

3rd informal meeting of Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods

Hybrid Session – TCT Secretariat’s premises and MS TEAMS

7th April 2023 10:00-12:00

Agreed Conclusions

1. The third informal meeting of the Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) was organized to discuss the state of play of the transposition of Directive 2008/68/EC in the legislation of the Regional Partners and the main KPIs for 2023 in its transposition. A significant part of this process is the translation of the Annexes to ADR/RID/ADN in each Regional Partner.
2. The absence of delegations of Montenegro and Ukraine was noted.
3. The agenda of the meeting was adopted as presented.
4. Prior to the meeting contributions were received in writing from the UNECE Secretariat, editable copies of the agreements applicable for road – ADR and inland waterways – ADN. These documents were shared with the heads of delegations of the Regional Partners and Observing Participants only. The documents are for internal use and are subject to copyright policy of the United Nations.
5. Table A of RID 2023 with the proper shipping names in English, French and German language was shared prior to the meeting by Mr Jochen Conrad, OTIF Secretariat. This table is subject to the same restrictions as the tables for ADR and ADN.
6. A synopsis of Table A – comparison between the codes for road and rail transport of dangerous goods has been recently finalized by the OTIF team. It was distributed to the participants the day of the meeting.
7. The Committee thanked the OTIF Secretariat for their excellent work. The translation of ADR into German is traditionally lead as well by Jochen Conrad and it also presupposes cooperation between the German speaking countries, Austria, Germany and Switzerland.
8. Monica Stanciu encouraged Regional Partners and Observing Participants to treat all modes equally and to correlate the translations to national language(s). For Slavic languages the ADR, ADN and RID translations into Russian might be useful to address technical difficulties. Moreover, all Regional Partners with similar languages were encouraged to pay special attention and focus on joint work when any modifications of regulations are done.
9. The representatives of Serbia presented the activities developed to prepare the translations of the Annexes at internal level. The list of authorities consulted on the occasion of the first translation was presented, clarifying how this consultation process was conducted.
10. It was also explained that the current legislation foresees that a ministerial level legal act is adopted every 2nd year by the Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure for the publication of the updates of the ADR, RID and ADN every second year.
11. Ms. Ana Senicic draw the attention to the importance of consultation with the relevant areas of administration and with the relevant branches of the Academia, as many proper shipping names have to be correlated with other specific terminology, especially chemical.
12. The Serbian delegation also drew attention to specificities in terms of specialized language, and about the particularities in the section on definitions 1.2.1 ADR/RID/ADN that need to be coordinated. For example, the series of terms “package”, “packaging” and “packing group” are essential in transport of dangerous goods regulations and they were subject of an extensive debate when adopted at UN level and when the Serbian translation was established.
13. The solution adopted in Serbia to ensure traceability of the terminology used was to insert in the text a reference to the terms used in English.

14. TCT PS thanked the Serbian delegation for the kind presentation of the process of development of the application of the international agreements to domestic territory. Further consideration should be given to development along these lines, as application to domestic transport should be a subsequent step to this initial translation process. OTIF Secretariat highlighted as well that cross-sectoral cooperation is essential, in particular with regards to the names of chemicals.
15. Albania informed that there is ongoing translation process based on a procurement for the translation of ADR and RID in 2023. TCT Secretariat and interested Regional Partners were invited to visit General Directorate of Road Transport in the 1st week of May to share experience on the RID translation. In cooperation with Inland Waterways TC, TDG Members are taking steps to apply for TAIEX on application of IMDG code.
16. TCT PS congratulated Albania for having taken the necessary steps to comply with the deadline concerning the translation within the KPI foreseen in the Guidelines. The invitation was welcomed.
17. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that Republika Srpska in bilateral agreement with Serbia is using its translation of ADR, whereas the Federation doesn't have the law on this issue, and further efforts for the translation of documents for the whole territory are needed. TCT PS highlighted that a less fragmented approach could be less time and resource consuming.
18. The representative of North Macedonia reported that a request for a mandate was addressed to the Government for Ministry of Transport to be tasked to provide the translations of ADR/RID/ADN. However, the budget for 2023 is very limited, which causes troubles to envisage possible start of the project.
19. On the issue of tachograph cards, North Macedonia reported that the issue with smart cards is resolved, and the card issuing agency is in initial stage of adapting the software. Latest version 2.2 will be immediately used, and it will impose obligations as of February 2024. Concerning Prespa agreement, MKD raised the issue of possible need to replace the existing tachograph cards due to mandatory changes of name to North Macedonia in accordance with the agreement. This will be further discussed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
20. The representative of the EU Delegation in Montenegro also informed that the Montenegrin delegation will receive support within EU funded project to ensure a first translation of the ADR in Montenegrin. TCT PS thanked the EU Delegation for the excellent news provided and expressed the wish that the Montenegrin delegation would be more active itself.
21. The remaining Regional Partners and Observing Participants were kindly invited to update on progress on subsequent meetings. The information offered to the Committee will be taken into consideration in the Report on the Guidelines as well as in the development of cooperation with other relevant stakeholders.
22. TCT Secretariat's Legal Desk Officer Maria Victoria Borg invited all Regional Partners to confirm information introduced in TODIS concerning Annex 1.6 of the TC Treaty (environment acquis), and to refer TCT Secretariat to other competent authorities and contact points in case they are not in charge of this topic.
23. TCT Permanent Secretariat already presented the results of desktop research related to implementation of the European "112" emergency phone number. This information is necessary for the ongoing discussions concerning emergency services readiness and preparedness for accidents and incidents with transport of dangerous goods. All Regional Partners (except Albania, Montenegro and Serbia) and the Observing Participants to deliver in writing information on the state of play in this matter.
24. A meeting with Serbian Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Interior, TCT Secretariat and the EU Delegation to discuss possibilities of the assistance in this area shall be scheduled in May (possible dates: 12/18/19 May).
25. TCT Secretariat announced that the next Technical Committee meeting will take place in the June 2023 in Durres, Albania (exact date tbc).