

CAETS

Noise Control Technology Committee, NCTC

Report prepared by Tor Kihlman, 2015-09-29

One of the most complex noise problems is that linked to road traffic in cities and suburban areas. Substantial reduction of the adverse effects of this environmental noise demands actions on several levels and by a number of organizations. (ministries, administrations, local governments, etc).

Possibilities for reductions were identified at the CAETS forum in Innsbruck in September 2013. See [CAETS, NCTC, "Quieter cities of tomorrow."](#) New test methods and limit values were discussed.

Agreements on maximum noise emissions from road vehicles are regulated through UNECE which has a special working group on noise, GRB (Groupe Rapporteur de Bruit). The regulations are very important for the international trade of vehicles. GRB meets twice a year in Geneva. The test procedures and limit values have been changed and limit values lowered several times but with little effect upon the noise emissions from ordinary traffic.

Reasons for this and options to make some progress through more immission-relevant test methods on the source side were identified in the Innsbruck forum.

Some time ago, the NCTC through its chairman Tor Kihlman offered a presentation for GRB concerning the traffic noise problem but this offer was not accepted. CAETS has since then obtained a seat at the GRB meeting table. Jens Forssén from the Division for Applied Acoustics at Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden attended the recent GRB-meeting using that seat to become acquainted with the procedures and to make personal contacts.

Jens Forssén was well received by the GRB chairman and the secretary, the EU representative and some country delegates. He distributed the report from the Innsbruck forum. He was also welcomed to make a presentation at the next meeting in Geneva in February 2016.

To make effective use of the CAETS seat in GRB it is now important to find funding for Jens Forssén's preparations and participation in coming GRB meetings. This will initially be handled by Tor Kihlman, Wolfgang Kropp and Jens Forssén. A long-term funding source will be needed if the NCTC representation on the GRB is to continue.

Tor Kihlman