



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/2002/14
14 January 2002

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(Sixty-fourth session, 18-21 February 2002,
agenda item 13 (a))

SAFETY IN ROAD TUNNELS

Draft resolution

Note by the secretariat

In view of the strategic importance of the report on safety in road tunnels (TRANS/AC.7/9) by the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts, dated 10 December 2001, and the 43 recommendations it contains, the secretariat deems it appropriate to submit to the Inland Transport Committee a draft resolution which will both take note of the work done and establish guidelines for the future. This is the purpose of the attached draft which the Committee is asked to consider with a view to adoption.

SAFETY IN ROAD TUNNELS

(Draft) Resolution No.

The Inland Transport Committee,

Considering that the three major accidents which have taken place in Alpine road tunnels (Mont Blanc (March 1999), Tauern (May 1999) and Saint Gothard (October 2001)) have, as a result of their extremely serious human and economic consequences, brought to the fore the necessity and the importance of increasing the level of safety in tunnels in order to minimize the risks of accidents and their effects when they occur,

Concerned with the importance of seeking the greatest possible harmonization internationally in this regard, based on best national practices,

Considering that the Committee, as representative of all European States and in view of the position it occupies in transport matters through the numerous legal instruments it has developed, particularly in the road sector, is a privileged location for developing, coordinating and proposing measures leading to this harmonization Europe-wide,

Recalling the decision taken at its sixty-second session (February 2000) to establish an Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels to respond to that aim,

Considering the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts, and in particular the major task entrusted to it of developing “recommendations for minimum requirements concerning safety in tunnels of various types and lengths”, beginning with road tunnels,

Considering the work the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts has carried out since July 2000 and in particular its Final Report, dated 10 December 2001,¹

Aware of the strategic importance of this report and of the forty-three recommendations it contains, in the form of measures, referring to the four factors influencing safety in tunnels, namely: road users, operation of tunnels, infrastructure and vehicles,

- (1) **Approves** the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts, dated 10 December.

¹ This report is available on the UN/ECE web site, at the following address:
<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/ac7rep.html>

- (2) **Welcomes** the great interest expressed by the member countries of UN/ECE and the pertinent international organizations in the work of the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts.
- (3) **Congratulates and thanks** all the members of the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts, and in particular its Chairman, Mr. Egger (Switzerland) and its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Lacroix (France), for the efficiency and the speed with which the work has been effected and the quality of that work.
- (4) **Invites** UN/ECE member States to implement, with the greatest possible dispatch, the recommendations set out in the report, beginning with those that are most cost-effective, with a view to minimizing risks of accident, particularly risks to users.
- (5) **Requests** its pertinent subsidiary bodies, in particular WP.1, WP.29, SC.1 and WP.15, to consider rapidly the recommendations pertaining to their sphere of competence and to identify those that could be incorporated into existing legal instruments, with the most appropriate formulation.
- (6) **Invites** the Commission of the European Union and the pertinent international organizations and non-governmental organizations to take the said recommendations into account in their work.
- (7) **Invites** the members of the Group of Experts on Road Tunnels to hold regular meetings, at least every two years, for the purpose of considering new developments in safety in tunnels and for adding to, updating or amending as necessary the recommendations contained in the report in the light of technological progress and the work carried out by other international organizations and bodies.
