



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2009/7
4 August 2009

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Transport

One-hundred-and-fourth session

Geneva, 19-21 October 2009

Item 6 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda

**HARMONIZATION OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ROAD
TRANSPORT AND FACILITATION OF ITS OPERATION**

Review of questions concerning the facilitation of international road transport

Accession to and implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
international legal instruments in the field of road transport

Note by the secretariat

1. At its seventy-first session, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) “requested its subsidiary bodies to review and further improve mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of their respective legal instruments in 2009 and the secretariat to prepare a status report for consideration at its next session” (ECE/TRANS/206, paragraph 12).
2. The present document is submitted by the secretariat to the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) for consideration and guidance.
3. According to the Programme of Work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2008-2012, the main continuing activity of the SC.1 is «Implementation of transport-related UNECE agreements and conventions» (ECE/TRANS/2008/11, page 7, point (j)).

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4. The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement approved by the SC.1 for 2008-2012 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2007/8, paragraph 15, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/381, paragraph 46) are the following:

Expected accomplishment: Enhanced implementation of the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR).

Indicator of achievement 1: number of countries responding to the survey on the effective application of the AETR.

Indicator of achievement 2: number of problem areas identified and of proposals to address them within the framework of the follow-up of this survey.

5. The previous questionnaire on monitoring the implementation of the AETR was launched in May 2007, with the deadline for replies 30 September 2007. As of today only 12 per cent of the Contracting Parties have replied to the questionnaire. Thus, according to the rules of statistics, the collected data cannot be interpreted in a reliable way; implicitly, problem areas cannot be identified and the objective to enhance implementation of the AETR cannot be attained.

6. AETR is not the only agreement SC.1 is administering; according to its Terms of Reference, the Working Party should encourage the accession of new countries to the legal instruments listed hereafter and develop a coordinated and logical programme of work relating thereto:

- (a) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), of 15 November 1975;
- (b) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), of 1 July 1970;
- (c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), of 19 May 1956;
- (d) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), of 5 July 1978;
- (e) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR), of 1 March 1973;
- (f) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Road (CVR), of 5 July 1978;
- (g) Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles Engaged in International Goods Transport, of 14 December 1956;
- (h) Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles Engaged in International Passenger Transport, of 14 December 1956;
- (i) Convention on the Taxation of Road Vehicles for Private Use in International Traffic, of 18 May 1956;

- (j) General Agreement on Economic Regulations for International Road Transport, of 17 March 1954.

7. Based on the principle that what cannot be measured can neither be improved, and taking into account the request of ITC to review and further improve mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the legal instruments, the secretariat must prepare a report and viable proposals on this subject for the seventy-second session of ITC in February 2010. The Working Party may wish to give guidance on future work to be undertaken by the secretariat.

8. The Working Party may wish to give guidance to the secretariat on how to best address this issue also bearing in mind that at the end of 2009, and then every other year, all Working Parties will be requested to evaluate the performance of their activities in view of the expected accomplishments and related indicators drawn up at the beginning of the two-year cycle. For this purpose, the Working Parties should review the accomplishment accounts, drawn up by the secretariat and consisting of an evaluation, both quantitative and qualitative, of the results achieved.
