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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Transport

Ad hoc Meeting on Implementation of the
European Agreement on Main International
Traffic Arteries (AGR)
(28-29 June 1999)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH AD HOC MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 28 June 1999

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Information on the status of application of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) ECE/TRANS/16/Amends.1-7
ECE/TRANS/128
3. Status of prior amendments to the AGR TRANS/SC.1/363
4. Proposals for amendments to Annex I to the AGR TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/1999/1
TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/1999/2
5. Proposals for amendments to Annex II to the AGR
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

2. INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC ARTERIES (AGR)

The ad hoc meeting will be informed about the current status of application of the AGR.

3. STATUS OF PRIOR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGR

The ad hoc meeting may wish to note that, based on the results of three preparatory meetings held in 1998, the ninety-second session of the Working Party on Road Transport (19-21 October 1998) adopted a number of amendment proposals to Annex I of the AGR, many of them in the Caucasus and Central Asian ECE member States (TRANS/SC.1/363, paras. 10-18 and annex 1). The majority of the amendment proposals were adopted unanimously. However, the extension of the road E 60 was adopted with the reservation of Bulgaria and the north-south reference roads E 115 to E 125 were adopted with the provisional acceptance of the Russian Federation.

Following the ninety-second session of the Working Party, the secretariat received from the Government of the Russian Federation additional proposals concerning numbering of roads E 115 to E 125. These proposals are being circulated to the ad hoc meeting as TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/1999/1.

The Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-first session (8-11 February 1999) decided, in light of the "provisional acceptance" of the Russian Federation and its subsequent proposals, to ask the Legal Office of United Nations Headquarters in New York to exclude roads E 115 to E 125 from the amendments to be notified to the Contracting Parties directly concerned. As to the reservation entered by Bulgaria, the Committee was of the view that Bulgaria could not be considered a Contracting Party directly concerned. The Committee also stressed the importance of properly maintaining the grid system in accordance with the AGR (ECE/TRANS/128, paras. 43-47).

In a letter dated 22 March 1999, the United Nations Legal Office in New York advised the secretariat that the AGR only stipulated rules for the adoption of proposed amendments by the Working Party on Road Transport and did not provide any competencies for the Inland Transport Committee to retract or overrule the decisions of the Working Party. The depositary confirmed, therefore, that it would circulate the proposed amendments as adopted by the Working Party. In this regard, it further confirmed that each proposed amendment should be considered separately and that it would be indicated in the depositary notification that an objection to one E road should not affect the entry into force of the remaining amendments.

4. PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX I TO THE AGR

The ad hoc meeting may wish to consider proposals to amend Annex I to the AGR made by the Government of the Russian Federation and referred to under item 4 above (TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/1999/1). The Russian Federation proposes a change of route for the E 115 and a new E 117. It also proposes that the main north-south itineraries to the east of the new E 117 be assigned numbers from E 119 to E 127.

The ad hoc meeting may also wish to consider the proposal to modify the itinerary of E 25 made by the Government of France (TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/1999/2).

Any other proposals for amendments will be circulated as official documentation (in the three languages of the ECE) if received before the deadline of 16 April 1999. All other proposals will be available as informal documents during the meeting in the languages in which they were received.

In considering the above proposals for amendments to Annex I of the Agreement, the ad hoc meeting may wish to recall that, in accordance with article 8 of the AGR,

"any amendment to Annex I of the Agreement shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the competent administrations of the Contracting Parties directly concerned."

In this connection, the Working Party on Road Transport, at its ninety-first session (1997), reiterated that official information from neighbouring countries of countries proposing amendments to Annex I of the AGR is a prerequisite for the consideration of such amendments in its meetings (TRANS/SC.1/361, para. 13). It is therefore recommended that Contracting Parties "directly concerned", as defined in article 8, paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of the Agreement, be consulted on an informal basis by the Contracting Parties proposing such amendments before any such amendment proposals are transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

5. PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX II TO THE AGR

The ad hoc meeting is invited to consider proposals for amending Annex II to the AGR. Proposals for amendments will be circulated as official documentation (in the three languages of the ECE) if received before the deadline of 16 April 1999. All other proposals will be available as informal documents during the meeting in the languages in which they were received.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The ad hoc meeting may wish to be informed about resolution No. 247 on the 2000 E Road Census and Inventory, adopted by the sixty-first session of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/128, annex 3).

7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report on the ad hoc meeting will be prepared by the secretariat following the meeting and will be forwarded for discussion and adoption at the ninety-third session of the Working Party on Road Transport (Geneva, 19-21 October 1999).
