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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****142nd session**

Geneva, 9–12 February 2016

Item 4 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

**Customs Convention on the International Transport  
of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) –  
Revision of the Convention:  
Amendment proposals to the Convention****Amendment proposals to the Convention – proposals of an  
editorial nature – contributions by Contracting Parties****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. At its 140th session, the Working Party, inter alia, discussed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/17 and its Corr. 1, containing amendment proposals of an editorial nature. The Working Party agreed that, over the years, various terms have been used inconsistently or, at least, without, seemingly, proper research. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a revision of the said document and highlight the situations where a change in term seemed appropriate and submit them for further consideration. Finally, the Working Party invited delegations to provide their comments or views to the secretariat, not later than by 16 November 2015, for preparation of a new document for consideration at the current session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/282, para. 10).

2. Further to this request, the secretariat prepared this document which contains contributions by the governments of Belarus, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Switzerland.

**II. Contributions by Contracting Parties**

3. In a letter of 17 November 2015, the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus (GTK), informs the secretariat that:

(a) It supports the provisionally accepted proposal to amend Article 1 (q) to read: “The term “guaranteeing association” shall mean an association authorized by the customs

authorities or other competent authorities of a Contracting Party, to act as guarantor for persons using the TIR procedure” (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/280, para. 6 (d)), in alignment with the provision of Article 6, paragraph 1, Explanatory Note 0.6.2 and Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1.<sup>1</sup>

(b) It proposes not to replace in the text of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 7, line, the term “Contracting Parties” by “Contracting Party”.

(c) It can further support all other amendments contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/17, as proposed by the secretariat.

4. In an e-mail of 13 November 2015, the customs authorities of Iran (Islamic Republic of) inform the secretariat that they can support the proposal to replace in the text of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 7, line, the term “Contracting Parties” by “Contracting Party”.

5. In a letter of 13 November 2015, the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) of Switzerland informs the secretariat that it, in general, it can accept the amendments of an editorial nature as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/17, with the following comments:

(a) In point 25 (Explanatory Note 0.17–1), Switzerland proposes to replace the words “relevant authorities” by “customs authorities”.

(b) In point 40 (Article 33), Switzerland proposes to replace the words “The authorities at the customs office of departure” by “The customs office of departure”.

(c) In point 45 (Article 39, para. 1), Switzerland proposes to replace the words “The Contracting Parties shall disregard” by “The customs authorities shall disregard”, considering that this refers to a customs-specific tasks.

(d) In Part b (approved / authorized), Switzerland supports the proposal by the secretariat to systematically replace “approved” by “authorized”.

(e) In Part c (Conditions and requirements / minimum conditions and requirements), Switzerland supports the proposal by the secretariat to systematically delete the word “minimum”.

(f) In Part d, on the intermittent use of “Administrative Committee” and “Committee”, Switzerland supports the proposal by the secretariat to systematically replace “Committee” by “Administrative Committee” all through the text of the Convention.

(g) In Part d, on the intermittent use of “Certificate of Approval” and “Approval Certificate”, Switzerland would appreciate the use of a single term. However, as the terms are also intermittently used outside the Convention in public documents, it considers a change in the text of the Convention to cumbersome, in particular because there is no misunderstanding that both terms refer to the same document.

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<sup>1</sup> It is unclear from the letter whether the need for alignment refers only to the consistent use of the term “authorized” or also to the term “customs authorities or other competent authorities”.