

Concept Note

**Facilitation of participation of EuroMed Experts
to selected UNECE Intergovernmental bodies**

**173th session of the World Forum for the Harmonization of
Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)**



Geneva, 14-17 November 2017

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1. Background

The Ministers responsible for Transport of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have agreed on the importance of Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation founded on the two complementary pillars: (i) regulatory reform and convergence in all relevant different transport sectors (maritime, civil aviation, road, railway and urban transport); and (ii) establishment of the future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T), to be connected with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). To this end two Regional Transport Action Plans (RTAPs) have been elaborated by the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum for the Mediterranean Region, the first RTAP concerning 2007-2013 and the new one for the period 2014-2020.

In order to complement the work of the EuroMed Transport program in the land transport sector and assist the implementation of the RTAPs, the European Union has launched two EuroMed Regional Transport Projects. The "Road, Rail and Urban Transport" (EuroMed RRU) that lasted 5 years (2012-2016), aimed at supporting the implementation of the Trans Mediterranean Transport Network (TMT-N) by developing appropriate regulatory framework and operational conditions to facilitate cross-border transport, to enhance land transport safety and to promote sustainable and efficient urban transport. And the new one "EuroMed Transport Support Project" that started in January this year and will last 4 years, aiming to increase the sustainability and performance of transport operations in the Mediterranean region through Increased safety in transport operations; increased efficiency / lower costs of transport; lower environmental impact of transport, thus contributing to regional economic integration, economic well-being and job creation. The project covers Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, State of Palestine and Tunisia.

Action 9 of the 2014-2020 RTAP for the Mediterranean Region calls upon the EuroMed Partner countries in addition to adhere to and effectively implement the main United Nations road transport agreements and conventions, to also participate in the work of main international transport road organizations, such as UNECE.

In this regard the Activity 1A.4 of the new project aims at supporting participation of EuroMed experts to UNECE intergovernmental bodies. Participation of experts from EuroMed Partner countries to selected UNECE intergovernmental bodies was facilitated during EuroMed RRU. The present activity is a continuation of that. The general objective of this activity is to allow EuroMed countries continue getting experiences from the work implemented in the UNECE Intergovernmental bodies administering the main UN Road Transport Agreements that would facilitate their

efforts of acceding to and implementing them in their respective countries. Six (6) UNECE intergovernmental meetings were proposed to which the participation of EuroMed RRU country experts should be facilitated as follows:

- The Inland Transport Committee (ITC);
- Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1);
- The Working Party on Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11);
- The Sub Committee on Road Transport (SC.1);
- The Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15);
- The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29).

In the year 2017 three events, out of the above six were included in the annual work plan of the project for implementation. The 79th Session of UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and Ministerial Meeting, 21 – 24 February 2017, in which high level experts from six EuroMed countries attended, the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), to be held in Geneva, 19-21 September 2017 and the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), to be held in Geneva, 14-17 November 2017. Next year's work plan would include the 80th Session of ITC, to be held in Geneva, 20-23 February 2018, WP.11, SC.1 and WP.15.

The present Concept Note concerns 173th session of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), Sub-activity 1A.4.2 of the EuroMed Transport Support Project.

2. The World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

The UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) is a unique worldwide regulatory forum within the institutional framework of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee.

Three UN Agreements, adopted in 1958, 1997 and 1998, provide the legal framework allowing Contracting Parties (member countries) attending the WP.29 sessions to establish regulatory instruments concerning motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment:

- Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of These Prescriptions, of 1958;

- Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles, of 1998;
- Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections, of 1997.

Overall, the regulatory framework developed by the World Forum WP.29 allows the market introduction of innovative vehicle technologies, while continuously improving global vehicle safety. The framework enables decreasing environmental pollution and energy consumption, as well as the improvement of anti-theft capabilities.

WP.29 established six permanent Working Parties (GRs), i.e. subsidiary bodies that consider specialized tasks, consisting of people with a specific expertise: Noise (GRB), Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE), Pollution and Energy (GRPE), Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF), General Safety Provisions (GRSG) and Passive Safety (GRSP). The World Forum WP.29 also established (and continues to establish) a number of Informal Working Groups (IWGs) with a time-limited mandate to deal with certain technical issues.

WP.29 meets three times a year (WP.29 sessions are usually held in March, June and November). Each of the WP.29 Working Parties holds two sessions per year, while meetings of the informal working groups are scheduled according to rules that are set up in each of them, depending on their particular needs. Any country, that is member of the United Nations, may participate in its activities and is invited to adhere to one or more of these vehicle agreements. Governmental organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also welcome to participate in the work of the World Forum, but in their case, in a consultative capacity.

A comprehensive overview of WP.29, beginning with a brief history from its inception as a regional forum through its recent transformation into a world forum, is available in the following publication:

www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/wp29pub.html

3. Objectives

The general objective of the Activity is to allow EuroMed countries to get experiences from the work implemented in the UNECE Intergovernmental bodies

administering the main UN Road Transport Agreements that would facilitate their efforts of acceding to and implementing them in their respective countries.

The specific objectives are to:

- Build capacity of representatives and experts of competent Ministries of the EuroMed partner countries relating to the implementation of the Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of These Prescriptions, of 1958 (the 1958 Agreement), the Agreement concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles, of 1998 (the 1998 Agreement) and the Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections, of 1997 (the 1997 Agreement);
- Familiarize EuroMed Partner country experts with the work developed by the World Forum for the harmonization of vehicle regulations (WP.29) in supervising and managing the 1958 Agreement, the 1998 Agreement and the 1997 Agreement;
- Enhance knowledge with the main issues, constraints, requirements and benefits from acceding to and implementing of these Agreements and other road transport related legal instruments administered by WP.29;
- Take part in the process of the negotiation of necessary modification of these Agreements;
- Be part of the European and international network of governments and non-government experts dealing with these Agreements;
- Promote regional issues of interest to EuroMed countries;
- Meet with UNECE and other officials and experts dealing with the relevant issues from the public and private sectors from Europe and beyond.

EuroMed Partner country experts participating in this activity under the project, should be ready, if required, to provide a 5-minute presentation on their country situation on the implementation of Vehicle Regulations, main challenges and needs.

4. Time and Venue

Time: 14 – 17 November 2017, starting on 14 November at 09:30hrs

Four (4) overnight stays in Geneva.

Venue: Palais des Nations (1211 Geneva 10)

5. Target Groups

The present sub-activity concerns all EuroMed Partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia).

The main target group whose participation to the 173th session of the WP.29 will be facilitated, one official of the Ministry of Transport or any other Competent Government Authority responsible for the Vehicle Regulations per country for four (4) overnight stays in Geneva, (13 ,14,15 et 16 November 2017), preferably the Director of the respective Department of Ministry or equivalent.

In addition to the personal invitation to be sent to each EuroMed Partner country experts upon their nomination, a visa support letter or fax, may be sent by UNECE to the respective Swiss Embassy in the concerned EuroMed countries, upon request.

While, EuroMed country expert's participation in this meeting under the project funding, is limited to one participant per country, countries may decide to increase the number of their experts participating, at their own cost.

Participating experts must be fluent in one of the three official UNECE languages (English, French or Russian) in which there will be simultaneous interpretations during the meetings, since no Arab interpretation is foreseen.

In view of the importance of women engagement with the project, participation of women will be encouraged.

EuroMed experts attending the events are reminded of their participation as observers, and with the support of the RRU project, should not entail any position in contradiction or on behalf of the EU.

6. Preliminary Program

The session will be divided into several parts, which will cover all 4 days of the Session. All sessions will be in plenum. English, French and Russian interpretation will be provided. For the annotated provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of WP.23

visit:<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/wp29age.html>

Travel and Arrival: Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel and Arrival: Departure of participants
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13 November 2017	from their countries and arrival to Switzerland, Geneva International Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer from Airport to Hotel in Geneva (see in annex)
DAY 1: Tuesday 14 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer to Palais des Nations: Information to follow soon• 173thSession of the WP.29, Palais des Nations
DAY 2: Wednesday 15 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 173thSession of the WP.29, Continued• Working dinner with UNECE
DAY 3: Thursday 16 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 173thSession of the WP.29, Continued
Departure: Friday 17 November 2017	Transfer to Geneva airport and departure of participants to their countries (see in annex)

7. Organization and funding

The Team Leader and Road Transport KE and the Senior Vehicle Regulations NKE, the Junior NKEs, the Project Officer and UNECE will prepare the organizational aspects of facilitation of participation of the EuroMed Experts to the 173thSession of the WP.29.

Participants should confirm their participation to Mr. Michalis . Adamantiadis, Team Leader and Road Transport Key Expert (Michali.Adamantiadi@etsp.eu) and Ms. Imen Kilani, Junior Event's Organizer NKE (kilanimen@gmail.com).

The European Commission will be pleased, under EuroMed TSP, to facilitate the participation of one expert for each EuroMed Partner country to the 173th session of the WP.29, in Geneva. Travel, hotel and other related costs, for up to 4 overnight stays in Geneva, will be covered by the project in accordance with the provisions of the EU external aid. Due to budgetary constraints at the project, a reduced per diem

in Switzerland of EUR 300, instead of EUR 348, will be provided to the participating experts on the spot, less the actual cost of the Hotel booked for them by the project.

EuroMed RRU has ensured an optimal Hotel accommodation solution aimed at keeping the actual travel costs at the lower possible level, based on your arrival in Geneva on 13 November and departure on 17 November. Your air tickets will be also booked by EuroMed TSP.

Information on the Hotel and transfer from/to Hotel/ Palais des Nations/Airport annexed.

Information regarding the booking of the air tickets will be communicated separately with the experts upon the confirmation of their participation.

8. Indicators

OVI (Objectively Verifiable Indicator)	Source of verification
By the end of project, at least 3 countries whose experts' participation was facilitated, expressed commitment to accede and or fully implement one of the respective UN legal instruments administered by WP.29, or 3 of them have made progress in the accession to one or the three relevant legal instruments	Communications from countries and from UNECE secretariat
The participation of experts from EuroMed Partner countries was appreciated by them and considered useful	Communications from EuroMed Partner countries, official reports of the respective UNECE intergovernmental meetings, press releases etc.
Women engagement	Percentage of women experts whose participation was facilitated

The English version of this document is the original

Annex

Hotel booked and instructions on how to reach the Hotel and how to go to the Palais des Nations and the City

Details of the Hotel booked

Lake Geneva Hotel, Route de Suisse 79,
1290 Versoix, Genève
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 907 81 11, Fax: +41 (0) 22 907 81 19
E-mail: info@lakegenevahotel.ch
<http://www.lakegenevahotel.ch/>

From the Airport to the Hotel

Before passing the customs control at the arrival search for a Free Ticket at the automatic machine just opposite the luggage claim and before the exit door.

Go to the trains - take the first train going to Geneva (All trains stop first at Geneva (Central Station)) - Disembark of the train at Geneva Station (first stop) and go to Lane 1 (Voie 1) - Take (R-Region) train direction COPPET - train every half hour (.... 14.02, 14.32, 15.02, 15.32) – Disembark at Versoix – The Lake Geneva Hotel is 200 m behind the Building “Bolero”.

From the Hotel to the Palais des Nations, to the City, to the Airport

Go to Versoix Station Lane 1 (Voie 1) and take the (R-Region) train direction Genève – Lancy – Pont- Rouge - Train every half hour (.... 14.09, 14.39, 15.09, 15.39)

To the Palais des Nations

Disembark at Sécheron – The Palais des Nations is at 5 minutes walk to your left

To the City

Disembark at Genève (Cornavin Station)

To the Airport

Disembark at Genève (Cornavin Station) - Go to Lane 3 (Voie 3) – Take any train going to the Airport

The Hotel will give you free of charge daily public transport tickets which you can use for all modes of public transport in the city of Geneva (Train, Tram, Bus)