

Dated: December 22, 1998.

R.C. North,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

**RTCA Special Committee 189/
EUROCAE Working Group 53; Air
Traffic Services Safety and
Interoperability Requirements**

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a joint Special Committee (SC)-189/EUROCAE Working Group (WG)-53 meeting to be held February 8-12, 1999, starting at 9:00 a.m. on February 8. The meeting will be held at MAEVA Latitudes, Seilh (30 kilometers from Toulouse), Route de Grenade, 31840 Seilh, France: (33) 5 62 13 14 15 (phone), (33) 5 61 59 77 97 (fax). The host, Serge Bagieu, Aerospatiale, may be reached at (33) 5 61 18 15 81 (phone), (33) 5 61 93 80 90 (fax), or serge.bagieu@avions.aerospatiale.fr (e-mail).

The agenda will be as follows: Monday, February 8, Opening Plenary Session Convened at 9:00 a.m.: (1) Introductory Remarks; (2) Review and Approval of the Agenda (Monday); (3) Review and Approval of Summary of the Previous Meeting; (4) Sub-Group and Related Reports; (5) Position Papers Planned for Plenary Agreement; (6) SC-189/WG-53 Co-chair Progress Report. Tuesday, February 9-Thursday, February 11: (7) Sub-group Meetings (Sub-group 1, Interoperability Requirements; Sub-group 2, Safety Requirements; Sub-group 3, Performance Requirements). Friday, February 12, Closing Plenary Session: (8) Introductory Remarks; (9) Review and Approval of Agenda (Friday); (10) Review of Preliminary Meeting Minutes; (11) Sub-group and Related Reports; (12) Position Papers Planned for Plenary Agreement; (13) SC-189/WG-53 Co-chair Progress Report and Wrap-up.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairmen, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC

20036, by phone at (202) 833-9339, by fax at (202) 833-9434, or by e-mail at hmoses@rtca.org. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 28, 1998.

Richard A. Cox,

Designated Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

[Docket No. NHTSA-98-4956, Notice 1]

RIN 2127-AH29

**Agency Priorities and Public
Participation in the Implementation of
the 1998 Agreement on Global
Technical Regulations; Statement of
Policy**

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments; notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is holding a public workshop and soliciting written public comments on a draft statement of policy concerning (1) agency's priorities in the implementation of the United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe 1998 Agreement on Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts, and (2) this agency's activities and practices for facilitating public participation in the implementation of the 1998 Agreement. The policy statement would go into effect when the 1998 Agreement enters into force. The notice also explores other methods for promoting public participation, e.g., the possibility of including members of the public as advisers in the NHTSA delegation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which, together with NHTSA, negotiated the Agreement for the U.S., will participate in the public workshop. EPA plans to issue a similar statement of policy.

DATES: Public workshop: The public workshop will be held on February 3, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Those wishing to participate in the workshop should contact Ms. Julie Abraham by February 1, 1999.

Written comments: Written comments may be submitted to this agency and must be received by February 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Public workshop: The public workshop will be held in rooms

6200-6204 of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh St. SW, Washington DC 20590.

Written comments: All written comments must refer to the docket and notice number of this notice and be submitted (preferably 2 copies) to the Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. (Docket Room is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Julie Abraham, Director, Office of International Harmonization, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. Telephone: (202) 366-2114. Fax: (202) 366-2106.

Ms. Rebecca MacPherson, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2992. Fax: (202) 366-3820.

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I. Introduction

A. Opening of the 1998 Agreement for Signature

On June 25, 1998, the U.S. became the first signatory to the United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)¹ Agreement Concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts Which Can Be Fitted And/or Be Used on Wheeled Vehicles (the "1998 Agreement"). This agreement was negotiated under the

¹ The Economic Commission for Europe was established by the United Nations in 1947 to help rebuild post-war Europe, develop economic activity and strengthen economic relations between European countries and between them and the other countries of the world.