

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

Fifty-ninth session

Geneva, 22-24 March 2010

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Date of next session

Note by the secretariat

At its 104th session held in October 2009 the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) decided to start an amendment process of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) to include procedures relating to road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, the management of road network safety, as well as safety inspections in the AGR.

Road safety is a multi-disciplinary issue and therefore SC.1 agreed to develop synergies with other working parties of the UNECE; as a first step the SC.1 decided to propose to the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) a one-day long joint session, on 29 September 2009, to discuss issues of common interest. The letter addressed by the Chairman of SC.1 to the Chairperson of WP.1 is included in the present document as Annex 1.



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Our reference
 VENW/DGMO-2010-99

Your reference
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Dear Dr. Iorio, *Dear Dr Iorio,*

Enclosure(s)
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Many governments give the issue of road safety high priority. Road safety can positively be influenced by many factors such as road infrastructure, the quality of vehicles and behaviour of drivers. Furthermore (accident) statistics are one of the tools to determine the areas where progress is made and where additional efforts could be effective. Depending on the local and regional situation the mix of measures increase road safety. Various UN ECE fora deal with these issues.

At its 104th session held in October 2009 the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) decided to start an amendment process of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) to include procedures relating to road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, the management of road network safety, as well as safety inspections in the AGR.

During the debate, it was recalled that it was the responsibility of the governments to provide road safety but this requires significant will, commitment, efforts and funds. It was also pointed out that issues like the road safety component of infrastructure projects and its financing are of fundamental importance but they are not within the competencies of SC.1.

Road safety is a multi-disciplinary issue and therefore SC.1 agreed to develop synergies with other working parties of the UNECE; as a first step the SC.1 decided to propose to the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) a one-day long joint session, on 29 September 2009, to discuss issues of common interest. The outcome of this combined meeting / conference could also be of major importance with a view sharing best UN ECE practices with other interested organisations and parties.

In the opinion of SC.1 the agenda of such a joint session would contain two substance issues and the item proposed by the SC.1 is "the possible creation of a small expert group from both working parties to deal with road safety audits for infrastructure". This group could also built upon the experiences in for example the EU framework and the World Bank funded International Road Assessment Program.

Hoping to receive a positive reply to the proposal made by the Working Party on Road Transport, and looking forward to meeting you in the joint session, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Bob Oudshoorn
 Chairman of SC.1

cc. Mrs. Virginia Tanase, Secretary to the SC.1 and WP.1