

Convention on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for passengers, luggage and load-luggage carried in international traffic by rail

**Artur Bouten
Sustainable Transport Division
Economic Commission for Europe**



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**Open for signature at the United Nations
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**Only signatory so far: Chad (26 September
2019)**

Scope

To provide a comprehensive legal instrument (not limited to only customs matters) that should accommodate all types of border controls related to the international movement of passengers and their baggage, which can be made by border control agencies, including border police.

Arguments for the conclusion of a new Convention:

The existing 1952 Convention is considered outdated and not fulfilling modern railway requirements;

Recent decrease of railway traffic of passengers and luggage from East to West due to high administrative barriers when crossing borders;

For European States, but also serving the specific interest of countries like China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and other countries of Central Asia;

A base document for concluding multilateral and bilateral agreements. Therefore containing many provisions of a non-binding nature;

Aimed at the future of high-speed international rail traffic, in particular across the vast Eurasian landmass;

Taking account of modern technology.

Key provisions 1



Article 1: Definitions

(h) “luggage” means items or objects belonging to a passenger and accepted by a carrier for carriage in a luggage wagon of a passenger train;

(j) “load-luggage” means items accepted by a carrier from a physical person or legal entity in accordance with the procedure for the carriage in a luggage wagon or a passenger train established by the legislation of the Party in whose territory such items are accepted for carriage.

Key provisions 2



Article 2: scope

- **Organize cooperation between the parties and coordinate work of state control authorities to facilitate border crossing;**
- **Define measures to implement State control, including harmonization of issuance of documents;**
- **Improve efficiency of railway checkpoints and reduce time needed for State controls at borders;**
- **Organize coordination of work of border, customs and other State bodies implementing State controls at borders**

Key provisions 3



Article 3:

Parties may conclude bilateral agreements to achieve the objectives of the Convention or complement or clarify its provisions;

The provisions of the Convention shall not prevent the application of greater facilities;

Key provisions 4



Article 5:

State control is performed:

- **Aboard the train in the stop time at border stations;**
- **At the railway checkpoint(s) of a Party;**
- **On the train when moving between checkpoints or railway stations;**
- **Partially at railway checkpoints and when the train is moving.**

Article 6:

Control of passengers' documents and their hand luggage, luggage and load-luggage.

Key provisions 4



Article 10:

Facilitation of visa procedures and procedures for the crossing of borders for train crew members, staff and employees of border (or transfer) stations

Article 11:

Criteria and conditions for the organization of State control (availability of buildings, equipment, devices, information and communications systems, staff.

Article 12:

Availability of advance information (digital) on passengers and luggage.

Key provisions 5



Article 13:

Possibility of joint State controls in accordance with bilateral agreements.

Article 16:

Compliance with standard timeframes, seeking to reduce them by improving operations and technology.

Article 18:

Preference for passenger controls en route, in particular:

- When sufficient time to do so;**
- When automatic gauge changeover systems;**
- On high speed trains.**

Key provisions 6



Articles 20-28 Final clauses

Article 20: ECE acts as secretariat.

Article 21: open to all States.

Article 22: 5 States in order to enter into force.

Article 27: Any Party can propose an amendment. Secretariat shall communicate to all Parties. Amendments will be considered by a Conference. Amendments adopted by consensus of those Parties present and voting shall be circulated for acceptance.

Article 28: Secretary-General of the United Nations acts as depositary.

Thank you



Artur Bouten

Sustainable Transport Division
Secretary Working Party on Customs
Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

8-14, Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2433

Fax: +41 22 917 0614

Email: artur.bouten@un.org