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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

23 August 1949

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT OF  
PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL  
COMMERCIAL ROAD TRANSPORT

Comments of the International Transport Workers Federation

The Secretariat has received the following communication from the International Transport Workers Federation.

International Transport Workers  
Federation,  
Maritime House,  
Old Town,  
Clapham, London, S.W.4.

5 August, 1949

Sir,

With reference to your letter ECA.278/1/01 of 8 June last, we wish to make the following observations on Document E/CONF.8/5:

The conditions of labour and employment of personnel engaged in international commercial road transport come within the scope of "certain subsidiary questions for agreement ..." (Chapter 5, third paragraph).

In long-distance transport, which is being developed in both international and national traffic in Europe, conditions of labour and employment vary considerably from one country to another. Employers have already brought this up in negotiations on labour conditions and have emphasized that they must refuse certain improvements in labour conditions in order to remain in a position to compete with transport firms of other countries. If it is

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necessary to conclude agreements establishing obligations of transport firms in different countries to Governments (fiscal charges, customs formalities, etc.) and to users and third parties (civil liability and compulsory insurance), it is no less necessary to establish equality of their obligations to transport workers.

Road transport being of a regional nature, the establishment of equal conditions of labour in long-distance transport should be considered, for the present at least, on a regional basis.

For the time being, the need for an international convention governing the main aspects of labour conditions in long-distance road transport is most apparent in Europe.

As the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport is not competent to seek a settlement of this question since there is a specialized agency of the United Nations dealing with labour problems, the International Transport Workers Federation has the honour to propose that the Conference adopt a resolution inviting the International Labour Organisation to consider the adoption of a convention on the main aspects of conditions of labour in long-distance transport in Europe and, if need be, in other parts of the world.

I should be greatly obliged if you would kindly bring these observations and this proposal to the knowledge of the Conference.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(sgd.) P. Tofahrn

Assistant Secretary-General.

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