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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
Working Party on Customs Questions
affecting Transport

Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Customs Rail Transit
based on the SMGS Consignment Note
(11 February 2002)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE
INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON CUSTOMS RAIL TRANSIT
BASED ON THE SMGS CONSIGNMENT NOTE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Monday, 11 February 2002 ^{*/}**

^{*/} For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: Poul.Hansen@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (Poul.Hansen@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72433).

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1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/WP.30/2002/9
2. Election of officers
3. Introduction and mandate TRANS/2001/10
TRANS/WP.30/194
TRANS/WP.30/192
4. Review of the provisions of the draft
Convention on International Customs Transit
Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail
under Cover of SMGS Consignment notes TRANS/2001/10
TRANS/WP.30/2002/10
5. Conclusion

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1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The informal ad hoc Expert Group (hereafter referred to as: 'Expert Group') may wish to adopt its agenda (TRANS/WP.30/2002/9).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Expert Group will have to elect a Chairperson for its session.

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At its ninety-sixth session the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) had terminated its activities towards the preparation of harmonized pan-European Customs transit procedures for international rail transport by preparing two draft conventions, one for the covering the CIM Consignment note and one for the area covering the SMGS Consignment note.

According to the decision of the Working Party the two draft conventions prepared for this purpose had been transmitted, via diplomatic channels, to the Contracting Parties to the COTIF Convention and to the SMGS Agreement respectively with a view to soliciting their views on the approach taken and on the Customs transit procedures proposed therein. The secretariat has to date received about 10 replies from Contracting Parties.

On the basis of the comments received and in accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/136) the Working Party, at its ninety-seventh session, had agreed not to continue with any further work on the draft Convention based on the COTIF consignment note. The secretariat had however been requested to convene an ad hoc informal expert group meeting of interested countries and international organizations to review once more the provisions of the draft convention based on the SMGS consignment note and to prepare a revised draft for consideration of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.30/198).

4. REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAIL UNDER COVER OF THE SMGS CONSIGNMENT NOTE

The Expert Group should consider in detail the provisions of the draft Convention and its objectives (TRANS/2000/10) in order to be able to contribute to the finalization of the draft Convention. The complete text of the draft Convention is contained in document TRANS/2001/10. The comments received from Contracting States are contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2002/10.

5. CONCLUSION

Having reviewed and finalized the provisions of the draft Convention on Customs Rail Transit based on the SMGS consignment note, the Expert Group is invited to draw up a recommendation for the Working Party on how to proceed concerning this question.



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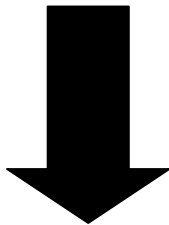
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