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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

One-hundred-and-sixteenth session
Geneva, 13-15 June 2007

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-SIXTEENTH SESSION^{1, 2}**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Wednesday, 13 June 2007

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 11 June 2007

Thirty-second session of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) (tentative)

¹ 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, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: Robert.Nowak@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://border.unece.org>). During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, 3rd floor, Palais des Nations).

² 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 UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html> - customs. Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest one week prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (Robert.Nowak@unece.org). Prior to the session, 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 Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix), for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 74030). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

Tuesday, 12 June 2007

Twelfth session of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Wednesday, 13 June 2007

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities of UNECE bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party
3. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party
4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (“Harmonization Convention”)
 - (a) Status of the Convention
 - (b) Annex 8 on road transport
 - (c) Preparation of a new Annex on rail border crossing
 - (d) Consideration of amendments to the Convention
5. International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail, of 10 January 1952
6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)
 - (a) Status of the Conventions
 - (b) Application of the Conventions
7. Rail transit

Thursday, 14 June 2007

8. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)
 - (a) Status of the Convention
 - (b) Revision of the Convention
 - (i) Implementation of Phases I and II of the TIR revision process and examples of best practices
 - (ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process
 - (iii) Amendment proposals for the Convention
 - (c) Application of the Convention
 - (i) Control system for TIR Carnets - IRU SafeTIR
 - (ii) Settlement of claims for payments
 - (iii) Issues relating to technical provisions
 - (iv) TIR Handbook

(v) Other matters

9. Prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by smugglers
10. Other business
 - (a) Dates of the next sessions
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

Friday, 15 June 2007

11. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/231

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/231).

Item 2 Activities of UNECE bodies and other United Nations Organizations of interest to the Working Party

2. The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of the Inland Transport Committee and its Bureau, its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations bodies and organizations as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.
3. The Working Party may, in particular, wish to be informed about the establishment by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security.
4. The Working Party may also wish to be informed about the outcome of the high-level segment on "Secure transport development: a key to regional cooperation", which will be held as part of the 60th anniversary session of the UNECE on 27 April 2007.

Item 3 Activities of other Organizations of interest to the Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/10

5. The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities by the World Customs Organization (WCO), the European Commission (DG TAXUD), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well as by other governmental and non-governmental organizations as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.
6. The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/10, transmitted by the International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) requesting the UNECE to

initiate the development of standard electronic messages with a view to replacing paper-based accompanying documents for international transport operations.

Item 4 International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (“Harmonization Convention”)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/11; **Depositary Notification C.N.222.2007.TREATIES-1**

(a) Status of the Convention

7. The Working Party will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention. A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is available at the following website:

http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html - 50.

Information about the status of the Convention can be obtained from the following:

<http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty17.asp>.³

(b) Annex 8 on road transport

8. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the status of the new Annex 8 to the Convention. The Depositary Notification announcing the adoption of the new Annex 8 was issued on 20 February 2007 (Depositary Notification C.N.222.2007.TREATIES-1). The deadline for objection to the new annex is 20 February 2008. If no objections are launched before the deadline the new annex will enter into force on 20 May 2008.

(c) Preparation of a new Annex on rail border crossing

9. The Working Party may wish to recall its decision at its one-hundred-and-fifteenth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/230, paras. 17 and 18) and to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/11, transmitted by the Organization for the Cooperation of Railways (OSJD), containing the latest draft proposal for a new Annex 9 to the Convention which has been finalized at the sixth meeting of the OSJD/UNECE working group (Warsaw, 6 and 7 March 2007).

(d) Consideration of amendments to the Convention

10. The Working Party may wish to recall its discussion, at its one-hundred-and-fifteenth session, concerning the potential elements (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/229/Add.1, para. 9) for further development in the framework of the Convention (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/230, paras. 20–22). The Working Party may wish to be informed about further developments in this respect.

³ Subscription website. For further information concerning the subscription and access please contact the UNECE secretariat.

Item 5 International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage Carried by Rail, of 10 January 1952

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/12

11. The Working Party may wish to recall its decision at its one-hundred-and-fifteenth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/230, para. 23) and to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/12, transmitted by the Organization for the Cooperation of Railways (OSJD), containing the latest draft proposal for a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage Carried by Rail, which has been finalized at the sixth meeting of the OSJD/UNECE working group (Warsaw, 6 and 7 March 2007).

12. The Working Party may wish to take into consideration the text of the International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail of 1952, which can be obtained from the following web site:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/passraile.pdf>; as well as the Contracting Parties to the Convention (http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html - 44).

Item 6 Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

(a) Status of the Conventions

13. The Working Party will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles. A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Conventions is available at the following websites:

http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html#39;

http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html - 43. Information about the status of the Conventions can be obtained from the following web pages:

<http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty8.asp>,

<http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty10.asp>.⁴

(b) Application of the Conventions

14. The Working Party will be informed about the developments with regard to the preparation of new comments and best practices in relation to a number of the issues raised by the AIT/FIA.

Item 7 Rail transit

15. The Working Party may wish to be informed of the latest developments concerning the opening for signature of the Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail under Cover of SMGS Consignment Notes.

⁴ Subscription website. For further information concerning the subscription and access please contact the UNECE secretariat.

Item 8 Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/13; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/9; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/8; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/7; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/5; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/5/Rev.2; TRANS/WP.30/2005/32/Rev.1

(a) Status of the Convention

16. A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, as well as a list of countries in which TIR operations can be undertaken, is annexed to the report of the forty-first session of the TIR Administrative Committee (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89, annex 1) and can also be found on the following website: http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agreem_cp.html - 41. Permanently updated information on the scope of the TIR Convention is available on the UNECE TIR website: (<http://tir.unece.org/>).

(b) Revision of the Convention

(i) Implementation of Phases I and II of the TIR revision process and examples of best practices

17. The Working Party may wish to take note that, as a result of the split of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro into the independent States of Montenegro and Serbia, the ISO code of Serbia has changed to SRB. Information concerning the implications for the use of the TIR ID number for Serbian TIR Carnet holders can be obtained from the following web link: <http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/news/160307.html>

(ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

18. The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its ninety-sixth session, it had decided to start work on Phase III of the TIR revision process, which would include a study of a number of elements (TRANS/WP.30/192, para. 33).

19. The Working Party may, at the present session, wish to consider the following issue:

– Use of new technologies

20. The Working Party may wish to welcome that the Inland Transport Committee has extended the mandate of the Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (ExG) for the year 2007.

21. The Working Party may wish to endorse the report of the eleventh session of the ExG, which took place on 29 January 2007. The report is contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/5.

22. The Working Party may also wish to take note of the proceedings of the twelfth session of the ExG, which will take place on 12 June 2007, in conjunction with the present session. In this context, the Working Party may wish to take note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/9 containing the report of the special working session of a drafting group (Belgrade 6 and

7 March 2007), which had been mandated by the Working Party, at its one-hundred-and-fifteenth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/230, para. 31).

23. The Working Party may also wish to consider document TRANS/WP.30/2005/32/Rev.1, prepared by the secretariat, containing the updated version 1.6a of the eTIR Reference Model including the amendments which have been made as a result of the work of the working session mentioned under para. 22.

24. The Working Party may wish to provide its views on the issues raised by the ExG and to endorse the latest update of the eTIR Reference Model.

25. The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/8, prepared by the secretariat, containing a proposal to review the mandate for the establishment of an informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure. The Working Party may wish to approve the mandate and to submit the proposal for the establishment of the Expert Group to the UNECE Executive Committee (ExCom), which according to the UNECE Rules and Procedures has the final decision concerning the establishment of such groups.

(iii) Amendment proposals for the Convention

26. The Working Party may wish to recall its discussions at its one-hundred-and-fifteenth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/230, paras. 37–39).

27. The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/13, transmitted by the European Commission on behalf of the European Community, containing a number of amendment proposals for various provisions of the Convention.

28. The Working Party may also wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/5/Rev.2, prepared by the secretariat, containing a consolidation of all proposals for amendments made by various parties, so far, including the above mentioned proposals of the European Community, also making reference to the documentation containing all previous proposals made. As requested by the Working Party, at its previous session, the document highlights those proposals where, so far, there seemed to be a principle agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/230, para. 38)

29. The Working Party may wish to continue its considerations of the amendment proposals.

(c) Application of the Convention

(i) Control system for TIR Carnets - IRU SafeTIR

30. The Working Party may wish to be informed by the IRU about developments concerning the issue, including information about activities of the joint informal SafeTIR Task Force between the IRU and the secretariat.

(ii) Settlement of claims for payments

31. The Working Party may wish to be informed by Customs authorities and the IRU of the present situation with regard to the settlement of claims for payments made by Customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

(iii) Issues relating to technical provisions

32. The Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/7, prepared by the secretariat, containing amendment proposals to the provisions of the Convention related to the use of the fibre optic cable. The amendment proposals are of a purely editorial nature with a view to ensuring full alignment of the text of the provisions concerned.

33. The Working party may wish to take note that a special seminar on approval and control of TIR loading compartments will take place on 24 September 2007, in conjunction with the one-hundred-and-seventeenth session of the Working Party. Participants in the seminar should be both regular delegates to the Working Party, representatives of national TIR vehicle approval authorities, representatives of the IRU and national TIR issuing and guaranteeing associations as well as representatives of the TIR vehicle manufacturing industry. More information concerning the seminar will be available for all interested parties in advance of the present session.

(iv) TIR Handbook

34. The TIR Handbook contains the text of the Convention and its annexes, including the amendments to the Convention and Explanatory Notes, as well as all relevant comments adopted by the Working Party and the Administrative Committee.

35. The 2007 version of the Handbook will be available at the session in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish language versions both in hard copy, CD-ROM. The electronic version is available from the UNECE TIR website:
<http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/tir-hb.html>

(v) Other matters

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

Item 9 Prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by smugglers

37. As in the past, the Working Party may wish, on a restricted basis, to exchange views concerning any special cases, devices and facilities used to abuse the TIR transit system.

Item 10 Other business

(a) Dates of the next sessions

38. The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates for its next sessions.

39. The secretariat has already scheduled the one-hundred-and-seventeenth session of the Working Party to be held in the week from 24 to 28 September 2007 in conjunction with the seminar mentioned in para. 33 above and the forty-fourth session of the TIR Administrative Committee.

40. The secretariat has made arrangement for following sessions of the Working Party in 2008:

- One-hundred-and-eighteenth session; 28 January to 1 February 2008
- One-hundred-and-nineteenth session; 2 to 6 June 2008
- One-hundred-and-twentieth session; 29 September to 3 October 2008

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

41. The Working Party should decide whether there shall be any restrictions with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

Item 11 Adoption of the report

42. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report of its one-hundred-and-sixteenth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the session for adoption in all working languages.
