October 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation by the secretariat of a revised based on discussions took place during the 4th session document, which describes the procedures discussed including good practices implemented while digitalizing other international agreements / conventions • Preparation of a document by the secretariat that describes the draft conceptual specifications • Preparation of a document by the secretariat that describes

<i>Sessions foreseen</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Output</i>
		the draft impact assessment
6 th Session (5-7 July 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the document prepared by the secretariat that describes the conceptual specifications Finalization of the document prepared by the secretariat that describes the draft impact assessment Discussions on the final report of the group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, revised version of document that describes the draft conceptual specifications If required, revised version of document that describes the draft impact assessment Preparation by the secretariat of the final report of the Group
Deadline for formal documents: 26 April 2023		