

## Concept Note

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

### 81<sup>st</sup> session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC)



**Palais des Nations  
Geneva, 19-22 February 2019**



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## 1. Background

Action 9 of the 2014-20120 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 EuroMed Transport Support 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);
- The 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 (6) 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, the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), held in Geneva, 19-21 September 2017, and the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), held in Geneva, 14-17 November 2017.

For 2018 year, the work plan included the 80th Session of ITC, held in Geneva, 20-23 February 2018, the 77th Session of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), held in Geneva, 18-21 September 2018, the 105th Session of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15), held in Geneva, 6-9 November 2018, and the 176th Session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), held in Geneva, 13-16 November 2018. More UNECE intergovernmental meetings are planned for implementation in 2019 and in 2020.

The present Concept Note concerns the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the Inland Transport Committee, to be held in Geneva, 19-22 February 2019.

## 2. The UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is the highest policy-making body of the UNECE in the field of transport. During the last 70 years, together with its subsidiary bodies, the ITC has provided a pan-European intergovernmental forum, where UNECE member countries come together to forge tools for economic cooperation and negotiate and adopt international legal instruments on inland transport. These legal instruments are considered indispensable for developing efficient, harmonized and integrated, safe and sustainable pan-European transport systems. Considered as the international best practices, these legal instruments are accepted by many countries worldwide. High transport officials from all UNECE member countries and countries from other parts of the world, together with high representatives from European and International Organizations and transport related institutions, are usually attending the annual sessions of the ITC.

## 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 to the respective Ministries of the EuroMed partner countries relating to the implementation of the main road transport legal instruments;
- Familiarize EuroMed Partner country high officials with the work developed by UNECE ITC in supervising and managing the main international Road Transport Agreements administered by it;
- Enhance knowledge with the main issues, constraints, requirements and benefits from acceding to and implementing of the main UN road transport Agreements;
- Take part in the process of the negotiation of necessary modification of the respective Agreements and related events;
- Be part of the European and international network of governments and non-government experts dealing with the main UNECE road transport Agreements;
- Meet with UNECE and other officials and experts dealing with the relevant issues from the public and private sectors from Europe and beyond.



#### 4. Time and Venue

**Time:** 19 – 22 February 2019  
Four (4) overnight stays in Geneva.

**Venue:** Palais des Nations (1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland)

#### 5. Target Groups

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

EuroMed country expert's participation in the meeting is limited to one participant, the EuroMed National Coordinator, per country.

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.

#### 6. Preliminary Program

The EuroMed countries' National Coordinators or their representatives, whose participation will be supported, will attend the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC), to be held in Geneva, 19-22 February 2019, in the Palais des Nations, starting at 10.00. For the Provisional Agenda of the 81<sup>st</sup> ITC session visit:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49440>

For the official documents of the 81<sup>st</sup> ITC Session visit:

[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itc\\_doc\\_2019.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itc_doc_2019.html)

The 81st annual session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) in 2019 is expected to mark a milestone in its history. The Committee is expected to decide on the adoption of its strategy until 2030. The 2019 plenary session will start on 19 February (a.m.), with a high-level policy segment on "Automation in Transport", followed by a governments-only restricted session (p.m.), where the Committee will debate and decide on its Strategy until 2030, to better position it in a fast-changing global policy environment.

The high-level policy segment will be enriched by side events and exhibitions or demonstrations of new technologies related to the automation in transport.

The regular session of the Committee will start on 20 February and for two-and-a-half-days, important topics on the future of inland transport governance will be discussed. The most important topics to be debated and decided upon include Road

Safety, including the setting up of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund; automation; Intelligent Transport Systems, digitalization; e-documents, including eCMR and eTIR; the transport of dangerous goods; border-crossing facilitation and much more.

You can find the preliminary weekly programme [here](#)

A meeting of the EuroMed TSP Partner Country Delegation with H.E. Mr. Jean Todt, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety is being organized during the first day of the ITC.

Meetings with the UNECE Management are also foreseen, while a working dinner is planned to take place in the evening of the second day. The preliminary programme is illustrated below.

<p><b>Travel and Arrival:</b> <b>Monday, 18 Feb. 2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Travel and Arrival:</b> Departure of participants from their countries and arrival to Switzerland, Geneva International Airport</li> <li>• <b>Transfer from Airport to Hotel in Geneva</b> (see in Annex)</li> </ul> <p><u>Details of the Hotel booked as follows:</u></p> <p><b>Lake Geneva Hotel</b> Route de Suisse 79 1290 Versoix Genève - Suisse Tel.: +41 (0) 22 907 81 11 E-mail: info@lakegenevahotel.ch <a href="http://www.lakegenevahotel.ch/">http://www.lakegenevahotel.ch/</a></p>
<p><b>DAY 1 :</b> <b>Tuesday, 9 Feb. 2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transfer to Palais des Nations:</b> The Team Leader and Road Transport Key Expert and the Evets Organizer of the EuroMed TSP will meet the participants at 08.00 at the Lobby of the Hotel</li> <li>• <b>High-level policy segment</b> on "Automation in Transport", Room XVII (10:00-13:00)</li> <li>• <b>Side Event – Digitalization and e-documents,</b> Room VII (15:00-18:00)</li> <li>• <b>Meeting with H.E. Jean Todt</b> (to be confirmed)</li> <li>• <b>Cocktail/Reception,</b> Palais des Nations (18:00-20:00)</li> </ul>



<p><b>DAY 2 :</b> <b>Wednesday 20 Feb. 2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), Room XVII</b></li> <li>• <b>Working dinner with UNECE offered by EuroMed TSP, starting at 20.00</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Details of the restaurant booked as follows:</u></p> <p><b>Restaurant “Le Pavillon Versoix”</b> 66, route Suisse, Tel: 022 755 1581 (5 minutes’ walk from Lake Geneva Hotel)</p>
<p><b>DAY 3 :</b> <b>Thursday 21 Feb. 2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) Room XVII (continued):</b> Open Session</li> <li>• <b>Meeting with the Management of the UNECE</b> (to be confirmed)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Departure :</b> <b>Thursday, 22 Feb. 2019</b></p>	<p><b>Transfer to Geneva airport and departure of participants to their countries:</b> See information in Annex</p>

## 7. Organization and funding

The Team Leader and Road Freight Transport KE, the Project Events’ Organizer, the Project Officer and UNECE itself will prepare the organizational aspects of facilitation of participation of the EuroMed Experts to the 81<sup>st</sup> ITC Session.

The European Commission will be pleased, under EuroMed TSP, to facilitate the participation of the National Coordinators from each EuroMed Partner Country, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, to the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) 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. A per diem of EUR 300 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 18 February and departure on 22 February 2019. Air tickets will be also booked by EuroMed TSP.



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

## 9. Indicators

OVI (Objectively Verifiable Indicator)	Source of verification
By the end of the project, at least 3 of the countries whose Ministers' and National Coordinators participation to the UNECE ITC meeting was facilitated have expressed commitment to accede and or fully implement the respective UN legal instruments (ADR, AETR, ATP, Vehicle regulations and RS Agreements) or 3 of them have made progress in the accession to these legal instruments	Communications from countries and from UNECE secretariat
The participation of National Coordinators 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.
RTAP support	Action 9: International land transport haulage ... participate in the work of UNECE

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](mailto: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-named Cornavin Station) - Disembark from the train at Geneva (Cornavin) Station (first stop) and go to Lane 1 (Voie 1) - Take (R-Regio) 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-Regio) 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)***