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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

131st session

Geneva, 12–15 June 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Round table on the role of best practices at border crossings in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention

Draft programme of the round table

Note by the secretariat

1. The Harmonization Convention is a framework convention that lays down a number of key principles, which are sine-qua-non for border crossing facilitation, and provides for a high degree of flexibility in their implementation at the national level, due to the fact that there may be no ‘one fits all’ solution for the 55 Contracting Parties. Under this situation, examples of best practice have been found to be indispensable for the proper implementation of the Harmonization Convention. With this in mind, UNECE and OSCE have prepared and published, at the beginning of 2012, an extensive joint publication called ‘**Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective**’.¹ The main purpose of the Handbook is to assist countries in developing more efficient border and customs policies by promoting existing best practices in this field. It provides concrete examples from across the ECE region and beyond on how border crossing points can be made increasingly efficient and secure, thereby allowing smooth trade and transport operations while at the same time reducing the possibilities for corruption, illicit trafficking and transnational crime and terrorism.

2. Following the publication of the Handbook, OSCE and UNECE have started a promotion campaign which will include, inter alia, presentations at different transport and Customs related meetings as well as targeted seminars and workshops. A one-day round table on the role of best practices at border crossings in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention will be co-organised by both Organizations on 14 June 2012, in the framework of the 131st session of the Working Party. A first draft programme of the round table is reproduced below.

¹ Can be downloaded at www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publications/OSCE-UNECE_Handbook.pdf

131st session of WP.30
14 June 2012
10.00 – 18.00
Salle V

**Round table on the role of best practices at border crossings
in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention**

Moderators of the round table:

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov, Chair of WP.30 and Head of Division, Customs Service of Ukraine
Mrs. Éva Molnár, Director, UNECE Transport Division

10.00 – 10.10

Opening and welcome

Mrs. Éva Molnár
Director
UNECE Transport Division

Mr. Roel Janssens
Economic Adviser
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

10.10 – 11.20

Session 1. Harmonization Convention and the Handbook of Best Practices

General introduction of the Handbook and overview of its selected chapters

Mr. Roel Janssens
Economic Adviser
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Harmonization Convention as a unique global tool for border crossing facilitation

Mr. Konstantin Glukhenkiy
Economic Affairs Officer
UNECE Transport Division

Questions and Answers

11.20

Coffee break

11.40 – 13.00

Session 2. Selected examples of national and regional best practices

EURO 2012: joint border controls between Poland and Ukraine

Mr. Anatolii Serbailo
Deputy Director of Department
State Customs Service of Ukraine

Ensuring a smooth transit of goods through the territory of the Republic of Belarus

Mr. Igor Makhovikov
Head of Department
State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus

Local solution for single window: implementation features in Ukraine

Mr. Oleksii Panasiuk
Adviser to President and Executive Director
ICC Ukraine, Odessa region

Best practices at border crossing in the ECO region

Mr. Esmaeil Tekyeh Sadat
Director
Transport and Communication
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Questions and Answers

13.00

Break

15.00 – 15.50

Session 3. Role of the private sector in setting up best practices at borders

Modernization of border crossing points in Turkey

Ms. Didem DIRLIK
Head of Department
Ministry of Customs and Trade
Republic of Turkey

IRU's projects and tools for border crossing facilitation

Mr. Muratbek Azymbakiev
Head of TIR relations
International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Questions and Answers

15.50

Coffee break

16.10 – 17.40

Session 4. Border performance measurement and benchmarking

Overview of various methodologies to evaluate border performance

Mr. Gerard Rodrigues
Director, Cargo Operations
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Time-cost-distance methodology

Mr. José Maria Rubiato
Acting Head, Trade Logistics Branch
Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Transport Route Attractiveness indeX (TRAX) methodology for international freight transport as applied in the Euro-Asian TRACECA corridor

Dr. Ashraf Hamed
Chief Consultant
Dornier Consulting, Germany

Questions and Answers

Open discussion on how to incorporate border performance measurement and benchmarking in the Harmonization Convention

17.40 – 18.00

Conclusions and recommendations

Mrs. Éva Molnár
Director
UNECE Transport Division