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Executive Committee

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Decision on matters relating to Inland Transport Committee: Establishment of a Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Note by the secretariat

1. At its seventy-third session (Geneva, 1-3 March 2011), the Inland Transport Committee discussed the urgency and importance of addressing some key issues related to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). As a result, the Committee decided to transform the existing informal AETR expert group, set up by decision of the 105th session of SC.1, to a formal Expert Group for all Contracting Parties of AETR and EU. The Committee urged this Group to continue its work, establish its Terms of Reference (ToR) and report to the Bureau and to SC.1 at the next session (ECE/TRANS/221, para.44).
2. The ToR of the AETR Expert Group has been prepared in line with the ECE Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists. The Expert Group, in general, will aim at amending a complex Article 22bis and examining, and if necessary modifying, the relationship between AETR and EU laws.
3. In accordance with the Guidelines, participation in the Expert Group would be open to all ECE member States, all AETR Contracting Parties and the European Union. The Expert Group will also include eminent specialists or representatives of international organizations, NGOs and the private sector, in compliance with the UN rules and practices in this respect. The expected duration of the Expert Group is approximately two years (until December 2013) with a possibility of extension if necessary. The Expert Group's parent body will be Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1).
4. The Expert Group will be established without the need for additional resources. Support work will be provided within the existing capacities of the ECE secretariat. UNOG resources will be used for interpretation and conference services.
5. The Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of the AETR Expert Group and its Terms of Reference (attached).

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

1. To develop proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, in particular Article 22bis (which stipulates procedure for the amendment of Appendix 1B), including the creation of a new institutional arrangement such as an administrative committee.
2. To examine, and if necessary develop proposals to modify, the relationship between the AETR and the corresponding EU legislation pertaining to road transport/social rules.
3. To describe and assess issues related to the exchange of information with respect to the issuance of digital tachograph cards. This may include developing proposals to modify the existing information exchange platforms and/or to develop a new standardized method for exchange of AETR-related information.
4. To describe and analyze issues related to:
 - (a) the memorandum of understanding between the ECE and European Commission Services which recognizes the Joint Research Centre (JRC) as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR;
 - (b) the possibility of establishing other certification bodies/authorities.
5. To examine and possibly develop proposals concerning third-country rights and obligations under the AETR Agreement.
6. To assess the need and feasibility of providing assistance to AETR Contracting Parties concerning the implementation of the amendments to the AETR made on the basis of Article 22 bis concerning Commission Regulations (EU) No. 1266/2009 and 68/2009.
