



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 November 2014

Original: English

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)

Ninth session

Geneva, 27 October 2014

Report of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) on its ninth session

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I. Attendance

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its ninth session in Geneva on 27 October 2014, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. The representatives of non-ECE member States also participated: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
4. The European Union (EU), EuroMed and International Road Transport Union (IRU) also participated. Continental Automotive participated as observer.

II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)

5. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/21).

III. Final report (agenda item 2)

6. The Group of Experts discussed a draft report of its accomplishments (Informal document No.1). The Group made a number of changes and requested the secretariat to submit the revised document (Informal document No.1/Rev.1) to the next SC.1 session on 28-29 October 2014.

IV. Programme of work (agenda item 3)

A. Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

7. Experts did not discuss this agenda item.
8. At the last session, experts requested the secretariat seek legal opinion from the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) as to whether it is possible for a non-Contracting Party (i.e. a regional integration organization) to vote on behalf of its members (which are Contracting Parties). The secretariat informed the Group that OLA was unaware of this mechanism being used in any United Nations treaty or elsewhere.

B. Amendment proposals of AETR, Article 14

9. The Group of Experts continued its discussions on how to revise Article 14 which currently limits accession to the AETR only to UNECE member States. The secretariat has prepared ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/23 that contains four options for changing Article 14. The Expert Group decided to support the following wording of a revised Article 14
10. "1. This Agreement shall be open for signature until 31 March 1971 and thereafter for accession, by States members of the Economic Commission for Europe and States admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 or 11 of the Commission's terms of reference. Accessions under paragraph 11 of the Commission's

terms of reference shall be limited to the following States: Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.”

11. The secretariat reminded the experts that only a Contracting Party may propose an amendment.

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

12. The Group of Experts did not discuss this agenda item.

D. Exchange of information on issuing digital tachograph cards

13. The Group of Experts did not discuss this agenda item.

V. Other business (agenda item 4)

14. The Group of Experts discussed issues related to audits of certified workshops.

VI. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 5)

15. There are no future sessions of GE.21 scheduled at this time. The secretariat provided an overview of various options available, should it prove necessary for the Group to continue its work beyond 2014 (Section 3, points (e) - (h), ECE/EX/2/Rev.1).

VII. Adoption of the Report (agenda item 6)

16. The Expert Group adopted the report of this session (as well as of the seventh and eighth sessions as this was not formally recorded in ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/18 and ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/20).
