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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

(31 January to 3 February 2006)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-TWELFTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,

starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 31 January 2006 *

^{*}The UNECE Transport Division has submitted the present document after the official documentation deadline. For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. <u>There will be no documentation available in the meeting room</u>. <u>Before</u> the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE 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 UNECE Transport Division (http://border.unece.org). <u>During</u> the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, 3rd floor, Palais des Nations). <u>Documents mentioned in bold in the documentation overview under each agenda item of this agenda are newly issued documents</u>.

The full text of the Conventions in English, French and Russian as well as complete lists of Contracting Parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the UNECE web site: http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs.

Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet Web site of the UNECE Transport Division (http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (Poul.Hansen@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates that do not hold a long term access badge are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 74030).

Tuesday 31 January 2006

- 1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2. Election of officers
- 3. Activities of UNECE bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party
- 4. Activities of other organizations of interest to the Working Party
- 5. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 ("Harmonization Convention")
 - (a) Status of the Convention
 - (b) Preparation of a new Annex on rail border crossing
- 6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)
 - (a) Status of the Convention
 - (b) Application of the Conventions
- 7. Railway transit
- 8. Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, 1954

Wednesday 1 February 2006

- 9. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)
 - (a) Status of the Convention
 - (b) Revision of the Convention
 - (i) Implementation of amendments to the Convention
 - (ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process
 - (iii) Amendment proposals for the Convention

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Wednesday 1 February 2006 (cont'd)

- (c) Application of the Convention
 - (i) Control system for TIR Carnets IRU SafeTIR
 - (ii) Settlement of claims for payments
 - (iii) Issues relating to technical provisions
 - (iv) TIR Handbook
 - (v) Other matters
- 10. Prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by smugglers
- 11. Programme of work for 2006 to 2010
- 12. Other business
 - (a) Dates of the next sessions
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

Thursday 2 February 2006

TIR Administrative Committee

Friday 3 February 2006

13. Adoption of the reports

* * *

Annex: Programme of work for the years 2005-2009

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/223.

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/223).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party should elect a Chairperson and possibly a Vice-Chairperson for its sessions in 2006.

3. ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of the Inland Transport Committee, its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations bodies and organizations as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

In particular, the Working Party may wish to be informed about developments with regard to the Review of the UNECE, which had been initiated in 2005.

4. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities by the World Customs Organization (WCO), the European Commission (DG TAXUD) as well as by other governmental and non-governmental organizations as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the WCO about the final outcome and the follow-up activities concerning the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade as adopted by the WCO Council in June 2005, as well as activities and the status relating to the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972.

The Working Party, may wish to be informed about the status of discussions, in the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on transport and facilitation related issues

resulting from the decisions of the Cancun negotiation round, in particular in relation to the negotiations relating to Article 5 of the GATT Agreement on Transit.

The Working Party may also wish to be informed about developments undertaken under the auspices of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

5. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER CONTROLS OF GOODS, 1982 ("HARMONIZATION CONVENTION")

<u>Documentation</u>: ECE/TRANS/55 (http://border.unece.org - Legal Instruments); Informal document No. 1 (2006).

(a) <u>Status of the Convention</u>

The Working Party will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention. A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is available at the following web site: <u>http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html#48</u>. Information about the status of the Convention can be obtained from the following website: <u>http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty17.asp</u>.

(b) <u>Preparation of a new Annex on rail border crossing</u>

The Working Party, at its one-hundred-and-ninth session, took note of information provided by the secretariat about 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 (TRANS/SC.2/2004/7). At its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, the Working Party postponed further discussions of the issue as the document transmitted by the OSZhD (TRANS/SC.2/2005/2) was only available in Russian. The Working Party may wish to consider the document and be informed about any new developments concerning this issue. In addition, the Working Party may wish to consider the results of the OSZhD work group that was held in Lithuania in November 2005. The results, including an updated proposal for the text of the new draft Annex 9 are contained in Informal document No. 1 (2006).

The Working Party may wish to recall that it is the intention to organize a joint Conference by the OSZhD and the UNECE in the first half of 2006 to discuss the draft annex with a view, subsequently, to transmitting the draft for consideration and final adoption by the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention.

6. CUSTOMS CONVENTIONS ON THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF PRIVATE ROAD VEHICLES (1954) AND COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES (1956)

<u>Documentation</u>: ECE/TRANS/107/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/108; (http://border.unece.org - Legal Instruments).

(a) <u>Status of the Conventions</u>

The Working Party will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles. A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is available at the following web site: <u>http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html#48</u>. Information about the status of the Convention can be obtained from the following websites: <u>http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty8.asp</u>, <u>http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty10.asp</u>.

(b) <u>Application of the Conventions</u>

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it considered a number of questions concerning the application of the Conventions put forward by the AIT/FIA (TRANS/WP.30/2005/27). The Working Party requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the AIT/FIA, to prepare two comments to the text of the Conventions, in relation to the terms "as far as possible" and "force majeure", which are used in the Conventions. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the status of issues.

7. RAILWAY TRANSIT

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/2006/9.

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had been informed by the secretariat that, subsequent to the adoption in February 2005 by the Inland Transport Committee of the Convention on Rail Transit Covering the SMGS Area, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) had informed that it could not become depositary to the Convention due to the regional nature of the Convention and the fact that the Convention refers to a legal instrument which is not deposited with the United Nations (TRANS/WP.30/222, paras. 23-24).

The Working Party stressed the importance of the adoption of the Convention and noted that the Convention, in fact, did not have a limited regional reach (TRANS/WP.30/222, para. 25).

Subsequently, the secretariat, in close cooperation with the OSZhD, has transmitted a request to the OLA for reconsideration of the issue. Having considered the various arguments, the OLA has informed the secretariat that the UN can become depositary of the Convention provided that a number of amendments are made to the text of the Convention.

The Working Party may wish to consider and possibly adopt document ECE/TRANS/2006/9, containing the revised text of the Convention, with the proposed changes indicated in track change. If the amended text is adopted by the Working Party, it is be transmitted to the Inland Transport Committee for consideration and adoption at its session in February 2006.

8. CONVENTION CONCERNING CUSTOMS FACILITIES FOR TOURING, 1954

The Working Party may also wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had decided to consider, on a regular basis, a number of the Conventions which it is responsible for, and which are not dealt with on a regular basis. In this context, the secretariat will provide information and update the status of the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, 1954.

9. CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION, 1975)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/17 and Amends.1-25; 2005 TIR Handbook (http://tir.unece.org); TRANS/WP.30/2005/1; TRANS/WP.30/2005/9.

(a) <u>Status of the Convention</u>

The Working Party will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975.

A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, as well as a list of countries in which TIR operations can be undertaken, is annexed to the report of the thirty-ninth session of the TIR Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/79, annex 1) and can also be found on the following web site: <u>http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html#48</u>. Permanently updated information on the scope of the TIR Convention is available on the UNECE TIR web site: (<u>http://tir.unece.org</u>).

(b) <u>Revision of the Convention</u>

(i) <u>Implementation of amendments to the Convention</u>

The Working Party may wish to take note of the information concerning the status of amendments to the Convention and the implementation at national level.

(ii) <u>Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process</u>

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/214; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2005/1; TRANS/WP.30/GE.2/2005/10; TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/5; TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.30/2005/20; TRANS/WP.30/2005/11; TRANS/WP.30/2005/10; TRANS/WP.30/2005/5; TRANS/WP.30/2004/31; TRANS/WP.30/2004/30; TRANS/WP.30/2004/29.

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its ninety-sixth session, it had decided to start work on Phase III of the TIR revision process, which would include a study of the following elements (TRANS/WP.30/192, para. 33):

- Revision of the TIR Carnet, including the insertion of additional data elements (ID number, HS code, value of goods, etc.);
- Increase in the number of places for loading and unloading under Customs seal;
- Use of new technologies in TIR operations also with a view to reducing the delay in notification of non-discharge.

The Working Party, at its previous sessions, has decided not to consider the question concerning an increase in the number of places for loading and unloading unless the question is specifically raised.

- <u>Revision of the TIR Carnet</u>

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had agreed to transmit the text of a draft Recommendation concerning the use of the HS Code in the TIR Carnet to the TIR Administrative Committee at its session in February 2006. The Turkish delegation had reserved its position with regard to the Recommendation.

The secretariat has, at present, not received any other proposals for revision of the TIR Carnet. The Working Party may wish to consider if there are any other issues with regard to the TIR Carnet that should be considered.

- <u>Use of new technologies</u>

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had postponed its consideration of document TRANS/WP.30/2005/32, prepared by the secretariat, containing the Reference Model for the eTIR project, as the document was only available in the English language version. The Working Party may wish to consider and adopt the document.

The Working Party may wish to be informed of the outcome of the meeting of the eighth session of the Expert Group, which took place on 14 and 15 November 2005. The report of the meeting is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/5.

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had considered Informal document No. 9 (2005), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the European Commission, containing a description of the main principles of the eTIR system. The Working Party expressed support for the guidelines contained in the document and expressed the view that the Ad hoc Expert Group on Computerization should follow guidelines. The IRU regretted the late transmission of the document and contested the strategy outlined in the document. The IRU proposed to refocus the work of the computerization of the TIR system and to build on IT already

available for the TIR procedure. The Working Party took note of these remarks but declared the intention of the Customs authorities to build a computerized TIR system of their own and under their own control (TRANS/WP.30/222, paras. 33-35).

The Working Party may wish to take note of the discussions in the Ad hoc Expert Group on the above issue. In this context, the Working Party may wish to take note of document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2/Rev.1, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the European Commission and also containing the comments made by the Ad hoc Expert Group on Computerization when discussing the issue at its eighth session. The Working Party may wish to consider and endorse the document. The Working Party may also wish to be informed about the views of the IRU on the issue.

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had considered document TRANS/WP.30/2005/20, prepared by the secretariat, containing an overview of pros and cons of either amending the present Convention or elaborating a new eTIR Convention. The Working Party did not reach a conclusion on the issue and may therefore wish to consider the issue in more detail at its present session.

(iii) Amendment proposals for the Convention

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/2; TRANS/WP.30/2005/7; TRANS/WP.30/2005/6; TRANS/WP.30/2004/38; TRANS/WP.30/2004/37; TRANS/WP.30/2004/33; TRANS/WP.30/2004/32; TRANS/WP.30/2004/25; TRANS/WP.30/2004/24; TRANS/WP.30/2004/14; TRANS/WP.30/2004/11; TRANS/WP.30/2003/22; TRANS/WP.30/2003/11; TRANS/WP.30/2003/10; TRANS/WP.30/2002/30; TRANS/WP.30/216; TRANS/WP.30/R.179; Informal document No. 2 (2004).

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, it had considered document TRANS/WP.30/2005/29, transmitted by the European Community, containing a number of proposals for revision of the text of the Convention.

With regard to Article 4 of the Convention, the Working Party may wish to recall that the following text had been proposed during the session: "As long as goods are carried under the TIR procedure the payment or security of import and expert duties and taxes other than that mentioned in Article 3 (b) shall be suspended". One delegation had requested more time to consider the amendment proposal. The Working Party may wish to consider and decide on the proposal cited above.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that the proposals concerning Articles 8.2 and 8.3 had been postponed. The Working Party may wish to revert to considering these proposals. In this

context, the Working Party may wish first to be informed about the outcome of the fifth session of the Ad hoc Expert Group on Phase III of the TIR revision process, which took place on 10 and 11 November 2005 in Geneva. The report of the session is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/GE.2/2005/10. The Working Party may wish to take into account the results of the Ad hoc Group session when considering the outstanding issues.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that, at the initiation phase III of the TIR revision process, it had chosen to divide the issues transmitted for consideration into issues of a strategic nature, which the Ad hoc Expert Group and the Working Party should consider and issues of a technical nature, which the TIRExB, through the TIR Administrative Committee, had been invited to consider.

The TIRExB has finalized, to the extent possible its consideration of the issues which had been transmitted to it for consideration. The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/2, prepared by the secretariat, containing the findings of the TIRExB on the various issues which it had been invited to consider.

(c) <u>Application of the Convention</u>

(i) <u>Control system for TIR Carnets - IRU SafeTIR</u>

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the IRU about developments concerning the issue.

(ii) <u>Settlement of claims for payments</u>

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/222 and Corr.1.

The Working Party may wish to be informed by Customs authorities and the IRU of the present situation with regard to the settlement of claims for payments made by Customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

(iii) <u>Issues relating to technical provisions</u>

The Working Party may wish to be informed of any relevant issues under this point of the agenda. The proposals have not yet been considered in this framework.

(iv) <u>TIR Handbook</u>

Documentation: UNECE document (http://tir.unece.org); 2005 TIR Handbook.

The TIR Handbook contains the text of the Convention and its annexes, including the amendments to the Convention and Explanatory Notes, as well as all relevant comments adopted by the Working Party, the Administrative Committee and the TIRExB.

The updated 2005 version of the Handbook is available in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish language versions both in hard copy, cd-rom and in electronic version for download from the UNECE TIR web site: http://tir.unece.org.

(v) <u>Other matters</u>

The Working Party may wish to consider any other issues and difficulties in the application of the Convention faced by Customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or the IRU.

10. PREVENTION OF THE ABUSE OF CUSTOMS TRANSIT SYSTEMS BY SMUGGLERS

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/127.

Having discussed at earlier sessions a number of drug seizures involving TIR vehicles, the Working Party felt that it should be informed of any special devices and facilities used by smugglers abusing the TIR transit system. The Working Party invited all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to transmit all relevant information on such cases so that it could take the necessary steps, falling within its competence and mandate, to prevent such occurrences (TRANS/WP.30/127, paras. 55-57).

As in the past, the Working Party may wish to exchange views and report on experiences on this subject, if any, on a confidential basis.

11. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006 TO 2010

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/220.

The Working Party may wish to consider and amend as appropriate its Work Programme for the years 2006 to 2010 based on the present Programme of Work contained in the <u>annex</u>.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that, at its one-hundred-and-ninth session, it had decided to initiate a regular transmission of country reports, with a view to providing delegations with a better understanding of developments in the field of border crossing facilitation in the UNECE region (TRANS/WP.30/220, para. 50). Based on the information template contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2005/21. Delegations are invited to transmit their country reports to the secretariat before 15 January 2006.

In connection with its considerations concerning the Programme of Work, the Working Party may also wish to consider the sequence of meetings. At present, the Working Party meets normally three times per year. In addition, a number of ad hoc groups meet between the regular sessions. Recently, some delegations have questioned the feasibility of organizing both regular meetings and Ad hoc meetings at the present interval.

As a result, the Working Party may wish to consider if, e.g. two regular meetings of WP.30, one in spring and one in autumn, would be sufficient, possibly with the provision that the usual June session could be reserved for Ad hoc group meetings or meetings on a special topic related to the Programme of Work of the Working Party.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) <u>Dates of the next sessions</u>

The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates for its next sessions.

The secretariat has already scheduled the one-hundred-and-thirteenth session of the Working Party to be held in the week from 29 May to 2 June 2006.

The one-hundred-and-fourteenth session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held during the week of 16 to 20 October 2006, pending final confirmation of the dates.

(b) <u>Restriction on the distribution of documents</u>

The Working Party should decide whether there shall be any restrictions with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its onehundred-and-twelfth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the session for adoption in all working languages.

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ECE/TRANS/WP.30/223 page 15 Annex

<u>Annex</u>

Programme of work for the years 2005-2009¹

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.10: CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport [Priority: 1]

Description:

- (a) Preparation and implementation and, where appropriate, review and modification of international legal instruments.
- (b) Simplification *and harmonization* of administrative formalities, documents and procedures.

<u>Work to be undertaken</u>: The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Review of relevant Conventions and Agreements on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their *relevance and implementation as well as* coherence with other international or sub-regional treaties and to keep them in line with modern transport and border control requirements.

Output expected in 2005:

Analysis of the application of the following UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles; [Customs Convention Concerning Spare Parts Used for the Repair of EUROP Wagons; and Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport].

¹ Text in *italic* characters indicates newly proposed text; text in square brackets ([....]) refers to text proposed for deletion.

Consideration of the need for negotiating two model container pool agreements providing guidance to the transport industry and the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the provisions of the "Customs Container Pool Convention" covering international rail and international maritime transport.

(b) Periodic review of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to confirming their usefulness and implementation as well as possibly adopting modifications where deemed necessary <u>Priority</u>: 2

Output expected in 2005:

Initial review of all Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to deciding on which Resolutions and Recommendations to focus in the coming year.

(c) Study of the possible extension of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation to other regions, particularly relating to legal and administrative aspects.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2005:

Preparation and organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with UNESCAP and UNESCWA *and other relevant UN and international organizations*, on the implementation of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation, *in particular* in Asia and the Middle East.

(d) Study of Customs questions with a view to simplification of Customs formalities and documents in the field of transport, in particular taking account of the possibility of electronic data interchange solutions, including UN/EDIFACT messages. <u>Priority</u>: 1

Output expected in 2005:

Analysis and revision of the provisions of both a strategic and technical nature of the TIR Convention, in particular the provisions relating to the guarantee system with a view to enhancing the functioning and efficiency for both the public and private partners in the TIR system; [Analysis of the impact on the TIR regime of the New Customs Transit System (NCTS) to be applied in the countries of the Common Transit System (European Community, EFTA and Visegrad countries) and] Coordination of work with the relevant bodies within the European Community on integration of the TIR system in the New Customs Transit System (NCTS) [this subject].

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Continuation of work on phase III of the TIR revision procedure, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and on provisions for a modernized EDI-based Customs administration and control system.

(e) Study of specific legal and other measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified Customs and other border crossing procedures, such as the TIR regime, including periodic review of the status of implementation of resolution No. 220 (prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by drug smugglers). Setting-up of mechanisms and administrative procedures for the regular exchange of information with other Governmental and nongovernmental organizations to combat such fraud.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2005:

Preparation of adequate instruments and measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fraud.

Activities towards implementation of the Recommendation adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 20 October 1995 on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets.

Exchange of intelligence among Customs authorities of Contracting Parties to relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation on abuses with a view to identifying measures to combat such occurrences.

(f) Analysis of difficulties encountered relating to border crossing formalities with a view to devising administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties. The analysis will cover health, phytosanitary, veterinary and quality controls, application of standards, public safety controls, etc., including the promotion of the implementation and extension of the scope of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 1982 (Harmonization Convention).

Output expected in 2005:

[Study of the possibilities to prepare and negotiate] *Finalization of* a new annex to the "Harmonization Convention" on road transport, including possibly an international lorry weight certificate, in close cooperation with the Working Party on Road Transport.

Study of concrete measures facilitating border crossing procedures for railway transport in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport, possibly through the preparation of a new

annex on rail border crossing facilitation.

[(g) Study to facilitate formalities for container pools in international transport and follow-up activities within the framework of the Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport. <u>Priority: 2</u>

Output expected in 2005:

Preparation and negotiation of two model container pool agreements providing guidance to the transport industry and the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the provisions of the "Customs Container Pool Convention" covering international rail and international maritime transport.]

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

[(a) Revision of the TIR Convention, 1975 with a view to stabilizing the TIR Customs transit procedure. <u>Priority</u>: 1

Output expected in 2004:

Continuation of work on phase III of the TIR revision procedure, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and on provisions for a modernized, possibly EDI-based Customs administration and control system.]

(b) Study to facilitate railway transit traffic on the basis of the CIM and the SMGS Consignment Notes, including the preparation of a new Customs transit regime allowing the use of the CIM and the SMGS consignment notes as a Customs document.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2005:

Preparation of a draft Customs transit convention covering international rail transport in [all COTIF and] SMGS Member States.

Study the full integration of a harmonized Customs transit regime covering all COTIF and SMGS Member States.

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