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Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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Programme of work and biennial evaluation

Programme of work for the years 2014–2018

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The text reproduced below is based on the Programme of Work (PoW) for 2012–2016 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2011/12), as approved by the Working Party at its 129th session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/258, para. 38) and subsequently by the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 94 and ECE/TRANS/2012/12).

2. The Working Party may wish to examine its draft PoW for 2014–2018 and, in particular, the continued relevance of priorities assigned to individual work elements and the expected outputs identified for this period.

II. Draft Programme of Work for 2014–2018

Programme activity 7: Customs questions affecting transport

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

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.

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

A. Continuing activities

- 1. Review of relevant conventions and agreements on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their relevance and proper 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

Outputs expected:

- Analysis of the application of the following United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982 (Harmonization Convention); Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles;
- Further increasing the sustainability of the TIR Convention by developing amendments, comments and/or examples of best practice with the aim to improve communication between the competent authorities, TIR guarantee chain and intergovernmental bodies as well as to raise transparency in the settlement of disputes;
- Consideration, in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), of a new draft Convention to facilitate the crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.

- 2. Promotion 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:

- Preparation and organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (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.

- 3. 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:

- Draft a set of legal provisions to address computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR project), finalize the eTIR Reference Model and identify possible funding mechanisms to introduce eTIR;
- Monitoring the implementation of the functioning of various national and international TIR-related electronic data interchange (EDI) systems.

4. **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: 2

Outputs expected:

- 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.

5. **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

Outputs expected:

- Continued monitoring of the implementation of Annex 8 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of road border crossing at the national level. Exchange of information on best practices in this field.
- Promotion 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 (SC.2) and other stakeholders.

B. Activities of a limited duration

6. **Study the causes and reasons for the recent TIR crisis in a specific Contracting Party with the aim to facilitate the settlement of the underlying dispute and to develop a set of measures to avoid similar difficulties in the future.**

Priority: 1

7. **Finalize the amendment proposals to the TIR Convention to include technical prescriptions for a new type of construction of vehicles and containers with sliding sheets.**

Priority: 2