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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****165th session**

Geneva, 6 (p.m.), 7 and 9 (a.m.) February 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the 165th session^{*, **, ***}**

to be held in person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday 6 February 2024 and continuing on Wednesday 7 and Friday 9 (a.m.) February 2024, in Room XXIV.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee Strategy.
4. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

** 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 official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html.

Delegates (including those holding long-duration badge) are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007034/> and delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Peace Gate (8, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

*** The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of contracting parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs.



- (b) Revision of the Convention:
Amendment proposals to the Convention.
- (c) Application of the Convention:
 - (i) Comments to the TIR Convention;
 - (ii) eTIR:
 - a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects;
 - b. International TIR Data Bank and other eTIR related information technology projects.
 - (iii) New developments in the application of the Convention;
 - (iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
 - (v) Settlement of claims for payments;
 - (vi) Other matters.
- 5. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the Convention.
- 6. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:
Status of the Convention.
- 7. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
 - (a) Status of the Conventions;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the Conventions.
- 8. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030.
- 9. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) European Union;
 - (b) Economic Cooperation Organization;
 - (c) World Customs Organization.
- 10. Other business:
 - (a) Dates of the next session;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
- 11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/329

2. Election of Officers

In accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures and established practice, the Working Party (WP.30) should elect a Chair and, possibly, a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2024. Governments are strongly encouraged to nominate candidates for either post in order to facilitate the election process.

3. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee strategy

The Working Party might wish to recall that, at its previous session (October 2023), decided to tentatively adopt the revised ToR pending finalization of the European Union Council decision and to adopt its new name to "Global Forum on Customs Questions Affecting Transport including Border Crossing Facilitation". The Working Party might wish to recall that at its 162nd session (February 2023) decided to revert to the proposed strategy and action plan (as proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/2) once agreement on the ToR had been reached (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/324, para. 9). Since the revised ToR were adopted at its previous session, the Working Party may wish to consider and possibly adopt document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/1, which constitutes an updated, based on the new ToR and discussions undertaken since then, version of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/2.

The Working Party might wish to recall that the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Committee's Bureau and relevant subsidiary bodies, to develop an ambitious strategy document for reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in inland transport based on international United Nations legal instruments under the Committee's purview with priority actions for the ITC and all its relevant subsidiary bodies, supported by a strong action plan with milestones. The Strategic document would be considered with possible adoption at the ITC eighty-sixth plenary session in 2024. The Working Party might wish to consider Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 1, which includes the strategic document on reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in inland transport that has been submitted to ITC for adoption. The Working Party may wish also to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/2, which includes more extensive research beyond the ITC strategic document, on how customs in general and more specifically WP.30 could contribute to the reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Furthermore, following the preliminary deliberations that took place during its last session and in order to further contribute to this extensive research document, the Working Party may wish to consider presentations on good practices by interested to this topic delegates.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/2; Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 1

4. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the TIR Convention, 1975 and the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Working Party may wish to note that, in accordance with its Article 53, paragraph 2, the Convention entered into force for Iraq on 27 September 2023. With the accession of Iraq, the TIR Convention now has seventy-eight contracting parties. Since the activation of the system for Qatar, TIR operations can be established with sixty-five countries. Detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

(b) Revision of the Convention

Amendment proposals to the Convention

There are, at present, no amendment proposals to the Convention, submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

(c) Application of the Convention

(i) Comments to the TIR Convention

There are, at present, no comments to provisions of the Convention, submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

(ii) eTIR

a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in the eTIR international system, based on version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications. The Working Party will also be informed about the status of the various interconnection projects.

b. International TIR Data Bank and other eTIR related information technology projects

The Working Party will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other eTIR related information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

(iii) New developments in the application of the Convention

The Working Party is invited to raise new developments in the application of the TIR Convention, if any.

(iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems

The Working Party will be informed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

(v) Settlement of claims for payments

The Working Party may wish to be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

¹ www.unece.org/tir/

(vi) Other matters

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

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that the secretariat, in close collaboration with the delegation of the European Union and IRU, prepared a draft survey on the certificate of approval for TIR vehicles, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/3. The survey was sent on 14 March 2023 to customs TIR focal points with 31 May 2023 as deadline for reply. (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/324, para. 20). The Working Party at its previous session considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/8 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/9 incorporating replies including remarks received from Customs Authorities and National Associations respectively. The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/3 which includes a consolidated and more concise version of replies received from both Customs Authorities and National Associations providing guidance on the next steps.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/3

5. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention)**(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Convention. Since the tenth session of the Committee, in 2014, only Turkmenistan has acceded to the Convention, in 2016, becoming the fifty-eighth contracting party to the Convention. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.²

(b) Issues in the application of the Convention

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 162nd session (February 2023), it mandated the secretariat to circulate the 5-year survey on the application of Annex 8 of the Convention among the regular delegates from governments (and, in the absence thereof, TIR focal points) as addressees in April 2023 with 1 July 2023 as deadline for reply (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/324, para. 26). The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/4, which includes the results of the 5-year survey providing guidance for further steps if any.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that under this agenda item, at its previous sessions (June and October 2023), it was informed that the ECE secretariat, in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE), was preparing “A practical guide to cross-border facilitation”, which would be available, in English, by mid-2023. The secretariat will provide an update on this publication (Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 2).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/4; Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 2

² www.unece.org/tir.

6. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail

Status of the Convention

The Working Party may wish to recall that, on 26 September 2019, Chad had become signatory to the Convention.³

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in this issue, if any.

7. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

(a) Status of the Conventions

The Working Party will be informed that the status and the number of contracting parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles has not changed and that the Conventions have eighty and twenty-six contracting parties, respectively. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.⁴

(b) Issues in the application of the Conventions

The Working Party might wish to recall that at its last session was briefed about the latest developments in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECE and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme / Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA) on the revitalization and digitalization of the conventions and, in particular, the development of an eCPD (Carnet de Passage en Douane) system. Following a request from customs authorities and depending on the availability of extra budgetary funds, the secretariat with the assistance of the FIA secretariat would organize an informal ad hoc and online meeting to host the first session of the informal working group to digitalize the CPD. The proposed time by the secretariat for this meeting is between 11 and 22 December.

The Working Party might wish to be informed that the first session of the informal group of experts on digitalization of CPD took place on 14 December 2023. The Working Party might wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/5 that includes the report of the first session summarizing the deliberations that took place.

Delegations are also invited to raise, under this agenda item, any issue in the application of the Conventions, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/5

8. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030

As part of the contribution of the Working Party to the ITC Strategy until 2030, delegations are invited, under this standing agenda item, to raise technological developments that could be introduced or applied within the context of the legal instruments under the auspices of the Working Party.

³ www.unece.org/tir

⁴ www.unece.org/tir

9. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic commissions or Customs Unions as well as by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and countries, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

(a) European Union

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent developments in the European Union related to the activities of the Working Party.

(b) Economic Cooperation Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about relevant activities and ongoing projects carried out by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(c) World Customs Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the World Customs Organization as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

10. Other business

(a) Dates of the next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 166th session on 4 and 7 (p.m.) June 2024, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Working Party should decide whether or not there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

(c) List of decisions

The list of adopted decisions will be attached to the final report.

11. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 165th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
