



2nd Informal meeting of the Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods

TAIEX & ongoing work

Online Session –MS TEAMS

28th March 2023 10:00-12:30

Minutes and Conclusions

1. The 2nd informal Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) was held online only, 28 March 2023.
2. The Agenda was adopted.
3. A brief tour de table followed. The TCTDG welcomed the new attendance of the Albanian delegation and expressed disappointment due to lack of presence of delegates from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia and Ukraine.
4. A brief introduction to the functioning of TAIEX was delivered by Ms. A. Pietras from DG NEAR. TAIEX is one of the main institution building instruments put at disposal to 3rd to the EU countries by the Commission in order to exchange expertise with EU Member States experts.
5. The presentation of the Commission highlighted the fact that TAIEX is a flexible instrument which is demand-driven and results oriented. It consists in organizing tailored events with experts from EU Member States (peer-to-peer) for a better understanding of the EU legislation, EU standards and best practices. The types of events which can be organized – workshops, expert missions and study visits were briefly presented. The essential issue is that the link with a specific part of EU Acquis is done. A mock application was also presented, and all Regional Partners and Observing Participants were kindly invited to apply for programs according to their needs.
6. It was highlighted that the key issue for a successful completion of a TAIEX project is the objective and the justification of the assistance requested. A focused approach is more likely to attract the appropriate trainers.
7. National contact points are designated in the EU Delegations for contacts with the administrations inside each Regional Partner and/or Observing Participant. These contact points have, on their turn, contacts in different departments of the administrations and it is possible that one Ministry centralizes requests (e.g. Ministry of Exterior) and sends it to the Commission. However, the key element is assignment of a focal point in the Ministry of Transport/subordinated Agency that can be – at its turn – contacted by the central national contact point and proceed with coordination. Inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation is recommended. The filling in of the application is recommended to be done by experts dealing with the subject in order to allow for a focused approach.
8. At the request of the Albanian delegation, it was clarified that the TAIEX events always have as result reports that can and should be used to develop policies and/or projects. Each event is followed by a report done by experts from the Member States and in the particular case of the study visits the experts from the beneficiary are tasked to draft a report on their visit to the EU Member State.
9. As the Institute of Transport and Railways and the Railway Inspection Directorate were represented at the meeting, Albania asked the TC PS to consider further assistance on rail related issues as soon as possible.

10. The Albanian delegation informed about its latest activities related to TDG. In particular, the cooperation developed with Spain, Serbia, Kosovo* and North Macedonia. The activities on metrology and standardization were highlighted as an important point in the activities of the Inspectorate for Science and Technics, while the rail sector in Albania pleaded for further in depth analysis of the role of the participants in TDG in the context of the safety management systems.
11. TC PS informed that the budget of the TCT is still under discussion, and a final decision is still to be taken. The proposals were presented in internal meetings and the Committee will be informed as soon as possible on the outcome of the discussions.
12. TC PS also informed that a revision of the Guidelines is currently ongoing in order to include key performance indicators for the Observing Participants. TCTDG was informed that a first meeting was held to that end on 20 March 2023. The revision was finalized during the day of the meeting and it concerned the KPIs applicable for the Observing Participants. There is only one substantial modification having an impact on the text applicable for all Regional Participants – the Directive (EU) 2022/1999 replaces the repealed Directive 95/50/EC. The Republic of Moldova clarified the scope of competences on ADN, mentioning the fact that the competent authority in ADN is the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development and that the Naval Agency has no competences concerning ADN.
13. The Chair of the meeting requested that documentation concerning cooperation of the inspection services be shared as soon as possible.
14. Concerning the ongoing activities and consultations ongoing concerning Annex I.6, TCT Permanent Secretariat was encouraged to further proceed with activities concerning protection of the environment.
15. It was decided that the activities of the informal working groups continue as follows:
 - 7 April 2023 – Informal meeting concerning the translation of the Annexes of Directive 2008/68/EC,
 - 10 May 2023 – Informal meeting concerning Directive (EU) 2022/1999 – roadside inspection only,
 - 2nd half of June - TDG Committee meeting in Dures, Albania.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.