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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth session
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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009 TO 2014

Note by the secretariat¹

1. The text of the Programme of Work reproduced below is based on the Programme of Work for 2009 to 2013 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/7), as approved by the Working Party at its 121st session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/242, para.40).
2. At its seventieth session in 2008 the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) required its subsidiary bodies to examine their programmes of work every two years. Such arrangement, however, would not exclude the possibility for the Committee's subsidiary bodies to modify their respective programmes of work annually if there was a need to do so (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraph 120).

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.10: CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport.

Description:

¹ The present document has been submitted after the official document deadline due to resource constraints.

(a) Preparation and implementation and, where appropriate, review and modification of international legal instruments.

(b) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, documents and procedures.

Work to be undertaken:

The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) 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. Priority: 1

Output expected in 2010:

Analysis of the application of the following UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982; International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail 1952; Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles.

(b) 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 2010:

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

(c) Study of Customs questions with a view to simplifying Customs formalities and documents in the field of transport, in particular taking account of the possibility of electronic data interchange solutions. Priority: 1

Output expected in 2010:

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;

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.

(d) 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 non-governmental organizations to combat such fraud. Priority: 1

Output expected in 2010:

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;

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.

(e) 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). Priority: 1

Output expected in 2010:

Monitoring of the implementation of Annex 8 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the international road transport at the national level. Exchange of information on best practices in this field.

Finalization of a new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport.

(f) Study the UNECE legal instruments in the area of border crossing facilitation with a view to identifying which additional elements for global supply chain security could be incorporated in those agreements, where appropriate. Priority: 1

Output expected in 2010:

Study the implications of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards for the UNECE legal instruments in the area of border crossing facilitation.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

(g) Review of Annex 10 of the TIR Convention on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets. Priority: 2

Output expected in 2010:

Contribute to the preparation of an example of best practice with regard to the implementation of Annex 10 to the TIR Convention at the national level.
