



4th meeting of Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods

Virtual Session via Microsoft Teams

6th September 2021 11:00-16:00

Agreed Conclusions

1. The Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) was welcomed by the Desk Officer for TDG, Monica Stanciu, who informed the Committee that the foreseen intervention of Mr Matej Zakonjšek will need to be delayed, due to other meetings. TCT thanked all the participants for their active involvement in creating TDG Guidelines and highlighted the importance of accelerated cooperation in this field. The Chair of the Committee, Mr J. Jancevski, Acting Head of Unit for Transport of Dangerous Goods at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in the Republic of North Macedonia, thanked TCT and the Regional Partners for their work on preparing TDG Guidelines. The agenda of the meeting was adopted unanimously with last minute arrangements to accommodate participation of the speakers.
2. The TCTDG welcomed TCT presentation on the Guidelines on transport of dangerous goods. A point-by-point review of the actions foreseen for transposition and implementation of Directive 2008/68/EC, Directive 95/50/EC and Directive 2010/35/EU, activities of TCT, their monitoring, and the key performance indicators was performed. The Regional Participants drew attention to the fact that not only financial resources, but also human resources are quite limited in their respective administrations. As the Chairman pointed out, the situation is also critical with enforcement officers who are able to check ADR.
3. Mr Romain Hubert, Section Chief - Secretary of the Committee and SCETDG, welcomed the development of the Guidelines in the TDG Committee. He invited TCTDG members to participate in the future meetings of UNECE, such as WP.15 that will update the Road map for accession and implementation of ADR¹ at its future meeting. Mr Hubert invited all RPs to use the publications available on UNECE website and insert a link to this page in the TDG Guidelines to facilitate follow up of all amendments to the relevant international agreements and stay informed on the current state of play in the area of dangerous goods.
4. Mr Emmanuel Ruffin, ERA expert, informed participants that 'enforcement Directives' for EU railways - Railways Safety Directive and the Interoperability Directive, are both applicable to TDG service operations too. However, TCT explained that these Directives are already covered by the Rail Action Plan and therefore, they are out of scope of the TCTDG.
5. TCTDG welcomed the progress reported by Albania on development of by-laws on TDG which are currently under public consultation. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro were congratulated for the enlargement of their delegations and the new members were welcomed.
6. TC Permanent Secretariat invited participants to make the last round of consultations on TDG Guidelines with other line ministries and send the final reports of their internal meetings to TCT by 15 September. The final text of the Guidelines will be shared with the TC Permanent Secretariat Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and the European Commission on 15 September, and it will be proposed for endorsement by the RSC on its 16 December 2021 session. Macedonian representative urged for the extension of deadline due to lack of personnel in the Ministry caused by COVID-19 pandemics. TCT invited Montenegro to deliver its contribution on the Annex to the Guidelines.
7. DG MOVE reiterated that the adoption of the Guidelines should be done as quickly as possible to make it applicable, considering that it envisages deadlines for actions to be developed by the end of 2021.

¹ https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/danger/publi/adr/roadmap/ADR_Road_Map_en.pdf

8. TC Permanent Secretariat invited EU Delegations in the WB6 to attend a meeting with DG MOVE and TCT that will be organized on 10 September 2021, to discuss a common approach on implementation of EU *acquis* in transport of dangerous goods.
9. TCTDG welcomed the initiative of the Chairman to further enhance bilateral cooperation with its neighbors, in particular with Serbia who expressed availability to cooperate.
10. Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, Director of TCT, also took the floor in order to congratulate the Committee in the occasion of the progress achieved with the Guidelines. He took this opportunity to thank all the experts involved in the creation of the Guidelines for their active participation in the development of the document during summer. He invited all the Regional Participants to prioritise work on transport of dangerous goods and allocate appropriate resources to speed up transposition and implementation.
11. TCT informed about forthcoming seminars on transport of dangerous goods and planned applications for trainings of the Regional Participants to address their ADR/RID/ADN needs, namely Kosovo*, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
12. TC TDG congratulated Kosovo for being ready to submit the first application for a capacity building on Introduction on ADR and RID. The Kosovo delegation informed that this program will be opened to the officials in other Regional Partners.
13. The TCTDG welcomed the presentation of Montenegrin representatives on a possible capacity building exercise for firefighters. The Ministry of Interior of Montenegro was encouraged to apply for a TAIEX training for firefighters. TCT will facilitate this application as far as possible and called upon Member States representatives present to consider inviting colleagues from emergency services to join the TAIEX platform as experts.
14. TCT also informed that a similar exercise is currently under consideration with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina on classification of tunnels according to ADR.
15. All regional partners were invited to express their needs in similar kind of capacity building programs under TAIEX/Twinning assistance.
16. Based on the information received at the last TDGTC, the representatives of Serbia informed that they keep on receiving non-compliant transportable pressure equipment which does not comply with the documentation requirements in Directives 2008/68/EC and 2010/35/EU. Ms. Grenada Demakina, Chair of the Administrative Cooperation Group (ADCO Group) under Directive 2010/35/EU invited the TCT and Serbia to attend the next session of this instance and to make the market surveillance authorities from the EU Member States aware about this lack of compliance.
17. TC Permanent Secretariat shared information on having received observer status as an international organization with the relevant TDG bodies of the UN. TCT briefly updated the Committee on the ongoing works in the Sub-Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods and ADN Safety Committee, highlighting some of the points where regulations are likely to be developed in the future.
18. The TCTDG welcomed presentation on “Clean air in the EU and degassing” given by Mr Wilhelmus de Wilt from the Clean Air Unit of DG ENV. TCT, DG ENV and MOVE are currently looking at ways of mobilising both neighboring EU Member States, the Regional Partners and stakeholders on the ongoing activities meant to “green” transport of dangerous goods as climate change and environmental issues do not know borders.
19. Initial data on the number of vehicles engaged in domestic and international transport of dangerous goods, and shared information on the estimated total quantity of dangerous goods transported by road in tons or t/km were provided by Albania for rail transport and Kosovo. It was decided to come back to the issue of data collection in the future, because – as Kosovo pointed out – methodologies for reference to transport of dangerous goods might differ between customs authorities and TDG. Due to the lack of time, the Committee could not discuss the issue in further detail.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



20. Next TCTDG Meeting is proposed to be held on 27 October 2021 and will be dedicated to RID. In the course of 2022, 2 meetings of TCTDG will be held, and one workshop/event dedicated to enforcement in transport of dangerous goods.

