

Working Groups

Monthly Roundup

September 2023

Capacity

No further updates since last month's WG Updates edition.

Digitalisation

The ECG Tech Board was initiated earlier this year to act as a 'steering committee' for the DWG as it will largely contribute to the topics that the working group should be dealing with. Its 15-20 selected members come from LSPs, OEMs and, of course, IT companies, partners of ECG.

The DWG's Telematics sub-group finished its work in June, but some further topics were initiated to be looked at in smaller reflection groups. These are the deviation from the ETA and its reporting in truck transport and the consideration of a Port Control Tower in the maritime environment. These are currently on-going activities which should yield some tangible results in the next months. The other suggestion from the meeting was to look into how the rail transport can be more 'connected', how to track the wagons and, if possible, the transported vehicles. ECG has been looking into these questions as well and will be reporting on it in a suitable format in due course.

Besides this the updates are ongoing on the [FVL digital messages](#) as well – a standard that ECG-Odette-VDA issued in 2020 and which is being taken up not only by BMW and VW, the companies most advanced in their implementation, but also by Mercedes, Renault, Stellantis and Volvo Cars. Version 1.2 of the messages will be published in the beginning of October and VW will present on its implementation status at the [Odette Conference](#) in Berlin, on 20-21 November.

For any enquiry about this Working Group, please contact [Szilvi Kiss](#).

Health & Safety

No further updates since last month's WG Updates edition.

We would like to kindly remind you to keep reporting on your severe incidents and near-misses for 2023 and help us to improve drivers' safety. Our Online Incident Reporting website is available [here](#).

For more information, or to join the group, contact [Jovana Vancevska](#).

Maritime & Ports

The next Maritime & Ports meeting will take place on 9/10 November in Cuxport, Germany. This meeting is kindly sponsored by Rhenus Cuxport who will host a networking dinner on 9th.

All members and partners active in this area can join the meeting by registering [here](#). The meeting will take place on the 10th of November followed by a tour of the port and the newly built terminal. An agenda for the meeting will be available in due course.

For more information about this group contact [Jovana Vancevska](#).

Quality

The sub-group on the transport of cars in containers has been busy drafting and reviewing the dedicated chapter on this topic for the [Operations Quality Manual](#). The final draft is now available for its members and the group will assess it in early October.

The next activity under the Quality WG will then concern the transport of used cars.

The upcoming meeting of the Quality Working Group is scheduled for 30 November, where face-to-face and online participation will be possible for our attendees. If you are already a member of the group, you can register via [this website](#). If not, but you are interested, please do get in touch!

In case you need any further information on the Quality group and its activities please contact [Szilvi Kiss](#).

Sustainability

The project on standardisation of emissions calculations and reporting from automotive supply chains has entered the final stage. A draft guideline is available and undergoing a review phase. The final version of the guideline will be published in the coming weeks.

The methodology to report and calculate emissions from Ro-Ro operations has been published in July and is available on our [website](#).

For more information, contact [Andreea Serbu](#).

Regional Meetings

UK & Ireland

The latest meeting was held at JCB's headquarters on 24 August and the attendees enjoyed a fascinating tour of the museum and factory at the start of the day. As usual, the end of year meeting will be held in London, this time on 16 November when we will meet for lunch ahead of the session. An optional dinner has been arranged for the evening.

Suggestions for 2024 meetings include a return to Dublin. For more information, or to join the group, please contact the [ECG secretariat](#).

Eastern Region

The latest meeting was held on 14 September in Riga, Latvia sponsored by ECG member Kurbads and partner Kässbohrer. More than 70 ECG Members and Partners based in Central and Eastern Europe gathered for the second meeting of the year. You can find out more about the meeting in our ECG News [article](#).

The next meeting is planned for 25 April 2024 in Istanbul, Turkey. More information will be available on our website in due course.

If you wish to know more about this meeting, please contact [Jovana Vancevska](#).

EU Affairs

1. Harmonisation of loaded length of car transporters at EU level

In July the European Commission published the Greening Freight package including the proposal to revise the Weights & Dimensions Directive. ECG welcomes the proposal and especially the introduction of Article 8c to harmonise loaded length of vehicle transporters at EU level up to a total of 20.75m. As the Council and European Parliament are entering negotiations on the file, ECG continues with its advocacy to have vehicle transporters recognised in EU legislation allowing them to cross borders with overhangs. ECG has produced a position paper with a proposal to amend Article 8c to better reflect operational reality in our sector. The position paper can be found [here](#).

Would you like to support us at national level? Contact [Andreea Serbu](#).

2. New CO₂ road tax in Germany

In case you missed it, ECG published a briefing paper on the substantial new CO₂ tax which is planned to be included in Germany's road tolls from 1 December 2023. Read all about it [here](#).

3. Smart tachographs

Smart tachograph version 2 (SMT2) is the new generation of on-board digital recorder to enforce the EU legislation on professional drivers driving and resting times, cabotage and posting of drivers rules. From 21 August 2023, newly registered commercial vehicles must be equipped with the SMT2. Some Member States have granted tolerance periods because of shortage of devices. Please see more information from IRU and tolerances period [here](#).

For more information and any questions, contact [Andreea Serbu](#).

ECG Quarterly Survey

Since 2010 ECG is conducting our Quarterly Confidence & Cost Trend Survey across members of the Association. The latest results for Q2 2023 are available our [website](#). The Quarterly survey for Q3 2023 will be launched on 2 October.