Note by the secretariat

Informal document **WP.29-170-27**
170th WP.29, 15-18 November 2016
Agenda item 4.2.1.

IEC certification schemes and ITU

A.   Introduction

Documentation: GRSG-111-40, ITS/AD-09-15

1.   In June 2016, WP.29 and its subsidiary bodies received a presentation from UL (ITS/AD-09-15) stating their experience within other frameworks and in October 2016 GRSG received a presentation (GRSG-111-40) from ITU related to potential future activities in the framework of the IEC certification schemes.

2.   In August 2016, ITU sent a notification to UNECE informing the secretariat about the incorporation of an ITU-Recommendation in a UN Regulation (which was premature as this Regulation is still in the phase of being drafted). It also informs UNECE about the intention of an ITU committee to propose to ISO/IEC the inclusion of the ITU-Recommendation into an IEC certification scheme.

B.   IEC/ISO certification schemes

3.   The IEC System for Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE), is a multilateral certification system based on IEC International Standards. Its members use the principle of **mutual recognition** (reciprocal acceptance) of test results to obtain certification or approval at national levels around the world. IECEE covers 23 categories of electrical and electronic equipment and testing services.

4.   IECEx, IECQ and IECRE are similar IEC certification schemes for electronics in explosive environments (Ex), electronic components (Q) and renewable energy (RE).

C.   Possible interaction with WP.29's work

5.   Future issues that may arise when a standard is part of two different schemes (e.g. WP.29, IECEE) both including mutual recognition obligations. The risk could be that, if manufacturers design products in compliance with a particular standard falling in the scope of a UN Regulation and also being part of a certification scheme with mutual recognition, they might request the recognition of his certificate even though they didn't receive an approval in accordance with the corresponding UN Regulation. This might cause a legal uncertainty for the authorities or multiply the burden for manufacturers, who would have to go through two certifications processes, if not managed carefully.