



INF. 35

11 March 2020

(English only)

RID/ADR/ADN

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Bern, 16 - 20 March 2020)

Cancellation of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting

Note by the Secretariat

Developments in recent days in the UNECE and OTIF Member States, which we have been following very closely, have compelled us, in coordination with the chairman, to cancel the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting, which was to be held from 16 to 20 March 2020.

After sending informal document INF.28 last Friday, several delegations informed us that, owing to travel restrictions imposed on them by their employers, they had to withdraw their registration for this meeting. Some delegates explained that owing to underlying health issues, they are in the more vulnerable groups of people and cannot therefore take part in the meeting.

In view of the number of cancellations by delegates, the quorum according to Article 35 of the Joint Meeting's Rules of Procedure will not be reached.

The UNECE and OTIF secretariats are aware that cancelling the Joint Meeting means that corrections which various proposers consider necessary for the 2021 amendments to RID/ADR/ADN cannot be dealt with by the Joint Meeting. However, both secretariats are in close contact with the chairs of the Joint Meeting, WP.15, the ADN Safety Committee and the RID Committee of Experts in order to discuss alternatives to resolve these problems.

We are also aware that cancelling the Joint Meeting will cause each participant an additional administrative burden and possibly financial costs owing to the cancellations they will have to make. However, in view of the risk to health for everybody, we consider this decision to be unavoidable. For reasons of solidarity with those delegates who have had to cancel their attendance and our responsibility for every delegate, we are convinced that this is the correct decision to take.