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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Thirty-seventh session

Geneva, 10 February 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 am on Monday 10 February 2024, Salle VIII.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Programme of Work:
 - (a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis;
 - (b) Appendix 1C;
 - (c) Amendment proposal to Article 4, paragraph 2.
3. Application of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”.
4. TACHOnet.
5. Analysis of implementation and extension of the MOU between the European Commission Services and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
6. Establishment of multiple root certification and interoperability centres.
7. Other Business.
8. Date and Place of Next Meeting.
9. Adoption of the Report.

* Delegates are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1011570/>

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt the session's agenda.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/79

2. Programme of Work

(a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

At the last session, the Group of Experts was informed that neither the Russian Federation nor the European Union have changed their positions regarding ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2. The Group will be invited to continue discussing this topic to aim at reaching a compromise solution. Moreover, the group would consider a proposal of amendments to the Agreement (AETR - Appendix 1B) (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/3-ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2024/4) submitted by Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and acting for all European Union Member States in the interest of the European Union, for discussion, in combination with agenda item 5.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2 and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/3-ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2024/4

(b) Appendix 1C

At the last session, the European Union informed the Group that it was still reviewing ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/3 (the Russian Federation comments on ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 i.e. Portugal's proposal on Appendix 1C). At this session, the Group will be invited to discuss and provide comments to ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 together with ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/1 and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/3 (which contain comments of the Russian Federation) as well as with the comments of the European Union.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/3

(c) Amendment proposal to Article 4, paragraph 2

At the last session, Belarus and the Russian Federation recalled ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/4 which proposes to amend Article 4 to facilitate the application of the AETR Agreement in the "force majeure" situations. The European Union reiterated its firm opposition to the proposal as it would fundamentally weaken enforcement – and thus effectiveness - of the AETR Agreement. At this session, the Group will be invited to continue discussing this topic.

Moreover, Contracting Parties would be invited to express their position on the proposal of the Russian Federation regarding the amendment to articles 4 and 10 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/2).

As requested, the secretariat prepared an informal document elaborating the "characteristics" of "force majeure" situations (informal document SC.1-GE.21-36-01). The Group will be invited to discuss the document.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2023/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/2, Informal document SC.1-GE.21-36-01

3. Application of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”

The Group will be invited to continue exchanging information on this subject.

4. TACHOnet

At the last session, the European Union did not submit a revised version of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3 (a proposal to introduce a new Appendix 4 on exchange of information). The Group will be invited to discuss the revised document (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.4) if, and when, submitted.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.4

5. Analysis of implementation and extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between European Commission Services and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The secretariat will inform the Group about the current status of extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between European Commission Services and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for the period of 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026 via signing of the Administrative Arrangement (AA) (GE.77-36-02-Rev.1).

The group may wish to note that ECE Secretariat had been provided with a mandate to sign the Administrative Arrangement (AA) (GE.77-36-02-Rev.1) by SC.1, voting by majority of Contracting Parties at the October 2024 session.

Contracting Parties would be invited to consider a proposal from the Russian Federation (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/1) whose approach would better satisfy Russian Federation and Belarus with proper and equal distribution of keys and therefore could provide the basis for full implementation of AETR.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/422 paras. 10-16
ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/1
Informal document GE.77-36-02-Rev.1

6. Establishment of multiple root certification and interoperability centres

At the last session, the group took note of the proposal of the Russian Federation to include in the agenda of the next session a new item "Establishment of several centres of root certification and interoperability", as well as Turkey reminded of unofficial document No. 2 (October 2023), concerning the establishment of several centres of root certification and interoperability, and reported that it was not the same as noted by other experts.

The group is proposed to continue consideration of these issues on the basis of Turkey's proposals, taking into account the provisions of document ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/7, paragraphs 100-107 and other interested parties and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2024/2, in the context of Article 10.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/7, paras. 100-107, Informal document No. 2 (October 2023)

7. Other Business

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other business.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 June 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

9. Adoption of the Report

The Group of Experts will adopt the report of this session.
