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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
(One-hundred-and-seventh session, 15-18 June 2004,
agenda item 6 (c) (v))

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT
OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION 1975)**

Application of the Convention

CITES

Transmitted by the European Community (EC)

A. BACKGROUND

1. The European Community proposed an amendment to the TIR Convention in order to introduce into the Convention specific references to the transport of specimens of species that are subject to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973 (CITES). This proposal was presented to the one-hundredth-and-sixth session of the WP.30 under cover of document TRANS/WP.30/2004/6.

2. While the WP.30 indicated that it broadly supported the proposal, it nevertheless raised two questions:

- did a Comment in Annex A of the Istanbul Convention have the same "legal" value as a Comment in the TIR Convention, and
- why did the European Community's proposal go beyond what had been agreed in respect of the Istanbul Convention.

3. With regard to the first question, the European Community understands that comments in the Istanbul Convention and the TIR Convention have the same value.

4. In the light of the second question, the European Community has modified its original proposal.

B. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S MODIFIED PROPOSAL

5. The revised proposal is aligned more closely with the wording of the equivalent Comment agreed in respect of the Istanbul Convention. Specifically the proposal only concerns the creation of a new Comment to Article 47, which is to read as follows:

"Documentation (permits or certificates) required under international Conventions (such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973) should always accompany the goods concerned. In such cases a cross reference to this documentation on the carnet could facilitate customs controls."

6. The WP.30 is invited to consider the above proposal at its June 2004 session.
