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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Transport
(14-16 November 2000)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION ^{*/}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 14 November 2000

10.30 - 11.00 Tuesday, 14 November

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TRANS/SC.1/366 |
| 2. | Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations of interest to the Working Party | |

^{*/} By decision of the UNOG Conference Services and for reasons of economy, delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the ninety-fourth session of the Working Party on Road Transport. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva (Room C.111, 1st Floor, Palais des Nations).

New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Therefore, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the ECE Transport Division) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22 917 0039) or by E-mail (caroline.jeunet@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (please see the plan on the last page), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, telephone the ECE secretariat (Int. 73242).

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| (a) | Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies | ECE/TRANS/133 and Add.1 TRANS/AC.7/2 TRAN/SC.1/2000/12 |
| (b) | International organizations | |

11.00 - 17.30 Tuesday, 15 November

3. Road transport infrastructure

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|------|--|--|
| (a) | European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) | |
| (i) | Status of prior amendments to the AGR | TRANS/SC.1/2000/4 TRANS/SC.1/2000/5 TRANS/SC.1/1999/3 |
| (ii) | Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annexes I and II | TRANS/SC.1/2000/1 TRANS/SC.1/2000/11 TRANS/SC.1/2000/8 |
| (b) | Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project | TRANS/SC.1/2000/15 |

9.30 - 12.30 Wednesday, 15 November

4. Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operation

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|-----|--|--|
| (a) | Implementation of the AETR Agreement | TRANS/SC.1/2000/2 TRANS/SC.1/2000/7 TRANS/SC.1/2000/16 TRANS/SC.1/1999/4 TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2 |
| (b) | Development of provisions on the facilitation of international road transport (R.E.4) | TRANS/SC.1/1999/2 TRANS/SC.1/2000/3 TRANS/SC.1/2000/6 TRANS/SC.1/2000/10 |
| (c) | Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe | TRANS/WP.30/2000/11 TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2000/1 |

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| (d) | Revision of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR) | TRANS/SC.1/2000/17 TRANS/SC.1/275 and Add.1 TRANS/SC.1/2000/18 |
| (e) | Review of the situation and questions concerning facilitation of international road transport | |
| (f) | | |
| (i) | International Motor Insurance System (Green Card) | TRANS/SC.1/2000/13 TRANS/SC.1/2000/14 |
| (ii) | Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments on road transport | Informal document No.1 |
| (iii) | Consideration of the development of a Protocol to the CMR | TRANS/SC.1/2000/9 |
| (iv) | Fiscal issues related to road haulage | Informal document No. 2 |

14.30 - 17.30 Wednesday, 15 November

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| 5. | Follow-up to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment | JMTE/2000/8 |
| 6. | Other business | |

Date of next session

10.00 - 13.00 Thursday, 16 November

No meeting (drafting of the report)

15.00 - 18.00 Thursday, 16 November

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| 7. | Adoption of the report |
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

(a) Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-second session (15-17 February 2000), approved the report of the Working Party on its ninety-third session (ECE/TRANS/133, para. 29).

All SC.1-related issues considered by the Committee will be taken up under the respective agenda items below.

The Working Party will be informed about the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels which held its first and second meetings on 10-11 July 2000 and 10-11 October 2000. The report of the first meeting will be made available to the Working Party (TRANS/AC.7/2).

At its sixty-second session (15-17 February 2000), the Inland Transport Committee endorsed the identification made by its Bureau of its subsidiary bodies which have a relationship with the private sector (SC.1, SC.2, SC.3, WP.1, WP.11, WP.15, WP.24, WP.29, WP.30) and requested those bodies to assess the relationship and to report back to the Committee on how that relationship could be used to greater advantage to enhance the work of those bodies.

The Bureau also agreed to ask each subsidiary body of the Inland Transport Committee to consider the instruments in the realm of its competence and to specify those which need updating. A list of the legal instruments administered by SC.1 is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/12.

(b) International organizations

Representatives of international organizations at the session are invited to present information regarding their activities to the Working Party and to provide the secretariat with a short summary of their interventions which may be reflected in the report of the session.

3. ROAD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

(i) Status of prior amendments to the AGR

To date, 32 ECE member States have become Contracting Parties to the AGR (the list of countries is contained in Informal document No. 1 on adherence to ECE's legal instruments). The Working Party is informed that the Government of Armenia has expressed its readiness to accede to the AGR.

At its sixty-second session the Inland Transport Committee was informed that amendment proposals to Annexes I and III of the AGR adopted by the ninety-second session of the Working Party on Road Transport in 1998 (TRANS/SC.1/363, paras. 10-18 and annex 1) and transmitted to Contracting Parties by Depositary Notification C.N.380.1999.TREATIES-1 of 2 June 1999 were set to enter into force on 27 April 2000 with the exception of the roads E 40, E 123, E 012 and E 016 which had been objected to by the Government of Kazakhstan. The Committee commended the Working Party SC.1 for this important achievement of the extension of the E road network to the Caucasus and Central Asian regions.

The Committee had noted that further amendments to Annex I to the AGR had been adopted by SC.1 in 1999, based on the results of the seventeenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR (28-29 June 1999). These amendments concerned E roads in France, Romania and the Russian Federation (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 14-16 and annex 1). The Committee further noted that these amendment proposals had been transmitted by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and that the relevant Depositary Notification C.N.1225.1999.TREATIES-2 had been sent to competent administrations of Contracting Parties on 19 January 2000.

A fuller account of the status of prior amendments including the objection of Kazakhstan is given in TRANS/SC.1/2000/4. The attention of the Working Party is also drawn to document TRANS/SC.1/2000/5 relating to the suppression of a section of the E 97 between Trabzon and Askale in Turkey which is issued for clarification. It is recalled that in accordance with the amendment proposals circulated in C.N.380.1999.TREATIES-1 of 2 June 1999, the E 97 now terminates in Poti.

The consolidated text of the AGR prior to the adoption of the above-mentioned amendment proposals may be found in TRANS/SC.1/1999/3.

(ii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annexes I and II

The Working Party may wish to consider new proposals for amendments to Annex I from Finland (TRANS/SC.1/2000/1), as well as documents from the Republic of Moldova and Romania on E roads in those countries (TRANS/SC.1/2000/11 and TRANS/SC.1/2000/8). New proposals received after 5 September 2000 will be made available as informal documents.

The Working Party may wish to recommend that the eighteenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR be convened in the first half of 2001 to discuss possible amendments to Annex I as well as amendments to Annex II regarding safety in tunnels. The secretariat has tentatively reserved 10-11 May 2001 if the Working Party decides to recommend the holding of that meeting. The Ad hoc Meeting might also wish to examine relevant documentation as proposed by the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels.

(b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project

Documentation: TRANS/SC.1/2000/15.

The Working Party will be informed about progress made since its last session on the development of the TEM project (TRANS/SC.1/2000/15).

The sixty-second session of the Inland Transport Committee in February 2000 took note of the progress report on the TEM Project contained in document TRANS/SC.1/1999/7 as well as additional information provided by the Project Manager on TEM Standards and the new Permanent Table established in Trieste as a subregional forum for the development of motorway construction, maintenance and operations along corridor V and requested that it continue to be informed of developments in the TEM Project (TRANS/SC.1/2000/133, para.33).

4. HARMONIZATION OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT AND FACILITATION OF ITS OPERATION

(a) Implementation of the AETR Agreement

At its sixty-second session in February 2000, the Inland Transport Committee noted that SC.1 had: (i) endorsed the revision of Article 12, Annex 1 (implementation of control procedures for the application of the Agreement) to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Transport (AETR); and (ii) endorsed in principle the revision of the AETR regarding the introduction of the digital tachograph (TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2) (Geneva, 8-9 March 1999) (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 24-37).

In this connection, the Committee also noted the fact that, in accordance with the request of the Working Party, the secretariat had informed non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR not present at the session about the amendment proposals and the proposed five-year transition period for the introduction of the digital tachograph.

Responses received from Belarus, Belgium, Estonia, Norway and Portugal are contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/2.

The Committee noted the proposed five-year transition period and strongly recommended that Contracting Parties consider the possibility of accepting in the AETR a reference to Annex 1B to Regulation (EEC) No. 3821/85 setting out the technical specifications of the new digital tachograph rather than seeking to reproduce it in its entirety. In this regard, the Committee recalled the example of ISO standards which were referred to in many legal documents without being reproduced on each occasion. However, it would be necessary to resolve, in this context,

the problem of translation of this technical Annex as well as the question related to the automatic validity of subsequent changes to the Annex for non-EU Member countries.

With regard to the question of the minimum number of Parties required to amend the AETR, the Committee took note of the communication from the United Nations Legal Office stating that it was within the discretion of the parties to the AETR to establish amendment procedures specific to the AETR.

At its ninety-third session, the Working Party had requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the representative of the European Commission and the delegate of France, to prepare a new corrected version of the relevant annexes in TRANS/SC.1/AC.6/2 ensuring that all new provisions appeared in bold. The Working Party also noted that there were several amendments of regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 which had not yet been introduced into the AETR. In this regard, the delegate of France proposed to submit an amendment proposal, in cooperation with the European Commission, to the next session of the Working Party.

The document transmitted by the delegate of France and the representative of the European Commission appears in TRANS/SC.1/2000/16. The Working Party will also have before it for reference the consolidated text of the AETR which is contained in TRANS/SC.1/1999/4.

The Working Party further decided that the secretariat should request the addresses of the competent authorities regarding the AETR in member States Contracting Parties. The list of addresses received to date is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/7. Countries which have not yet sent the address of the competent authority regarding the AETR to the secretariat are requested to do so at their earliest convenience.

(b) Development of provisions on the facilitation of international road transport (R.E.4)

At its sixty-second session, the Inland Transport Committee was informed that SC.1 had endorsed the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of the Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of Road Transport (R.E.4) (Geneva, 25-26 March 1999). However, it had decided not to forward yet the draft to the Inland Transport Committee for adoption since many Governments had not had the opportunity to examine the text in detail (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 38-42). The Committee invited ECE member Governments to give their comments on the new draft of R.E.4 (TRANS/SC.1/1999/2) by 29 February 2000, as had been requested by the secretariat. On the basis of the replies, the secretariat would prepare a document for the ninety-fourth session of SC.1 in November 2000 taking also into account the work of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT).

The replies regarding R.E.4 from Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey are contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/3. A proposed revision of Annex 2 from the Council of Bureaux of the Green Card System is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/10. The ECMT consolidated resolution concerning the rules to be applied for international freight transport by road, adopted by

the Council of Ministers meeting in Prague on 30-31 May 2000, is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/6 and is made available to the Working Party for reference.

The Working Party may wish to reconvene the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of R.E.4 in 2001 to review the comments from Governments and prepare a final text for the ninety-fifth session of the Working Party and for the ITC.

- (c) Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe

At its ninety-third session, the Working Party considered the draft of a proposed new Annex to the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods on the facilitation of border crossing, prepared by the IRU and Transfrigoroute (International).

At its sixty-second session, the Inland Transport Committee endorsed the initiative of WP.30 to convene an informal drafting group including experts from both WP.30 and SC.1 to prepare the final text of a new Annex to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras.44-47) and requested the drafting group to examine, inter alia, how border crossings in road transport could be speeded up, for instance, by setting a maximum time limit for the crossing of borders by goods vehicles in the new annex to the Convention or by drafting a resolution to that effect, as has been done for the rail sector in 1999.

The drafting group met on 4-5 April 2000. The following delegations from SC.1 participated in the work of that group: France, Germany, Romania, International Road Transport Union (IRU) and Transfrigoroute (International).

The Working Party will have before it a note prepared for WP.30 on that meeting (TRANS/WP.30/2000/11) and on a subsequent informal ad hoc group of experts on technical questions convened on 1 August 2000 to consider the establishment of an International Vehicle Weight Certificate, based on a draft prepared by the SECI Regional Road Transport Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2000/1- TRANS/WP.30/2000/16).

The Working Party will also be informed about any developments on this issue resulting from the fourth meeting of the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (18 and 20 October 2000).

- (d) Revision of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR)

The Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR) has only six Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina (succession), Croatia (succession), Latvia, Czech Republic (succession), Slovakia (succession), and Yugoslavia.

At its ninety-third session, the delegate of France informed the Working Party that carriers in her country would like France to accede to the CVR and suggested that a document be prepared for

the next session of the Working Party providing background information on the CVR and suggesting what revisions were necessary.

Taking note of the above suggestion, the Working Party requested the secretariat in cooperation with the IRU to prepare a document for its next session and considered the possibility of establishing an Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of the CVR to meet in 2001.

After consultation with the representative of the IRU, the secretariat has reissued a document of draft amendments (TRANS/SC.1/2000/18, previously issued as TRANS/SC.1/R.269). The representative of the IRU has also provided new information regarding the value of the gold franc which is used in calculating liability (TRANS/SC.1/2000/17).

The Working Party may wish to decide whether to establish an ad hoc group to meet in 2001 to discuss the revision of the CVR based on the above-mentioned documents.

(e) Review of the situation and questions concerning facilitation of international road transport

(i) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)

The Working Party may wish to consider the report of the President of the Council of Bureaux of the Green Card System (TRANS/SC.1/2000/13) and the updated list of Inter-Bureaux Agreements on international third-party motor insurance (TRANS/SC.1/2000/14).

(ii) Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments in the field of road transport

Information on the status of accession to UN/ECE legal instruments on road transport is contained in Informal document No. 1. Since the last session of SC.1, instruments of accession or ratification to the AETR have been received from Hungary on 22 October 1999 (entry into force on 19 April 2000), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession) on 12 November 1999 (action effected on 10 November 1991) and from Switzerland on 7 April 2000 (entry into force on 4 October 2000); to the CMR and its Protocol from Georgia on 4 August 1999 (entry into force on 2 November 1999); and to the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (succession) on 20 December 2000 (action effected on 17 November 1991). Information on other developments will be provided during the session.

(iii) Consideration of the development of a Protocol to the CMR

At its ninety-third session, the Working Party was informed that Unidroit would be prepared to cooperate with UN/ECE on the development of a Protocol to the CMR incorporating electronic data interchange into its procedures. Professor Jacques Putzeys from Unidroit agreed to report on the matter at the Unidroit Governing Council meeting to be held in May 2000 in Lisbon.

A proposal by Professor Jacques Putzeys on the development of a Protocol to the CMR is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2000/9.

(iv) Fiscal issues related to road haulage

At its ninety-third session, the Working Party decided to take up the issue of fiscal measures at its next session. In this regard it requested the secretariat to make available information on other studies in this field, e.g. the 13-country PHARE study on road transport charges. The executive summary of the PHARE study is made available in Informal document No. 2.

5. FOLLOW-UP TO THE UN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON
TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Working Party will have before it the report of the third Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (JMTE/2000/8).

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Working Party may wish to consider any other business under this agenda item.

Date of next session

The secretariat has tentatively scheduled the ninety-fifth session of the Working Party to be held from 17 to 19 October 2001.

7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its ninety-fourth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Because of the deadlines for submission of in-session documentation, only the draft report of the first day's discussions (i.e. 14 November) will be available in English, French and Russian. Items discussed on subsequent days of the session, i.e. 15 and 16 November will be reflected to the extent possible in a draft report available in English only.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

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