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### 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)

##### Tenth session

Geneva, 26 October 2015

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

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## **I. Attendance**

1. The AETR Group of Experts held its tenth session in Geneva on 26 October 2015, chaired by Mr. R. Symonenko (Ukraine).
2. Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.
3. The European Union (EU), Council of Bureaux (CoB), International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) and International Road Transport Union (IRU) also participated. Continental Automotive participated as an observer.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

4. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/25) and added two additional items under "Other business".

## **III. Programme of work (agenda item 2)**

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

5. Experts continued to discuss the proposed changes to Article 22bis as well as to Article 14 (to make regional economic integration organizations eligible to accede) based on the consolidated proposal in the annex of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/20. The Group of Experts had been informed that the positions of the Russian Federation and the European Union had not changed since the last session.
6. The Group of Experts discussed the issue of a number of interoperability certification centres and invited the Russian Federation to consider submitting a document at the next session to propose amending Appendix 1B, Article 2, item 2.4.5 to allow for testing for interoperability by more than a single competent body.
7. As an alternative to the above, the Russian Federation proposed to remove Article 22bis from the AETR Agreement.
8. The Group of Experts also invited the Joint Research Centre to attend the next session to provide information concerning requests by the Russian Federation and Turkey related to certification procedures and requirements for interoperability certification centres.

### **B. An update of Amendment proposals of AETR, Article 14**

9. The Group of Experts was informed about the status of the amendment proposal which, if accepted, would allow four non-UNECE member States to accede to the AETR Agreement. The secretariat informed the Group of Experts that due to notification on 7 May 2015 of the Secretary-General by the Government of the Netherlands invoking Article 21(2(b)), the acceptance or rejection of the amendment proposal of 18 February 2015 will only be determined by 18 May 2016 (i.e. nine months later than originally expected).

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

10. The Group of Experts exchanged views on the application of the Regulation 561/2006 given that the objective of amending the AETR Agreement in 2006 had been to harmonize the two regimes for driving times and rest periods. The Chair called upon national enforcement authorities to provide information about their policies on enforcing regulation 561/2006 in AETR.

**D. Exchange of information on issuing digital tachograph cards**

11. At the seventh session, experts agreed to support the tabling of an amendment proposal to introduce new Article 10bis (presented in the annex of ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/20). At the current session, none of the Contracting Parties volunteered to table this amendment proposal.

12. Turkey informed the Group of Experts about a project to establish a national driving times and rest periods data monitoring centre. The Group of Experts invited Turkey to make a detailed presentation on this project at the next session.

**IV. EU Regulation No. 165/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (agenda item 3)**

13. The representative of EC presented its work on the technical annex to the European regulations on technical specifications for smart, second generation digital tachograph to be agreed by March 2016 and to enter into force as of March 2019.

14. The Expert Group expressed concerns about introducing the second generation tachograph in the European Union and on the impact on AETR Contracting Parties outside of the European Union.

15. The Expert Group requested the European Commission make a presentation at the next session on what should the transition mechanism be for introducing the smart, second generation digital tachograph and whether and how it would like to introduce the provision of the smart tachograph into the AETR Agreement.

**V. The Memorandum of Understanding which recognizes the Joint Research Centre as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU AETR Contracting Parties (agenda item 4)**

16. The secretariat informed the Group of Experts about the signing of extension of the Memorandum of Understanding which recognizes the Joint Research Centre as the authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU AETR Contracting Parties. The extended Memorandum is now in effect and will expire on 30 June 2017.

**VI Other business (agenda item 5)**

17. Under this agenda item, the secretariat informed the Group of Experts, upon the request of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, about a large number of border crossings closures (with Croatia and Hungary) due to the current refugee crisis. The

closures have led to major disruptions of international road transport, including prevalent non-compliance with AETR provisions on driving times and rest periods. The Government of Serbia requested all AETR authorities undertaking inspections to take this exceptional situation into account.

18. The secretariat also informed the Group of Experts about its joint work with the Euromed Transport Project to prepare and publish an “AETR Road Map”.

## **VII. Date and place of next meeting (agenda item 6)**

19. The Group of Experts was informed that the next meeting is scheduled for 26 February 2016 in the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Group of Experts requested the secretariat to move, if possible, the date to 22 February 2016. (Note by the secretariat: Subsequent to the adoption of this report, the secretariat arranged the next session to take place on 22 February 2016 in Palais des Nations in Geneva.)

## **VIII. Adoption of decisions (agenda item 7)**

20. The Expert Group adopted decisions taken at this session.

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