Submitted by the Chair of
WP.29 informal group on DETA

Informal document WP.29-155-31
(155th WP.29, 15 - 18 November 2011,
agenda item 4.5.)

Request for decisions by WP.29 on the development of the DETA application

1.   The World Forum WP.29 directed the DETA group to consider the viability of a database to manage UNECE approvals and allow access to approval information by various users. WP.29 also asked DETA to consider improving the type approval process and to foster world-wide collaboration.

In the context of improving the type approval process, a primary driver for this work was the desire in GTB to simplify the current complex lamp marking requirements that result in a mark that is costly for industry to place on a product but is of little value in an enforcement situation.

2.   The DETA group reviewed in its meetings the existing EU ETAES database, noticed a demonstration of a mock-up UNECE database on the ETAES platform, studied other electronic approval systems and considered the concept of a unique product identifier that would give access to copies of all approvals held by the product globally. A try-out of the software has been started recently.

3.   The informal group on DETA recognizes that the EU ETAES application can fulfil all the needs that are expressed for the DETA application. Therefore the informal group considers that the DETA application can be based on the same principles as the ETAES application. <u>WP.29 is requested to consider and approve at its March 2012 session the approach of the informal group that the DETA system shall be based on the same application that is used by ETAES in the European Union</u>. For further progress of the development of the DETA application other decisions by WP.29 are needed. It concerns topics like the legal status, a steering committee, the server (hosting of hardware), the financing schemes, the unique identifier and the implementing stages of the system.

4.   Legal Basis
There is currently no obligation for Contracting Party Approval Authorities to use electronic communication for circulation of approvals. If the database is established and is to be fully effective then there is a need for amendments to the 1958 and 1998 Agreements to require the mandatory use of the database. If it is not used by all approval authorities, then the system has lost its entire value for the simplification of the markings and for enforcement bodies for technical verification of vehicles. The principle could be that the DETA application shall be used where the relevant UN-regulations require so. <u>The informal group on DETA seeks WP.29's decision at its March 2012 session to create such a legal basis in those Agreements which mandates the use of the DETA application where relevant UN regulations require so.</u> A proposal for an amendment to the 1958 Agreement has been presented to the WP.29 informal group on IWVTA; however, it was agreed that this proposal should have been presented directly to WP.29.

5.   Steering Committee
While the EU ETAES application has been realized by the EU approval authorities in an informal manner, the informal group considers that a formal DETA system is required with a governing board with members and elected officers as the application becomes part of the legislation with obligations like financing issues. The informal group considers that an informal group with a time limited mandate which is not appropriate. Such a board under the umbrella of WP.29 will have to take decisions which are needed for the maintenance, financing and improvement of the application. <u>The informal group on DETA seeks WP.29's decision at its March 2012 session to establish such a board as soon as the DETA application becomes operational.</u>

6.   Implementing stages of the system

The DETA application will finally be applied by several users: approval authorities, industry and enforcements bodies like the police, customs or bodies performing periodical inspections. For type approval authorities the application can be used very quickly; for other users the application needs further developments like applications for providing enforcement bodies with the requested information. The informal group on DETA seeks WP.29's decision at its March 2012 session to agree that the DETA application will be introduced in several stages, to begin with the uploading of type approval documentation by the approval authorities and only as it is required by the relevant UN Regulations under the 1958 Agreement. At later stages, the extension of the application for industry and enforcement bodies may follow.

7.   Financing.

The willingness of the users to pay the initial and annual costs for the DETA system depends on the benefits they expect to have. The benefits vary from user to user. Some users expect important benefits while others might not see any benefits. The most ideal situation would be that the UN organisation covers all the cost but the informal group considers also alternative financing schemes. It is clear that without an appropriate financing scheme, there will be no DETA system. WP.29 is invited to confirm, at its March 2012 session, that the financing of the system is a precondition for the development of the DETA application and that the informal group will have to elaborate a concrete financing scheme.

8.   Server

A server is needed for the application of the software. ICT section of UNOG investigated the possibilities for the deployment of the DETA application within the environment of the UN. With regard to the feasibility study and confidentiality clauses further information is available in documents WP.29-139-09 and DETA-12-04. The informal group prefers hosting the server within the UN organisation, including the technical support and financial administration, as initially requested by WP.29. The informal group seeks WP.29 confirmation, at its March 2012 session, to support this preference on hosting the future DETA server within the UNECE.

9.   Unique identifier

A key for access to the information given in the database can be a unique identifier. This unique identifier can be generated by the software of the system. It will be used for all approvals granted to the specific product. To be recognizable on the product it should be preceded by a symbol. The informal group advices to use the truncated symbol that is used in UN Regulation No. 48. As an example, a unique identifier would look as follows: (UI)39886

The informal group seeks WP.29's approval at its March 2012 session on this principle for those UN Regulations which will require this simplified marking in future.

10.   In this respect, the informal group will provide a **detailed roadmap addressing the above mentioned topics**, including a time schedule in line with the IWVTA roadmap, for consideration and adoption by **WP.29 in March 2012**.

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