



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

### Hybrid Session – Hotel Sirius, Pristina and MS TEAMS

16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 10:00-16:00

#### Agreed Conclusions

1. The Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) was opened by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Director Matej Zakonjšek who underlined the main outcomes of the enforcement workshops which took place in Tirana and Durres in the previous period. It was reiterated that ADR and IMDG need to go hand in hand and need to be boosted in terms of implementation in the WB region. He expressed concerns with regards to the results of the Roadside checks performed in Albania between 24-26 October 2022 and very high infringement rate. In the course of 2024, translation of ADR and RID to local languages will remain priority for the region, and the version 2.0 of Guidelines on transport of dangerous goods will be published. Director congratulated Kosovo\* for announcement that the translation to ADR has just been completed, and encouraged other Regional Partners who have not translated it to enhance their efforts in this regard. It was acknowledged as a first significant step towards insuring a safety culture in this area.
2. The agenda of the meeting was adopted as presented.
3. DG MOVE representative, Mr Roberto Ferravante, Senior Expert TDG, Unit C.2 Road Safety underlined that the European Commission positively received and approved the requests coming from the Regional Partners for capacity building support in enforcement of transport of dangerous goods. Returning to the Key performance indicators in the TDG Guidelines, 2023 was the year of the transposition of Directive 2008/68/EC and Directive 2022/1999. For inland transport, Directive 2008/68/EC takes over the Annexes to ADR, RID and ADN and applies them to national transport. The application cannot be done without understanding the meaning of the technical rules. Hence, it was highlighted that the first and most important step is making available ADR and RID in the domestic languages, so that the rules are read and understood by all relevant stakeholders. He also underlined the importance of presentation by European Union Chemical Agency (ECHA) in order to explain the rules on chemicals for SMEs and all relevant stakeholders such as authorities, companies producing DGs, consignees, transport operators and their employees – drivers and dangerous goods safety advisors, consignors, fillers, loaders etc.
4. The Chair of TC TDG, Ms Eneida Elezi, Foreign Affairs, Albanian Railways S.A, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania, welcomed participants and briefly presented the activities initiated and completed by the Albanian administration during the period when it is holding the presidency of the TC TDG in 2023. The regional and national workshops and the TALEX programs will need to receive follow-up from the Albanian side. The Albanian presidency is very active in the Transport Community activities and projects, and needs substantial political and financial support in order to develop the projects stemming from the current technical assistance and to address the detected gaps.
5. Mr Edison Mavraj, Political advisor to the Minister of MESPI, welcomed all participants, wished a fruitful meeting and reiterated the importance of translation of ADR in Kosovo for its further implementation in the domestic laws.
6. A tour de table followed, and the TDG TC welcomed new participants joining for the first time, the representatives of the Agencies dealing with Radioactive Material in Albania and Kosovo, the Chemicals Office from Albania and a new member representing the Moldovan National Agency for Road Transport.

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

7. The TCT Secretariat thanked the Regional Partners for their cooperation on the Progress report on the Guidelines. The draft will be endorsed by the Regional Steering Committee on its next session of 11 December 2023. Regardless of the progress achieved, further discussions will need to be developed on the nuancing of the measures to be included in the next session of the Guidelines, and it was anticipated that Action plans are expected from the Regional Participants and Observing Participants responding to the conclusions of the ongoing assistance programs – regardless if they are Committee meetings or TAIEX assistance. The issues raised during bilateral meetings by Kosovo and North Macedonia, in particular the aspect concerning the lack of human resources, needs immediate tailored response from the administrations who are kindly invited to contact as soon as possible the relevant stakeholders that could offer support and help.
8. Mr. Endrit Mustafaj, from the General Directorate of Fire Protection & Rescue Service in the Ministry of Interior of Albania, presented briefly the conclusions of the previous 2 out of 3 events of the TAIEX mission on Fire prevention capacity building in case of accidents during the transport of dangerous goods in Albania. The conclusions of the meeting were highlighted, in particular the fact that the preparedness of Albania is only theoretical, with specific equipment for transport of dangerous goods accidents during transport not being available at all. In most cases, the risk is neglected in the interventions that are carried out, especially in cases of massive fires and accidents in the TDG. Significant lack of equipment and tools in the fire service. In some cases, the basic equipment for the simplest interventions and accidents is also missing and the lack of maintenance of the existing equipment is also a serious threat to national safety and security. A last workshop in this series of events is expected to take place on 20-21 November 2023, and the institutions concerned were invited to act upon the conclusions of this series of events as soon as possible. The Albanian delegation was invited to consolidate its position and to draft an Action Plan based on the conclusions of the ongoing external assistance.
9. In continuation of this point, the TCT Secretariat explained that a document concerning the continuation of the activities on 112 and eCall was endorsed by the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) on its session of 18 October 2023<sup>1</sup>. Taking into consideration the conclusion – i.e. “Regional Steering Committee members welcomed the initiative related to implementation of 112 and eCall by the TCT Secretariat and organisation of dedicated meeting in the first half of 2024.”<sup>2</sup> TCT Secretariat invited a Regional Partner to offer to host such a meeting as soon as possible.
10. In continuation, the follow-up of the Workshop on Enforcement of Transport of Dangerous Goods was ensured, and the representatives the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate of the Netherlands. Mr Sjoerd Tuinstra, Inspector on TDG of ILT, Netherlands, presented the findings of the joint inspection in Tirana performed on 25 October 2023 within the Workshop on Enforcement of Transport of Dangerous Goods Rules, drawing attention to several aspects that will need further follow-up in the future and invited all Regional Partners and the Observing Participants to develop their own capacities as soon as possible.

The conclusions of the workshop are as follows:

General remarks for Regional Partners:

- Find the ADR files on the website of UNECE (languages: EN, FR and RU)
- Add the applicable models of the ADR-certificates on the website of the UNECE
- Update or add the correct country information
- Add the instructions in writing in correct language

Steps to be taken:

- Create a legal basis for supervision and enforcement
- Create awareness at all involved parties mentioned in 1.4 ADR

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<sup>1</sup> [Agenda-for-RSC-18-Oct-2023-Vienna.pdf \(transport-community.org\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [21-RSC-meeting\\_18-October-2023\\_Draft-Conclusions-done-on-19-Oct-signed-scanned.pdf \(transport-community.org\)](#)

- Translate the ADR
  - Define the competent authorities mentioned in the ADR
  - Test tanks
  - Safety advisor training and exam (1.8.3.8, 1.8.3.10)
  - Block/forbid transport (1.8.1.4)
  - Train and equip the staff
  - Create platform for questions/help
  - Enforcement in steps to create trust and a support base: information-warning-fine
  - Depending on the infringement: direct action on the spot -or later action with follow up
11. TC Secretariat can offer further assistance on how to contact the relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations. The Regional Partners and Observing Participants were informed that the colleagues from Netherlands were kindly asking for contacts in order to be able to check authenticity of ADR drivers certificates issued by them. Agreement was received from the Committee to distribute the contacts dealing with ADR in the Regional Partners and Observing Participants. A bilateral consultation was already ongoing with the Republic of North Macedonia in order to check authenticity of an ADR certificate.
  12. TCT Secretariat also informed that it had circulated further information concerning the TAIEX Workshop on Adjustment of procedures applicable for implementation of IMDG Code in the context of the implementation of Directive 2008/68/EC (TAIEX Case ID 84532). The training contain very useful and well structured information concerning transport of dangerous goods by sea, connected Codes and legal instruments under the SOLAS Convention and, also, clarification of terminology applicable at the intersection of the different areas. Follow-up is foreseen to be developed in the future, but all participants were kindly invited to use the information made available publicly by TAIEX for training purposes inhouse and in order to raise awareness about the importance of the field within national administrations.
  13. The representative of the Land Transport Agency, mr. Lasha Chelidze, informed about the fact that the Georgian Government decided to develop a request for an IPA twinning project to complete the framework of road safety related instruments to be implemented on their territory, and, in particular, Directive (EU) 2022/1999 in connection with Directive 2008/68/EC. As financing is to be ensured in two years time at the earliest, a possible TAIEX request could be envisaged in the meantime.
  14. The TCTDG welcomed presentation on Risk-Based Decision-Making tools given by Mr Emmanuel Ruffin, Railway Systems Department – Coordinator Transport of Dangerous Goods, European Union Agency for Railways. The Inland TDG Risk Management Framework was presented, highlighting the fact that every Annex to the Directive 2008/68/EC is based on a risk assessment itself, that determines the requirements as applicable nowadays. Moreover, ISS – Information Sharing System, a tool to collect and share railway safety data was introduced to Regional Partners. A system of risk-based decision-making through mentioned platforms were briefly presented and possible developments were decided to be discussed at a later stage. ERA offered to continue cooperation on RID related issues in further events.
  15. TCT Secretariat invited all Regional Partners to continue bilateral cooperation related to ADR translation in order to avoid overlaps and terminological confusion. Albanian and Macedonian representatives were encouraged to benefit from the newly translated ADR in Kosovo, and the rest of the Regional Partners were urged to use the Serbian translation of ADR in order to raise as soon as possible the level of implementation as ADR.
  16. A representative of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) joined the online meeting in order to present to the TDG Technical Committee the EUCLEF project<sup>3</sup> that was developed since 2015 in order to address the problem of availability of information related to chemicals. Basically,

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<sup>3</sup> [EUCLEF - ECHA \(europa.eu\)](https://euclef.eu)

as small and medium enterprises had difficulties in following and understanding the legislation on chemicals, the Directorate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) in cooperation with ECHA and with COSME financing decided to develop this database on the chemicals in use in order to illustrate the coherence between different areas of legislation applicable to chemicals. EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF) gives an overview of the European Union's legislation on chemicals, and is a useful tool that can be accessed for information purposes starting with the legislation or based on the substance, and illustrates in a practical and pragmatic way the legislation associated with each substance (that can be reached based on either the EC, CAS number or name of the substance etc.)

17. The representative of the Chemicals Office in Albanian thanked for the presentation and the information provided. Their institution has received recently information about the IUCLID database, and is in the process of developing it. IUCLID is used not only by EU, but also by US and OECD countries.
18. ECHA can offer assistance on all its tools, and in case of problems questions should be addressed via the dedicated systems of the website that do contain all the relevant information.
19. TC Secretariat thanked the representative of ECHA for participation in the meeting and for the very useful presentation of the project that should be followed by further cooperation between TC and ECHA in the future. The Regional Partners and the Observing Participants were warmly invited to use the database in order to check chemical terminology. Also, areas as occupational exposure limits should be envisaged in the definition of requirements for specific competences (e.g. firefighting).
20. Ms Valeria Sasco, from the Department for International cooperation of National Agency of Road Transport of the Republic of Moldova, informed that 3 applications for TAIEX were approved: 2 workshops and one study visit related to control of transport of dangerous goods and Directive (EU) 2008/68 and Directive (EU) 2022/1999. It will lead to further implementation of the directives into the National Action Plan.

