



## **10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods**

### **Hybrid Session – TCT Secretariat's premises and MS TEAMS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 09:00-17:00**

#### **Agreed Conclusions**

1. The Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) was opened by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Deputy Director Ljuba Siljanoska who welcomed the 3 Observing Participants to the TCT Secretariat: Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. She thanked to delegations from Georgia and the Republic of Moldova who were present at the meeting in person, and underlined that moving from OSJD to OTIF in railways for the new Observing Participants is a difficult task and the TCT Secretariat stands ready to support it. She welcomed the representatives of the OTIF Secretariat, Mr. Jochen Conrad, Head of Unit for TDG in Bern, and Mr. Emmanuel Ruffin and Ms Ellen Rogge, from ERA who joined the meeting in person to present the latest developments in the area of transport of dangerous goods. Moreover, TCT Secretariat thanked Serbian delegation for chairing the TC TDG in the previous year and welcomed the incoming presidency of the Albanian delegation which will be a good example of active cooperation of different institutions for all Regional Partners.
2. The agenda of the meeting was adopted as presented.
3. DG MOVE encouraged both Regional Partners and Observing Participants to consider 2023 as a milestone year for the implementation of the TDG file. The Commission encouraged all participants to invest further efforts in coordination and activate as much as possible the TDG Implementation Groups as they will be key to further developments in the future.
4. After the welcome speeches, the Committee expressed regret for the tragical accident that happened in Greece on 1 March 2023 and sent condolences to the families of victims in the neighboring country.
5. TCT Secretariat shared invitation of UNECE Secretariat to Regional Partners to follow closely and participate in forthcoming meetings of the UN bodies in charge of transport of dangerous goods which are being published on its websites.
6. The TCTDG welcomed presentation on latest developments in RID/ADR in 2023 given by Mr. Jochen Conrad. The importance of following RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meetings which take place twice a year (March and September) was reiterated. In the particular aspect of rail transport of dangerous goods, the OTIF Secretariat asked for the nomination of a focal point in each RID Contracting State who would be contact person for all RID matters. To this contact person all invitations for OTIF meetings on TDG would be sent. The main changes comprised in RID and ADR, as applicable since 1.1.2023, was briefly presented, with particular focus on amendments in: general provisions (scope and applicability, definitions, transitional measures, etc), classification, dangerous goods lists, provisions for the use of packagings and tanks, consignment procedures, provisions concerning the conditions of carriage, loading, unloading and handling, requirements for vehicle crews, equipment, operation and documentation, requirements concerning the construction and approval of vehicles. Mr. Conrad also pointed out that the OTIF Secretariat would publish a synopsis of the English editions of RID and ADR highlighting the common texts of RID and ADR. This synopsis would facilitate the translation of RID into the national languages.
7. The TCTDG welcomed the presentation on a practical look into capacity building for TDG by rail, given by Mr Emmanuel Ruffin, Railway Systems Department – Coordinator Transport of Dangerous Goods, European Union Agency for Railways (ERA). The steps and challenges towards substituting long distance road freight by rail were presented. All Regional Partners and Observing Participants were invited to plan topical meetings in 2023 in order to identify their needs and gaps. The needs should be expressed

to TCT Secretariat which could facilitate ERA's further engagement in 2024 with relate to capacity building trainings and workshops.

8. TCT Secretariat informed Regional Partners and Observing Participants that Commission delegated Directive (EU) 2022/2407 amending the Annexes to Directive 2008/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council to take into account scientific and technical progress envisages transposition by Member States by 30 June 2023. The last amended versions of the international agreements on the inland transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways (RID/ADR/ADN) which are updated every two years, apply as from 1 January 2023, with a transitional period until 30 June 2023.
9. TCT Secretariat reiterated the importance of having the Annexes to Directive 2008/68/EC translated to domestic languages. Directive 2008/68/EC makes applicable the Annexes to international agreements to national transport, therefore the translation into domestic languages of the region is a must. This is in line with Constitutional requirements in each Regional Partner and Observing Participants, the European Convention on Human Rights, and therefore translation – where it is not already done – should be prioritized as every worker in this field, from the last person putting glue on cardboard boxes or cleaning the areas where dangerous goods are packed for transport, to drivers should have the rules available in “a language that he/she can read and understand”. Lack of translation can destabilize not only the transport market, e.g. if ADR only is being translated and RID not, but also the upstream economical system (e.g. factories packing dangerous goods for transport).
10. All Regional Partners and Observing Participants were invited to communicate to TCT Secretariat by 2 April 2023 a one-page answer to 3 questions presented at the meeting, tackling the status in application of Vienna convention on the Law of the Treaties, as well as membership/non-membership effects to transport of dangerous goods and necessary measures needed to support safety and security of transport.
11. The TCTDG welcomed presentation on activities of the Land Transport Agency and other competent bodies of Georgia in transport of dangerous goods given by Mr Nikoloz Gvenetadze, Deputy Director. Land Transport Agency, as the legal entity under Public law of Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, is in charge of transport of goods, passengers and transport safety. The agency is also in charge of technical regulation of road transport field (e.g. transport of dangerous goods periodical technical inspection of vehicles, drivers' working and resting hours etc), issuing permits for international carriage of goods and passengers, arrangement of trainings to drivers, safety managers, issuing certificate of approval for the vehicles owned by the companies involved in transport of dangerous goods etc.. Regulatory legislation in the area of TDG, functions and responsibilities of the authorized bodies, statistics for roadside checks and obstacles and challenges in application were presented. Applicable TDG rules in Railway sector of Georgia were briefly explained.
12. Ms Natalia Porubaev, Department for International cooperation of National Agency of Road Transport of the Republic of Moldova presented the Agency's competencies, national regulation on inland transport of dangerous goods and the main figures of the country's road infrastructure. The main functions of the Agency were briefly presented, including the authorization and control of transport of dangerous goods by road. Concerning national regulation in the road sector of transport of dangerous goods, Moldovan delegation informed about the level of transposition of EU acquis in their legislation. The activities currently performed include: issuing of ADR Driver Training Certificates, Certificates of professional competence of the ADR, Certificate of Approval for vehicles carrying out dangerous goods and their statistics. The activities of periodic technical inspection of road vehicles and control of road traffic of dangerous goods were also briefly presented.
13. Ms Eneida Elezi, Foreign Affairs, Albanian Railways S.A, lead the intervention of the Albanian delegation. Five TAIEX applications are currently being developed in cooperation with the TCT Secretariat, as follows:
  - ✓ Ms Kercuku, Training Director at the Center of Excellence on Maritime Affairs, is currently preparing a project concerning the IMDG Code. TCT Permanent Secretariat thanked the

colleagues from the Albanian delegation for having accepted that this event be prioritized, as many dangerous goods are reaching Albania by the sea, and IMDG knowledge is a must in order to ensure safe and sustainable land transport. EU Member States experts were encouraged to offer assistance as soon as possible on this item.

- ✓ Ms Menada Ujka and Mr Merljan Kurtaj, representing the State Inspectorate for Industry and Technology (ISHTI), presented their project concerning the Directive 2010/35/EU on transportable pressure equipment and the ongoing negotiations of Albania concerning the Chapter on Free movement of goods. TCT Permanent Secretariat congratulated ISHTI for their excellent work in relation with TC and the Commission services, and asked for agreement that the initial application for a TAIEX programme be reduced in terms of content and shared further with Georgia. Due to significant area of competences covered in Directive 2010/35/EU, it is more likely that smaller subjects, when developed for different partners will generate better knowledge about the file.
  - ✓ Mr. Henri Telheraj presented the ongoing activities of the Task Force for enforcement of transport rules and asked for enhanced cooperation with TCT on one side, and the inspectorates in the region on another.
  - ✓ Mr. Endrit Mustafaj, from the Ministry of Interior in Albania, thanked the TCT Permanent Secretariat for the support offered to develop a TAIEX application in order to enhance capacities of firefighters in his country in case of accidents and incidents in TDG. He drew attention to the fact that further developments – other than the simple peer review are needed in Albania, and invited the TCT Secretariat to further liaise with EU DEL Albania in order to seek financing. As already communicated in writing, the logistics of fire protection and rescue services in urban areas is underdeveloped, with some of the emergency intervention equipment being past its service life (i.e. fire intervention vehicles from the 1980s are still in use).
  - ✓ The Albanian delegation asked for a mission of TCT Permanent Secretariat to be organized as soon as possible to their country, in order to further refine the bilateral relations during this year of their presidency, including in regards of the activities of INSTAT.
14. EU Delegation to the Republic of North Macedonia presented the current and future opportunities for further development in EU acquis implementation of North Macedonia: EU Integration facility program created to facilitate progress in key areas of legislation towards aligning to EU acquis; developing EU reform resilience in 2024; Sector operational program for transport 2023-2027 and program to support EU accession of MKD.
  15. TCT Permanent Secretariat asked all delegations of the Regional Partners and Observing Participants to be active in cooperation with their respective EU DELs in order to define further their common work and be able to plan ahead EU assistance on projects for this sector. This is important, as dangerous goods are fueling developments of other areas in transport and economy, and – as highlighted in the previous session held in Antwerp, cross-sectoral cooperation is crucial and should be encouraged by TDG members.
  16. To prevent potential challenges of Regional Partners with issuance of digital tachograph cards due to supply chain difficulties, DG MOVE (European Commission) presented its proposal of mutual assistance in this regard. The proposal would enable Regional Partners to ask an EU Member State (through TCT Secretariat and the European Commission) to temporarily issue cards for the Regional Partners. The final version of the mutual assistance scheme will be circulated to the TCT and Regional Partners. The TCT Secretariat informed that activities concerning tachographs will be taken over by the Road Transport Committee and the Social Forum for the future.
  17. The Serbian delegation, Ms. Ana Senicic, handed-over presidency of TCTDG to Albanian delegation. The TCTDG welcomed Ms Eneida Elezi who would be presiding the meetings in the upcoming period.
  18. TCT Secretariat announced planned events in the course of 2023: 3 technical committee meetings and workshop on enforcement in Albania in autumn (tbc with Albanian colleagues).



19. An informal meeting of the TDG Committee will be held on 10 March to discuss the needs of further capacity building view to ongoing discussions on budget at TCT and ERA level.