Minutes of the
WORLD FORUM ADVISORY GROUP (WFAG) MEETING

Brussels, 04 November 2014
**Summary of the meeting**

The **Chairman** opened the meeting and reviewed the draft agenda together with the participants. The draft agenda was adopted.

1. **Report of the GR chairmen**;

The WFAG recalled the oral reports of the Chairs of GRE (lighting), GRPE (pollutants and energy) and GRSG (general safety) summarising the latest GR meetings and the state of play in these respective subsidiary working groups of WP29.

2. **Information on the organisation of WP29 and GRE**

The **Chairman** congratulated the BE representative with his election as GRE Chairman for the year 2015 and expressed the support of the EC services for the GRE Chairman’s challenging task to make the expected changes both on governance within the group as well as controlling the output of the group. The Chairman reported on his participation in the October 14 GRE session. He repeated his request to the Member State representatives to collectively prepare for each GRE session and to take a common EU position in GRE on controversially discussed topics in the area of lighting. He reiterated that it is deemed necessary to revisit the organisation of GRE as well as to consider making changes to the output of the group.

The **BE representative** reported as well on the October 14 GRE session, which took place from 20-22 October 2014. On 23 October the working group preparing the changes to GRE convened and first steps have been taken to prepare the necessary proposals for changes. He reported that the working group was considering to delete product information on e.g. light bulbs from the relevant UN Regulations and to transfer that information into a depository like e.g. in one of the Resolutions.

The **Chairman** expressed his deep respect for the current WP29 Chairman Mr Bernhard Gauvin, who led the World Forum for more than 30 years in an extra-ordinary professional and constructive way, which resulted in highly positive effects on road safety and environmental protection globally. Regrettably Mr Gauvin would not any longer be available as a candidate for 2015 and therefore the Union was requested to propose a successor. A discussion and subsequent agreement followed on the adoption process for the Union to select and propose a single candidate.

3. **Information on the bilateral negotiations EU – Japan and EU – USA**

The **Chairman** provided an update on the trade negotiations between the EU and USA, respectively EU - Japan with respect to the automotive sector.
4. **Review of the 1958 Agreement**

The Chairman presented a paper with respect to one of the last outstanding issues, the majority threshold for the vote in WP29. He referred to the paper from the Russian Federation in which another issue was raised. The Russian Federation does not accept proxy voting and proposes to delete the provisions in the 3rd Revision of the 1958 Agreement that allows this.

5. **WP29 June 2014 notably the review of the agenda (ECE-TRANS-WP29-1109)**

5.1. **1958 Agreement:**

5.1.1. **Proposal for Supplement 8 to the 05 series of amendments to UN Regulation No. 49 (Compression ignition and positive ignition (LPG and CNG) engines) (item 4.9.1.)**

The item was already discussed at length in the TCMV meeting of 15 October. It was agreed to request referring the proposal back to GRPE.

5.2. **1998 Agreement**

5.2.1. **Proposal for Amendment 3 to gtr No. 4 (item 14.2)**

The Chairman noted that the USA had requested to postpone the vote on this amendment until the March 15 WP29 session in order to allow them to execute correlation testing with their test methodology.

The GRPE Chairman added that also China had stated not to be ready for the vote in the November 14 WP session and had requested to postpone the vote.

The Chairman recalled that the MS had agreed to delete the references of the relevant documents from the mega decision but that the Union will request confirmation from the USA and China that the vote can actually take place in the March 15 WP29 session, especially as Japan urgently needs adoption of this amendment as prerequisite to incorporate gtr No 4 in their domestic legislation.

5.2.2. **Gtr No. 15 (Worldwide harmonized Light vehicle Test Procedures (WLTP) – Phase 1(b)) (item 18.6)**

The GRPE Chairman reported that phase 1b of the WLTP was progressing as planned and that a plan should be anticipated for phases 2 and 3 by mid of 2015. He pointed out that if gtr No 15 could be transposed into a UN Regulation soon it might still be feasible to propose the WLTP making part of International Whole Vehicle Type Approval (IWVTA) in UN Regulation No 0.

5.2.3. **Draft gtr on Electric Vehicles (EVS) (item 18.7)**

No issues were reported with regard to EVS, work is ongoing.

5.2.4. **Draft gtr on Quiet Road Transport Vehicles (QRTV) (item 18.8);**

The group was informed that GRB had agreed to set up an informal group to develop a UN Regulation on QRTV in parallel with the GTR.
5.2.5. *Electric vehicles and the environment (EVE) (item 19.5);*

The **GRPE Chairman** recalled that the EC had submitted informal working document WP.29-164-07 in order to inform WP29 of some concerns and to propose amending the mandate of the EVE informal working group.

The **EC representative** reported that three concerns had been identified, which were proposed to be addressed: 1) decisions on the work distribution among the informal working groups and work scope to be decided by GRPE; 2) overlap in the scope of work with the WLTP, HDH and L-EPPR informal working groups; 3) a too aggressive timing. He stated that in the meantime the EVE group had convened and that the concerns were discussed and resolved. It could be anticipated that the EVE group would submit a revised mandate as informal working document to WP29 and that this revised mandate should be considered for endorsement.

6. **Any other business**

6.1. **Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) (item 2.3) and Autonomous vehicles (item 2.4);**

The **UK representative** in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the ITS informal working group informed the WFAG participants that Japan would submit a revision of the Terms of Reference of the ITS / automated driving informal working group in order to also cover connected/autonomous vehicles. He stated that the current timeslot during the WP29 week on Tuesday morning was not ideal and that it should be assessed if the informal group dealing with these important topics could not be attributed with a more prominent timeslot during the WP29 week. He also pointed out that part of the future work might need further cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union, e.g. with regard to frequency band allocation.

6.2. **Accident emergency call systems (AECS, item 8.5)**

The **Chairman** informed the group on the state of play on this topic in the Council and Parliament at the level of the EU as well as on the status of discussions in the UN informal working group on AECS.

The **GRSG Chairman** reported that GRSG had discussed three possible options for a new UN Regulation with regard to the communication standards (GSM/satellite). There were divergent views among the Contracting Parties and stakeholders regarding the preferred option that allows mutual recognition of approvals and the possibility to execute relevant testing in the type approval process. The issue should be discussed again by the Chairman of the informal working group at the next WP.29 session.

The **Chairman** concluded that priority should be given to finalise and agree on AECS within the Union before considering the final and preferred option at the level of the UN.