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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

Ad hoc Expert Group on the International
Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier
Controls of Goods, 21 October 1982
(22 September 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION
OF FRONTIER CONTROLS OF GOODS, 21 OCTOBER 1982^{*/}**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 15.00 hours on Monday, 22 September 2003 ^{**/}**

^{*}/ The UNECE Transport Division has submitted the present document after the official documentation deadline due to resource constraints.

^{**/} 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 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: poul.hansen@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://border.unece.org>). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (poul.hansen@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Consideration of a new Annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport
3. Other business
4. Conclusion

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TEXT OF THE CONVENTION

The complete text of the Convention is contained in document ECE/TRANS/55 (English, French and Russian) and may be obtained from the UNECE secretariat. It may also be accessed and downloaded from the relevant page of the UNECE Transport Division web site <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>.

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1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2003/20.

The Ad hoc Expert Group (hereafter referred to as "Expert Group") may wish to consider and adopt the agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/2003/20).

2. CONSIDERATION OF A NEW ANNEX 8 ON THE FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING PROCEDURES FOR INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1.

(a) Background

The Expert Group may wish to recall that the Administrative Committee for the "Harmonization Convention" at its fifth session had agreed to postpone the substantive discussion concerning a new Annex 8 to the Convention, which has the objective of addressing

all elements important for efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods since several Contracting Parties indicated that they were not yet in a position to decide on the proposal (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/10, para. 5).

The UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its one-hundred-and-fourth session, took note that several Contracting Parties were still not in a position to decide on the contents of the new draft Annex 8 and that that they would not be able to do so before September 2003. With this in mind, the Working Party requested the secretariat to organize an ad hoc expert group meeting, in conjunction with its one-hundred-and-fifth session in September 2003, to discuss the outstanding obstacles, in order to adopt the new draft Annex 8 to the Convention. If necessary, Contracting Parties were invited to include national experts in the various fields still outstanding to take part in their delegations, with a view to determining precisely the issues at stake. Furthermore, the Working Party decided to convene the sixth session of the Administrative Committee in conjunction with its one-hundred-and-sixth session in February 2004 with a view to adopting the new draft Annex 8.

(b) Outstanding issues

The Expert Group may wish to recall that the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention considered this issue at its fourth session in October 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8). It may also wish to recall the detailed considerations made by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) at its sessions following the third session of the Administrative Committee in October 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/206, paras. 19-20; TRANS/WP.30/204, paras. 16-18; TRANS/WP.30/202, paras. 14-19; TRANS/WP.30/200, paras. 12-17; TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 20-24; TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 14-17; TRANS/WP.30/194, paras. 18-23; TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 10-13).

The Expert Group may also wish to recall that the objective of the new Annex 8 is to insert into the Convention complementing provisions to those already provided in Annex 1 and to define, as a first step, the measures that need to be implemented in order to facilitate border crossing procedures for international road transport. Other border control provisions applying specifically to rail, inland water and possibly maritime and air transport might be included at a later stage. The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) had stressed, in this context, that the new Annex 8 should address in a comprehensive and consistent manner all major elements important for efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods, covering different types of cargoes, particularly perishable foodstuffs, road vehicles, drivers as well as border crossing procedures and infrastructures.

The Expert Group may now wish to consider the proposals for a new Annex to the Convention as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1. This document, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the UNECE Working Party WP.30, for the fifth session of the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention, is largely based on document TRANS/WP.30/2001/16 that has already been considered by the Working Party at earlier sessions. Document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1 takes account of these considerations and contains a number of new proposals for provisions for which in the past no consensus could be found in the Working Party.

In particular, the Expert Group may wish to focus on the outstanding issues, highlighted in bold in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1. This includes, in particular, Article 2 concerning the facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers, Article 4 concerning vehicle inspection and Article 5 concerning the International Vehicle Weight Certificate.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Expert Group may wish to consider any other issues in relation to the Convention.

4. CONCLUSION

Having finalized its discussion, the Expert Group is invited to draw up conclusions of its discussions containing recommendations to the Working Party on how to proceed with the various question which have been discussed.



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