

16th STCBC Meeting

Safer Transport of Children in Buses and Coaches

Date: 06 June 2023

Time : 12h-13h CET

Location: Web-meeting (Teams)

1) Welcome & Meeting Arrangements (Chair, Marta)

Marta (Chair, Spain) welcomed everyone to the web-meeting. She explained that this will be a short meeting to review the decisions made by GRSP at the 73rd session (May 2023), and to discuss the next steps for the Informal Group.

2) Adoption of the agenda – STCBC-16-01

Marta apologised for not sharing the Agenda before the meeting, which was an oversight. The Agenda was adopted with no changes.

3) Highlights from GRSP (73rd session) and GRSG (125th session)

Marta reported that GRSP adopted the proposal for a new UN Regulation on the Safer Transport of Children in Buses and Coaches ([.../GRSP/2023/2](#), as amended by [GRSP-73-04-Rev.1](#)). She said the proposal had been well-received by GRSP and she thanked all members of the Informal Group for their work over the last three years. GRSP also adopted proposals to amend UN Regulation No. 14 ([GRSP-73-09-Rev.1](#)) and UN Regulation No. 16 ([.../GRSP/2023/3](#)) to require three-point seat belts on bus and coach seats that face rear-facing CRS built-in to the backrest of the seat in front.

Marta explained that her status report for GRSP ([GRSP-73-01](#)) sought guidance on how to proceed. Her report proposed a second phase of activity to extend the regulation to include non-built-in CRS that can be attached to bus and coach seats that are equipped with two-point seat belts. GRSP endorsed this second phase of the Informal Group and asked the Group to prepare a draft Terms of Reference for the next session (74th session, Dec. 2023).

Rudolf (Germany) noted that the status report was also presented to GRSG ([GRSG-123-18](#)). He explained that GRSG discussed the potential for future amendments to UN Regulation No. 107 to require built-in CRS to comply with the new regulation and to clarify the requirements for emergency windows adjacent to built-in CRS. He added that GRSG expects the new Terms of Reference of the Informal Group to be presented to GRSG for ‘further adoption’ (after first adoption by GRSP). Marta commented that the Informal Group is a sub-group of GRSP and so our primary responsibility is to GRSP, but acknowledged that buy-in from GRSG is also important.

Finally, Marta noted that the mandate of the Informal Group, as set by WP.29, is expiring in 2024. GRSP agreed in principle to requesting an extension of the mandate in line with the work needed in Phase 2 and awaits a proposal from the Group. Following a short discussion, the Group agreed that two years would be a reasonable period in which to complete phase 2, but a final decision will be made at the next meeting.

4) Drafting of the new ToR - STCBC-16-02 (All)

Marta presented a first draft of the new Terms of Reference of the Informal Group (STCBC-16-02). She noted that the objective is to define the technical provisions needed in the new regulation to transport children in buses and coaches equipped with two-point seat belts. She added that the priority will be to ensure good retention of the child in the seat, consistent with that provided for adults, particularly to avoid ejection.

Marta expressed a hope that some of the Informal Group meetings could take place in person, with additional Teams meetings in between. Yoshinori (Japan) noted that face-to-face meetings might be difficult for Japan, particularly if the meeting is scheduled for one day only. Similar concerns were expressed by Abdul (Australia). The Group agreed to specify two in-person meetings per year in the Terms of Reference, with provision for further virtual meetings. In addition, every effort will be made to facilitate remote participation in the in-person meetings.

Marta presented the open issues and decisions document used during the earlier phase of the Informal Group, now updated to reflect the new phase. She noted that the work of the Group bears some similarities to the additional certification that CRS can obtain for use in aircraft seating equipped with two-point seat belts. Rudolf gave a short overview of the certification and agreed to provide more information at a future meeting, if needed.

Marta asked the Group to consider whether the regulation should allow extra tether straps to be used with the CRS to provide additional restraint and stability to that provided by the two-point seat belt. Some members of the Group expressed concern that this would make the installation of the CRS more complicated and would subject the vehicle seat to additional load paths not currently assessed by regulations. The Group agreed to continue discussing this question.

5) Confirmation of tasks and responsibilities

No significant tasks and responsibilities were recorded. However, the Group was asked to review the draft Terms of Reference (STCBC-16-02) and the issues/decisions document (STCBC-16-03) before the next meeting.

6) AOB

No other business was discussed.

7) Next meeting

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for August 30, 2023, in-person. Dinos offered to ask the CLEPA Secretariat if they can host the meeting in Brussels.

Appendix 1 – Attendees

Marta Angles – Chair	Spain
Dinos Visvikis – Secretary	CLEPA
Abdul Nilar	Australia
Daniel Kutschkin	Australia
Kai Neumann	BDO
Ronald Vroman	Consumers International
John Taylor	CPT
Anaïs Garo	France
Rudolf Gerlach	Germany
Britta Schnottale	Germany
Stasa Mrdovic	IRU
Yoshinori Tanaka	Japan
Kazumi Watanabe	Japan
Irina Dausse	OICA
Tomasz Lorenc-Osowski	OICA
Miriam Asiain Fernandez	Spain
Tim Janssen	TASS
Christina Echemendia	United States