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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
Working Party on Road Transport
(16-19 October 2001)

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

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 October 2001

Tuesday, 16 October

Special session of SC.1 for
AETR checking authorities

TRANS/SC.1/2001/12

Wednesday, 17 October

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations of interest to the Working Party
 - (a) Inland Transport Committee and

TRANS/SC.1/368

ECE/TRANS/136

^{*/} Delegates are kindly asked to bring copies of the documents referred to in this provisional agenda with them to the ninety-fifth 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).

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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its subsidiary bodies

- (b) International organizations
- 3. Implementation of the AETR Agreement
TRANS/SC.1/2001/1
TRANS/SC.1/2000/16
TRANS/SC.1/1999/4
Informal documents 2 and 3
- 4. Road transport infrastructure
 - (a) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)
 - (i) Status of prior amendments to the AGR ECE/TRANS/16/Amend.8
 - (ii) Consideration of new proposals for amendments to the AGR, Annexes I and II
TRANS/SC.1/2001/2
ECE/AC.21/2001/1
 - (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project
TRANS/SC.1/2001/11

Thursday, 18 October

- 5. Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operation
 - (a) Development of provisions on the facilitation of international road transport (R.E.4)
TRANS/SC.1/2001/5
 - (b) Consideration of possibilities for agreements and other measures on border crossings and border facilities for road transport between Eastern and Western Europe
TRANS/SC.1/2001/15
 - (c) Development of a Protocol to the CMR
TRANS/SC.1/2001/7
TRANS/SC.1/2000/9
 - (d) Revision of the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR)
TRANS/SC.1/2001/14
and Add.1
TRANS/SC.1/2000/17
TRANS/SC.1/2000/18
 - (e) Review of the situation and questions concerning facilitation of international road transport

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|-------|---|---|
| (i) | International Motor Insurance System (Green Card) | TRANS/SC.1/2001/9
TRANS/SC.1/2001/10 |
| (ii) | Accession to and implementation of UN/ECE international legal instruments on road transport | Informal document No.1 |
| (iii) | Harmonization of fiscal and other measures affecting road transport | TRANS/SC.1/2001/8 |
| 6. | Follow-up to the UN Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment | JMTE/2001/5 |
| 7. | Draft programme of work for 2002-2006 | TRANS/SC.1/2001/6 |

Friday, 19 October

8. Election of officers
9. Other business
- Date of next session
10. Adoption of the report

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

16 October 2001

SPECIAL SESSION OF SC.1 FOR AETR CHECKING AUTHORITIES

At its sixty-third session in February 2001, the Inland Transport Committee approved the decision of the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) to hold an official meeting in 2001 with the aim of familiarising non-EU member States and more particularly their AETR control bodies with the introduction of the new digital tachograph which new vehicles in the EU will first be equipped with starting in 2003/2004.

The ITC stressed the importance for non EU member States of participating in this meeting which will be held with the technical support of the European Commission and will inform AETR checking authorities how to carry out controls of vehicles equipped with the new device.

The programme for the special session is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2001/12.

17 October 2001

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item 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-third session (15-17 February 2001), approved the report of the Working Party on its ninety-fourth session (ECE/TRANS/136, para. 32).

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

The Working Party will also be informed about the work of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels and its recommendations on safety in road tunnels.

(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. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AETR AGREEMENT

At its ninety-fourth session, the Working Party approved in principle the revisions to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) proposed by the representatives of France and the European Commission to incorporate the digital tachograph into the Agreement (TRANS/SC.1/2000/16). The Working Party decided to await the official Community-wide publication of the voluminous annex 1B to Regulation 3821/85/EEC concerning the technical requirements for the new digital tachograph (with translation into the Community languages) before conclusively adopting the proposed amendments.

The Working Party agreed, however, that the work of reviewing the Community text in order to adapt it to the AETR context should be done to the extent possible in advance of the ninety-fifth session and decided to convene a small informal meeting of a few volunteers from non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR and representatives of the European Commission to review the text and introduce any necessary minor modifications (TRANS/SC.1/367, para. 32).

The small informal meeting made up of representatives of Romania, Switzerland, the European Commission and the secretariat met on 3 May. The results of that meeting are presented in TRANS/SC.1/2001/1. Two possible solutions for incorporating annex 1B into the

AETR proposed by the representatives of the European Commission appear in Informal document No.3.

Unfortunately, the final adoption and publication in the European Commission of annex 1B has been further delayed and a final text will still not be available at the ninety-fifth session of the Working Party. A copy of the latest text of annex 1 B will be available to the Working Party as Informal document No.2 for information purposes only, but because of this further delay, it will not be possible for SC.1 to take a final decision on this matter at its ninety-fifth session.

A list of addresses of competent authorities regarding the AETR is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2001/13. Countries which have not yet sent the address of their competent authority to the secretariat are requested to do so at their earliest convenience.

4. 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 amendments to the AGR which were adopted by the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) at its ninety-second (19-21 October 1998) and ninety-third sessions (19-21 October 1999) entered into force on 27 April 2000 and 20 October 2000 respectively. They appear in ECE/TRANS/16/Amend.8.

The Working Party will be informed about the date of entry into force of draft amendments to the AGR which were adopted by SC.1 at its ninety-fourth session (14-16 November 2000). They were notified to member States in depositary notification C.N.30.2001.TREATIES.1 dated 23 January 2001.

The Working Party will have before it a consolidated version of the AGR incorporating all amendments which have entered into force prior to the ninety-fourth session (TRANS/SC.1/2001/3). The Working Party will also have a new official map of the AGR network.

(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 the Russian Federation (TRANS/SC.1/2001/2). New proposals received after 7 August 2001 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 2002 to discuss possible amendments to Annex I as well as amendments to Annex II regarding safety in tunnels and other infrastructure issues. The final recommendations of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in

Tunnels may serve as the basis for discussion. The dates of 30 and 31 May 2002 have been tentatively reserved.

The attention of the Working Party is also drawn to the Synthesis Report: Overview of Instruments relevant to Transport, Environment and Health and Recommendations for Further Steps (ECE/AC.21/2001/1) which recommends in paragraph 189 (e) "Further expanding and clarifying the provisions of annex II to the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), 1975, with regard to environmental impact assessment concentrating on noise reduction measures." This is also an issue which may be taken up by the eighteenth session of the Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the AGR.

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

The Working Party will be informed about progress made since its last session on the development of the TEM Project (TRANS/SC.1/2001/11).

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

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

At its ninety-third session in 1999, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) had endorsed the report of the first 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) (TRANS/SC.1/1999/2) and, since many Governments had not had the opportunity to examine the text in detail, had requested the secretariat to send it to all ECE member States for their comments (TRANS/SC.1/365, paras. 38-42).

At its ninety-fourth session in 2000, the Working Party took note of replies to that request from Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey (TRANS/SC.1/2000/3). The Working Party decided, in order to harmonize R.E.4 as much as possible with the ECMT resolution on the same subject (TRANS/SC.1/2000/6) and to minimize the reservations expressed by Governments, to reconvene the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of R.E.4 to review the comments from Governments and to prepare a new simplified text that might be more acceptable to more countries.

The Ad hoc Working Group on the Revision of R.E.4 met in Geneva on 10 and 11 May 2001 under the chairmanship of Mr. M.-C. Urgan (Romania). Representatives of Finland, Romania, Russian Federation and Switzerland were present. Representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) also participated.

The Ad hoc Working Group based its discussions on the new text of R.E.4 agreed to at the first session of the Ad hoc Working Group (TRANS/SC.1/1999/2), on the comments on the text received from Governments (TRANS/SC.1/2000/3) and on the ECMT Consolidated Resolution concerning the Rules to be Applied for International Freight Transport by Road adopted in 2000 (TRANS/SC.1/2000/6). It also recognised that a new annex 2 to R.E.4, on the International Motor Insurance Card System (the Green Card System) had been adopted at the ninety-fourth session of the Working Party on Road Transport (TRANS/SC.1/367, para. 40 and Annex 2).

The new draft text proposed by the Ad hoc Working Group is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2001/5.

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

The Working Party will have before it the proposed new draft text of Annex 8 to the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods which is under consideration for adoption by the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (TRANS/SC.1/2001/15).

The Working Party is requested to examine the draft in its entirety and in particular those sections devoted to weight and dimensions and road worthiness certificates.

- (c) Consideration of the development of a Protocol to the CMR

At its ninety-fourth session, the Working Party requested the representative of Unidroit, Professor Jacques Putzeys, to prepare a draft text of a Protocol to the CMR incorporating electronic data interchange into its procedures.

The draft Protocol to the CMR is contained in TRANS/SC.1/2001/7. The text of the CMR itself is also made available in TRANS/SC.1/2001/4 for the reference of delegates.

The Working Party may wish to decide how to proceed with the discussion and adoption of the new Protocol.

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

At its ninety-fourth session, the Working Party took note of document TRANS/SC.1/2000/18 transmitted by the IRU which proposed amendments to the CVR. It also took note of new information regarding the value of the gold franc which is used in calculating liability (TRANS/SC.1/2000/17). It recognised that the gold franc was the valid denomination since the Protocol to the CVR which replaced the gold franc with the Special Drawing Right (SDR) had not entered into force. Since the value of the gold franc was some six times higher than in 1978 when the Protocol was drawn up, the Working Party asked whether with the higher levels of compensation which that represented more countries would consider acceding to the CVR.

The Working Party requested the secretariat to write to all ECE member States asking them whether they would now be prepared to consider acceding to the CVR and if not to state what modifications would be required for them to be able to do so.

The replies received from members are contained in TRANS/SC.1/2001/14 and Add.1. In light of the negative response, the Working Party may wish to decide how and whether to proceed with this work.

(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.1/2001/9) and the updated list of Inter-Bureaux Agreements on international third-party motor insurance (TRANS/SC.1/2001/10).

(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 will be provided by the secretariat. Information is also 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 Turkey on 16 January 2001 and Yugoslavia on 12 March 2001 (succession); to the CMR from Yugoslavia on 12 March 2001 (succession); to the CVR from Yugoslavia on 12 March 2001 (succession); and to the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) from Yugoslavia on 12 March 2001 (succession). Information on other developments will be provided during the session.

(iii) Hamonization of fiscal issues and other measures affecting road transport

At its ninety-fourth session, the Working Party agreed that this was an important issue which required further consideration by the Working Party and asked members to make written proposals to the secretariat on how the subject could be dealt with in the future. The resolution "Allowing Equal Chances for all on the Road Transport Market" adopted by the Sixth IRU East-West Road Transport Conference (Prague, 1 June 2001) is made available for discussion under this item (TRANS/SC.1/2001/8).

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

The Working Party will be informed about the results of the High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (4 May 2001) and the fourth Joint Meeting on Transport and Environment (6 June 2001) (JMTE/2001/5).

In particular, the Joint Meeting:

- (a) decided to establish a Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health, at least until the second High-level Meeting, by extending the existing Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment to include health experts;
- (b) approved Terms of Reference of the Joint UNECE – WHO Expert Group, mandating it mainly to:

- carry out preparatory work for facilitating the rationalization of the existing international institutional mechanisms established under the Vienna and London follow-up processes as laid out in the Conference Room Paper of 25 April 2001;

- and, in accordance with the mandate of the High-level Meeting, to act as a Task Force and carry out further preparatory work to facilitate the decision on whether to start negotiations on a Framework convention to be taken at the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health;

(c) specified that the second High-level meeting should be convened at the Ministerial level;

(d) agreed that the second High-level meeting should also endorse the Vienna mid-term review.

7. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002-2006

The Working Party will have before it the draft programme of work for 2002-2006 prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/SC.1/2001/6). The Working Party is expected to modify and agree on its draft programme of work which will be forwarded to the Inland Transport Committee for adoption. The Working Party is reminded that in accordance with a decision taken by the ITC, programmes of work are only considered every two years.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Working Party is expected to (re)elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

9. 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-sixth session of the Working Party to be held from 1 to 3 October 2002.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its ninety-fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Because of the deadlines for submission of in-session documentation, only part of the draft report will be available in English, French and Russian.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

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Geneva, 95th session, 16-19 October 2001

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