



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/14  
12 August 2005

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Administrative Committee for the International Convention  
on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF  
FRONTIER CONTROLS OF GOODS, 1982 ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION  
(16 and 17 June 2005)**

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Annex: Contracting Parties to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (21 October 1982)

## **ATTENDANCE**

1. The Administrative Committee held its seventh session in Geneva on 16 and 17 June 2005.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and European Community (EC).
3. Representatives of the following country attended as observers according to Annex 7, Article 2 of the Convention: Tajikistan; Turkey.
4. The following intergovernmental organization attended as observers: The Organization for the Collaboration of Railways (OSZhD).
5. The following non-governmental organizations attended as observers: The International Road Transport Union (IRU) and Transfrigoroute International.
6. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to Annex 7, Article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13.

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 1.

7. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda prepared by the secretariat as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 2.

8. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee elected Mr. M. Amelio, Italy as Chairman for its sessions in 2005.

## **STATUS OF THE CONVENTION**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13.

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 3.

9. The Administrative Committee was informed that, as of 1 June 2005, the Convention had 45 Contracting Parties, including the European Community. Kazakhstan has acceded to the Convention as of 1 April 2005. A list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is contained in the annex to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify this list.

10. Detailed information on the status of the Convention is available on the UNECE Transport Division web site: <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>.

## **PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OF THE CONVENTION**

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 4.

11. Contracting Parties to the Convention had been invited by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE to submit proposals for amendments of the Convention. The Administrative Committee considered the following proposals submitted by the Contracting Parties to the Convention represented in the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30).

### **Consideration of a new Annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1;  
TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2004/1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1; TRANS/WP.30/216;  
TRANS/WP.30/210; TRANS/WP.30/204; TRANS/WP.30/202; TRANS/WP.30/200;  
TRANS/WP.30/198; TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/194; TRANS/WP.30/192;  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/12; TRANS/WP.30/2003/23; TRANS/WP.30/2002/19;  
TRANS/WP.30/2001/16; TRANS/WP.30/2000/16; TRANS/WP.30/2000/11.

12. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its third session, it had examined proposals for the insertion of new Annexes to the Convention on (a) facilitation of the passage of ATP vehicles carrying perishable foodstuffs prepared by Transfrigoroute International for the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) and (b) efficient border crossing procedures prepared by the International Road Transport Union (IRU)

(TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6, paras. 12-19). Based on further discussions, the secretariat had prepared a first draft of a new Annex to the Convention in 2000.

13. Subsequently, the new draft Annex 8 to the Convention had been considered during a number of sessions of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) as well as at the fourth, fifth and sixth sessions of the Administrative Committee.

14. The Administrative Committee recalled that the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its one-hundred-and-eighth session (TRANS/WP.30/216), had considered document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1 and had agreed on a number of changes to be included in the final text of the Annex, including those agreed at the ad hoc expert group meeting on the Convention which took place on 24 September 2003 (TRANS/WP.30/2004/12). The secretariat had, on this basis, prepared document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1.

15. The Administrative Committee recalled that the objective of the new Annex 8 is to insert into the Convention complementing provisions to those already provided in Annex 1 of the Convention and to define, as a first step, the measures that need to be implemented in order to facilitate border crossing procedures for international road transport. Other border control provisions applying specifically to rail, inland water and possibly maritime and air transport might be included at a later stage. The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) had stressed, in this context, that the new Annex 8 should address in a comprehensive and consistent manner all major elements important for efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods, covering different types of cargoes, particularly perishable foodstuffs, road vehicles, drivers as well as border crossing procedures and infrastructures.

16. The Committee considered the new draft Annex 8 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1. The Committee took note of information provided by the representative of the European Community, that special rules apply to three Community member states, Denmark, Ireland and United Kingdom) where these countries have national competencies regarding visa policy and procedures. However, for the part where the European community has competence, it anticipated to receive a mandate from the European Council in July 2005 to adopt the new Annex 8. The delegation of the United Kingdom reiterated the UK's independent position on the subject of visa policy and procedures and furthermore stated that it would not be able to confirm the UK position until Parliamentary scrutiny had been completed. A number of other delegations also provided information, that they, as well, expected to receive mandates in the near future from their respective competent organs to adopt the new Annex 8. The Committee noted with satisfaction that none of the Contracting Parties present at the session expressed reservations with regard to the possibility

of adopting the new Annex 8. The Committee, therefore, decided to convene its eighth session in October 2005 with the view to finally adopting the new Annex 8 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1.

17. The Committee took note of proposals by the delegation of Russian Federation to amend Article 5.1 with a view to clarifying that measurements recorded in Vehicle Weight Certificates shall only be recorded once, either in the country of origin of the international transport operation, provided that this country is a Contracting Party to the Convention or otherwise in the first Contracting Party en route. Furthermore, the delegation of the Russian Federation also informed of its consideration to make additional amendment proposals to Appendix 2, paragraph 1 of the new Annex. The Committee also took note of the intervention by Transfrigoroute International concerning the text of Article 3.3 (iii) of the Annex, concerning the use of the proper term “refrigerating unit” (English) and “group frigorific” (French). The Committee decided to consider the issues raised by the Russian Federation and Transfrigoroute International on a priority basis once the new Annex 8 has been adopted, presumably in October 2005. Finally the Committee took note of an intervention by the delegation of Belarus in relation to the issuance of visas for professional drivers. The Committee recognized the difficulties and sensitivities concerning this issue and noted with satisfaction that the new Annex 8, Article 2 was a first step towards providing a solution to this issue in the context of the UNECE legal instruments. Nevertheless, the Committee, within its mandate and pending further direction by the Inland Transport Committee, agreed that the issue concerning the facilitation of visas for professional drivers could be considered in further detail at future sessions of the Committee of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) in the context of the Convention on the basis of concrete proposals by Contracting Parties.

## **PROPOSALS OTHER THAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2005/22.

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 5.

### **(a) Draft Annex for facilitation of rail transport**

18. The Administrative Committee took note of developments in the field of facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport, in particular the considerations by the Organization for the Collaboration of Railways (OSZhD) to elaborate a new Annex to the “Harmonization Convention”, which would cover issues relating to railway border crossing. The Committee considered Informal document No. 5 (2005 (substituting document TRANS/WP.30/2005/22), prepared by the OSZhD, providing a first draft of a new Annex 9 to

the “Harmonization Convention” on facilitation of border crossing for railways. The Committee welcomed the proposals by the OSZhD and invited the OSZhD to further develop the proposals and to transmit these for consideration by the Working Party (WP.30) at its session in October 2005. In particular, the Committee expressed the view that further considerations were needed in relation to Article 8 of the draft Annex 9 concerning the use of a future consolidated CIM/SMGS consignment note as a Customs document.

19. Finally, the Committee took note that the OSZhD, in co-operation with the UNECE, is planning an international conference in April 2006, where e.g. the issue of rail transport facilitation, including the new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization” Convention will be considered.

**(b) Preparation of an Annex for security related controls at borders**

20. The Committee considered if, on the basis of issues still to be identified relating to security at borders, it should be considered to prepare an Annex to the Convention on security controls at border crossings. Furthermore, the Committee was invited to consider the issue of Transport Security at borders in the context of the Round-Table to Transport Security to be held in conjunction with the session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) in February 2006 and to provide the secretariat with input in the form of examples and problems relating to the issue. The Committee agreed that the issue might be considered at one of its future sessions or at future sessions of the Working Party on the basis of new information to be provided by delegations or the secretariat, including issues emanating from the ITC Round-Table.

**(c) Facilitation of border crossing procedures in international road transport**

21. The Administrative Committee took note of the developments in the context of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and its Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC), which had originally prepared the concept and technical specifications of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC), part of the newly proposed Annex 8 to the Convention.

22. In this context, it had been proposed to develop an electronic version of the IVWC with a view to facilitating the capturing and transfer of data in the IVWC. It had been proposed that such a development could be based on the UNeDocs. Standard.

23. The Committee invited the secretariat to prepare a note for its next session or for one of the future sessions of the Working Party providing further information on the issue.

**(d) Measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention**

24. The Administrative Committee took note of the possible world-wide implementation of the Convention in line with resolution No. 230 adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee on 4 February 1983 entitled “Technical assistance measures for the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods”. The secretariat informed the Committee of its continued efforts to promote the Convention, including co-operation with other Regional Commissions of the United Nations to this extent as well as the promotion of the Convention in the context of the WTO negotiations on GATT Articles V and VIII.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 6.

**(a) Date of next session**

25. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4, sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of the Convention, the Administrative Committee decided to convene its eighth session on 6 and 7 October 2005 in conjunction with the one-hundred-and-eleventh session of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) in the week of 4 to 7 October.

**(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents**

26. The Administrative Committee decided there should be no restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13, item 7.

27. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 8 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee adopted the report of its seventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

\* \* \*

Annex

**Contracting Parties  
to the  
International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods  
(21 October 1982)**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Armenia                | Latvia                                       |
| Austria                | Lesotho                                      |
| Azerbaijan             | Lithuania                                    |
| Belarus                | Luxembourg                                   |
| Belgium                | Netherlands                                  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Norway                                       |
| Bulgaria               | Poland                                       |
| Croatia                | Portugal                                     |
| Cuba                   | Romania                                      |
| Cyprus                 | Russian Federation                           |
| Czech Republic         | Serbia and Montenegro                        |
| Denmark                | Slovakia                                     |
| Estonia                | Slovenia                                     |
| Finland                | South Africa                                 |
| France                 | Spain  |
| Georgia                | Sweden                                       |
| Germany                | Switzerland                                  |
| Greece                 | The former Yugoslav Republic of<br>Macedonia |
| Hungary                | Ukraine                                      |
| Ireland                | United Kingdom                               |
| Italy                  | Uzbekistan                                   |
| Kyrgyzstan             |  |

European Community

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