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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Road Transport

##### 119<sup>th</sup> session

Geneva, 29-31 October 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the 119th session \*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 29 October 2024, salle IX.

## I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Inland Transport Instruments:
  - (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport:
    - (i) Status of the Agreement;
    - (ii) Group of Experts.
  - (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries:
    - (i) Status of the Agreement;
    - (ii) Amendments to the Agreement;
    - (iii) Implementation of the Agreement;
  - (c) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road:
    - (i) Status of the Convention;
    - (ii) Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (Protocol);
    - (iii) Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Additional Protocol);
    - (iv) Group of Experts on operationalization of eCMR.

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\* Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007269/>.



- (d) New legal instrument(s) Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS).
- (e) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4):
- 3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport.
- 4. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility
  - (a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure:
    - (i) Road safety inspections and audits;
    - (ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes;
    - (iii) SC.1 contribution to the ITC Strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport.
  - (b) Trans-European North-South Motorway Project
- 5. Facilitation of international road transport:
  - (a) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card);
  - (b) Workshop on Cross-border insurance of motor vehicles.
- 6. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
- 7. Activities of interest to the Working Party:
  - (a) National delegations;
  - (b) International organizations;
  - (c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations:
    - (i) ITC related;
    - (ii) Workshop on road transport developments in view of the electrification of light- and heavy-duty vehicles;
    - (iii) Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5);
    - (iv) Car sharing and car-pooling.
- 8. Election of Officers.
- 9. Other business.
- 10. Date of next session.
- 11. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/421

### 2. Inland Transport Instruments

#### (a) European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport

##### (i) *Status of the Agreement*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR).

##### (ii) *Group of Experts*

The Chair of the AETR Group of Experts will inform SC.1 on the work of the AETR Group of Experts, especially on the work of the Group of Experts to reconcile the AETR regime in European Union and non-European Union AETR contracting parties following the introduction of the smart tachograph in the European Union on 15 June 2019.

At the 116<sup>th</sup> session, SC.1 expressed support for a proposal by the AETR Group of Experts to amend article 14 in order to open up the agreement globally, using the example of article 45 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic: "This Agreement is open for accession by all States Members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party to the Agreement." SC.1 is invited to encourage a contracting party to the agreement to formally submit an amendment proposal.

At the 117<sup>th</sup> session, SC.1 decided to authorize the ECE secretariat to sign the Administrative Arrangement (AA) between ECE and European Commission Services on continuing activities envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission Services and ECE of 2009 (2009 MoU), for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

SC.1 may wish to note an initial extension of the application of the 2009 MoU for the period 15 November 2023 to 31 May 2024 via signing of the AA. The secretariat will inform SC.1 on the status of the extension for the remaining period until 31 December 2024.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/76

#### (b) European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries

##### (i) *Status of the Agreement*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

##### (ii) *Amendments to the Agreement*

At the last session, the Chair reminded SC.1 participants to consult their capitals on whether it would be appropriate to open AGR to accession by non-ECE member States, so that a discussion and decision may preferably be reached at this session given that this decision has been deferred since the 115<sup>th</sup> session. Given the lack of feedback over several sessions, the

secretariat suggested that at the next session, the Working Party could decide that it did not consider it appropriate at the present time to open AGR to accession by non-ECE member States, but that this matter could be revisited by the Working party pending interest if any by non-ECE member States.

The Working Party might wish to recall that its previous session, in conjunction with agenda item 4(b) on the TEM Project, considered potential aspects of AGR which could be the subject of future work or proposal amendments in annex II such as the inclusion of road safety audits and road safety inspections. SC.1 decided to further discuss this topic at its next session.

The Working Party might wish to consider ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2024/2 which includes an amendment proposal submitted by the Government of Finland on Annex I to the AGR Agreement. The Working Party might wish to endorse this amendment proposal.

Further at the last session, SC.1 noted the secretariat's suggestion of initiating a discussion on improving the E-roads network in terms of technological development and environmental sustainability for future sessions. This was in conjunction with agenda item 7(c)(i) on Inland Transport Committee (ITC)-related matters. SC.1 will be invited to begin this discussion if appropriate.

(iii) *Implementation of the Agreement*

At the last session, SC.1 requested the secretariat to circulate a survey to AGR contracting parties, using the template contained in Informal document SC.1 (2023) No.2, with a request for feedback prior to this session. This is linked to task 5.4 of the implementation of the ITC Strategy until 2030. The secretariat will be invited to provide an update.

**Documentation**

Informal document SC.1 (2023) No.2, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2024/2

(c) **Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road**

(i) *Status of the Convention*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Convention.

(ii) *Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (Protocol);*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Protocol to the Convention.

(iii) *Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Additional Protocol)*

The secretariat will inform SC.1 about the status of the Additional Protocol to the Convention, including any new accessions since the last session.

(iv) *Group of Experts on operationalization of eCMR*

At the last session, SC.1 agreed to a two-year extension of the Group of Experts on Operationalization of eCMR (SC.1/GE.22) for the completion of work based on its current terms of reference including the preparation of technical specifications (if time permits) and reporting back to SC.1 at its 120th session in October 2025.

At its eight-sixth session in February 2024, Inland Transport Committee (ITC) endorsed the extension of the mandate of GE.22, taking into account budget constraints, for up to three sessions per year comprised of up to three days/session, to complete its tasks and report to SC.1 at its 120th session in October 2025. The request was also endorsed by EXCOM in March 2024.

The dates of the seventh session of GE.22 were 22 to 24(am) May, and the eighth and ninth sessions of the Group of Experts have tentatively been scheduled for 20–22(am) January 2025, and 5–7(am) May 2025. The secretariat will inform the Working Party on the outcomes of the seventh session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/14).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.22/14

**(d) New legal instrument(s) Proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS)**

At its 114th session, SC.1 resumed its discussion with the attendance of representatives from the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey. The Russian Federation indicated that it was prepared to accept the proposed wording reflected in paragraph 3 of Article 25 of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3 but not the “alternate wording” option. The Russian Federation withdrew its reservation to the text of paragraph 10 of Annex VI. In addition, the Russian Federation proposed additional text to the “Important notice” part of the application for authorization contained in Annex I. The Chair requested that the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey work together (e.g. through “Friends of Chair” meetings or other informal methods) to finalize the text of the draft agreement, and to submit a finalized text for adoption at the last session. Due to disruptions to usual work processes arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, such meeting/s did not take place in 2020.

At the 115th session, the secretariat informed SC.1 that it had followed up with the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey to ascertain their continued interest in this matter. The secretariat shared the replies received from Switzerland and Turkey on 18 and 30 November 2020 respectively. In summary, Switzerland and Turkey indicated that they would not be continuing their involvement in discussions on the proposed agreement. SC.1 decided to keep this item on its agenda but to suspend further discussions on this topic until the transport sector has had the opportunity to recover from the Covid 19 pandemic (i.e. in 2023 or 2024).

At the last session, SC.1 decided to defer a discussion on this matter until this session. Therefore, SC.1 will be invited to either reopen its discussion on this matter and to keep or remove this item from the agenda for future sessions.

At the last session, the European Commission shared that there was no change in the status of the Protocol to the Interbus Agreement regarding regular and special regular services. That is, it has been open for signature and ratification since 23 October 2020, and has been ratified by the European Union but requires at least two other contracting parties besides the European Union to enter into force. The European Commission will be invited to provide an update at this session.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2015/3

**(e) Consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of International Road Transport (R.E.4)****The relationship between the origin of goods and transport operations**

At the 117th session, Poland and Türkiye tabled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/4 with a proposed definition. Poland, supported by Latvia, proposed that discussion on this item be postponed until the situation in road transport created by the sanctions imposed in this sector after the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine ceases. Türkiye requested that the item be kept on the agenda.

At the last session, SC.1 agreed that this item should be kept on the agenda and to postpone its discussion until the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is over.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/4

### **3. Supporting New Technologies and Innovations in Inland Transport**

#### **Digital/smart road infrastructure**

This item has been a regular feature in SC.1's agenda since its 113th session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/410). With a view to educating and raising awareness on the topic given its relevance to road transport, members of SC.1 will be invited to give a presentation on this topic if they wish to do so.

### **4. Promoting Sustainable Regional and Interregional Inland Transport Connectivity and Mobility**

#### **(a) Safe and sustainable road infrastructure**

##### *(i) Road safety inspections and audits*

At the last session, SC.1 continued its discussion on this topic in conjunction with agenda item 4(b) on the TEM Project. The Working Party also decided to create an informal group of experts on road infrastructure good practices comprising of Latvia, Ukraine, Türkiye and other interested participants. The informal group of experts was invited to work with the TEM Project Manager and the secretariat on the development of a proposed capacity-building collaboration between SC.1 and the TEM Project with an initial focus on road safety audits (RSA) and technical inspections (RSI) for the ECE region.

The informal group of experts will be invited to give an update on their progress at this session.

##### *(ii) Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes*

At the request of SC.1 at its last session, the Secretary of the ECE Group of Experts on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes (WP.5/GE.3) will be invited to provide an update on the work of WP.5/GE.3. SC.1 will be invited to consider how it may utilize the studies and business cases of WP.5/GE.3, and if there are opportunities for collaboration.

##### *(iii) SC.1 contribution to the ITC Strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport*

At the last session, the ITC secretariat presented the draft ITC strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport. The Working Party appreciated the presentation and endorsed the suggestions made by the Chair and Vice-Chair (Poland) contained in Informal document SC.1 (2023) No. 9 as the initial contribution by the Working Party on the matter. SC.1 also agreed to include this as an agenda item from this session.

The ITC secretariat will be invited to provide an update on the outcomes from the eighty-sixth session of ITC in February 2024 on the then draft strategy (Informal document SC.1 (2024) No.2). SC.1 will thereafter be invited to begin a discussion on this item.

#### **Documentation**

Informal document SC.1 (2024) No.2.

#### **(b) Trans-European North-South Motorway Project**

At the last session, the TEM Project Manager tabled a paper on road safety audit and road safety inspections containing an analysis of the current practices and tools in TEM region countries and recommendations (Informal document SC.1 (2023) No. 10). SC.1 appreciated the work that was undertaken and welcomed the suggestion by the TEM Project Manager to explore modalities to amend AGR to include road infrastructure safety management procedures, including tabling a document at this session. The TEM Project Manager will be invited to give an update.

Also at the last session, SC.1 welcomed the suggestion to use the TEM Project in collaboration with SC.1 as a capacity-building vehicle on RSA and RSI for the ECE region.

The Working Party invited the TEM Project Manager to work with the secretariat and the newly established informal group of experts on road infrastructure good practices to develop the suggestion further at this session. The informal group of experts will be invited to give an update on their progress.

## **5. Facilitation of international road transport**

### **(a) International Motor Insurance System (Green Card)**

At the 117th session, the Working Party approved changes to Annex 1 of RE.4 per ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1. The secretariat tabled Informal document SC.1 (2023) No. 5 which contained the clean version of the amended annex. SC.1 endorsed the document and requested the secretariat to arrange for the present version of RE.4 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.4) to be updated and submitted as a formal document at this session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2024/1) so that RE.4 may be translated into the ECE official languages and shared on the website of SC.1.

The Managing Director of the Council of Bureaux (CoB) will be invited to provide her yearly update on “Green Card system” over the past year.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2024/1

### **(b) Workshop on Cross-border insurance of motor vehicles**

At its 117th session, SC.1 was invited to participate in a workshop on cross-border insurance of motor vehicles jointly organized by ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC, ECA and ESCWA on 19 October 2022. Presentations were given by the insurance card organizations responsible for administering the Green, Blue, Orange, Brown and Yellow cards. The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop were contained in annex III of the report of that session (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/418).

At the last session, the secretariat informed SC.1 that a second workshop jointly organized by ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC and ECA, and hosted by COB at its premises in Brussels, was being organized on 31 October 2023. Furthermore, there was a possibility for a third workshop to be jointly organized by ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC and ECA, and hosted by GAIF in Dubai, UAE. The secretariat will give an update on the outcomes of those activities at this session.

## **6. Revision of SC.1 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

At its 117th session, SC.1 commenced its reading and consideration of Rules 1 to 28 of the Rules of Procedure contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2 and requested Germany to submit a revised document reflecting the changes made and the proposed rules to be revisited. At the last session, due to the departure of the former Transport Attaché with the German Permanent Mission occurring prior to the arrival of the new Attaché, a revised document was not submitted.

At the last session, the secretariat informed SC.1 of the operationalization of the revised ITC Terms of Reference, and of the follow up step that was included under Task 4.3 of the Implementation of ITC’s revised Terms of Reference (TOR) and Strategy until 2030 (ECE/TRANS/2023/3): “Operationalize ITC TOR and Rules of Procedure (ROP) and achieve necessary alignments to ITC TOR/ROP by its subsidiary bodies”. To assist SC.1 in this task, the secretariat prepared ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/6 which contained recommendations relevant to SC.1’s TOR and ROP based on annex II of ECE/TRANS/2023/4/Rev.1 (Draft Recommendations for Harmonized Elements in the TOR of ITC Working Parties). SC.1 discussed ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/6 from the Terms of Reference until Rule 1, paragraph 4(d) under Chapter I of its Rules of Procedure and made some changes.

SC.1 will be invited to continue its discussion at this session using ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/6/Rev.1 which incorporates the revisions made at the last session, and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2/Rev.1 if Germany wishes to submit such.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2023/6/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2020/2/Rev.1.

## **7. Activities of interest to the Working Party**

### **(a) National delegations**

National delegations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective countries.

### **(b) International organizations**

Representatives of international organizations may wish to provide information about road transport developments in their respective areas of work.

### **(c) Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations**

#### *(i) ITC related*

The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations entities of interest. In particular, the secretariat will inform SC.1 of the outcomes from ITC's 86th session in February 2024 relevant to SC.1.

As per the past sessions, the Working Party will be invited to provide its annual contribution to the implementation of the ITC Strategy. To assist SC.1, the secretariat has prepared Informal document SC.1 (2024) No.3 with suggested responses. SC.1 will be invited to review the document and approve or make changes as necessary.

#### *(ii) Workshop on road transport developments in view of the electrification of light- and heavy-duty vehicles*

At the last session, the secretariat organized a workshop with presentations by the Secretaries of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) and the Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) to facilitate discussion on the request by ITC to SC.1 of considering the making of a proposal on road transport developments in view of the electrification of light-duty vehicles (LDVs) and heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) and how best to arrange the development of charging infrastructure (ECE/TRANS/2023/23).

SC.1 appreciated the presentations and requested the secretariat to organize a half-day workshop at this session with presentations from industry and government to further generate discussion and ideas on an appropriate contribution by SC.1. Liechtenstein was invited to give a presentation on its relevant activities at this workshop.

#### *(iii) Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5)*

The Secretary of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) will be invited to provide an update on WP.5's work given the synergy with SC.1's work.

#### *(iv) Car sharing and car pooling*

The secretariat will be invited to provide an update on this project which anticipates the organization of a final workshop.

#### **Documentation**

Informal document SC.1 (2024) No.3



## 8. Election of officers

SC.1 will be invited to elect its officers for the period October 2024 to September 2027.

The current Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of SC.1 (Rule 12, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1) stipulate that “Every two years, SC.1 shall, at the end of the session of the second year, elect from the representatives of members of the ECE a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, who shall take office at the start of the session of the year following their election. The officers shall be eligible for re-election.” The current SC.1 officers are Dr. Roman Symonenko from Ukraine (Chair), Ms. Annija Novikova from Latvia (Vice-Chair) and Mr. K Lewczak from Poland (Vice-Chair).

In addition, Rule 29 of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1 stipulates that “Voting and elections of officers shall be held in accordance with Rules 37 to 391 of the Rules of Procedure of ECE.”<sup>1</sup> According to Rule 38<sup>2</sup>, “All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.”

### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/396/Add.1, E/ECE/778/Rev.5

## 9. Other business

At the last session, Türkiye tabled and introduced Informal document SC.1 (2023) No.10 which contained a suggestion to establish an international intergovernmental road organization. The European Union highlighted that they would need to study the proposal first. They expressed concerns that this would create duplications as the Terms of Reference of ITC have been approved by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2022 recognizing its regional and global role in inland transport. Türkiye was invited to submit further information on its proposal at this session if desired.

SC.1 may wish to consider other issues under this agenda item.

### Documentation

Informal document SC.1 (2023) No.10

## 10. Date of next session

The Working Party will be informed that its next session has been scheduled for 21 to 23 October 2025.

## 11. Adoption of the report

The Working Party will adopt the report of this session.

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<sup>1</sup> In the current (fifth revised edition) of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/778/Rev.5), the updated reference is to rules 41 to 43.

<sup>2</sup> The updated reference is to rule 42.