

Identification, isolation and elimination of major bottlenecks along international transport routes

Agenda item 4.4

United Nations Special Programme
for the Economies of Central Asia

SPECA

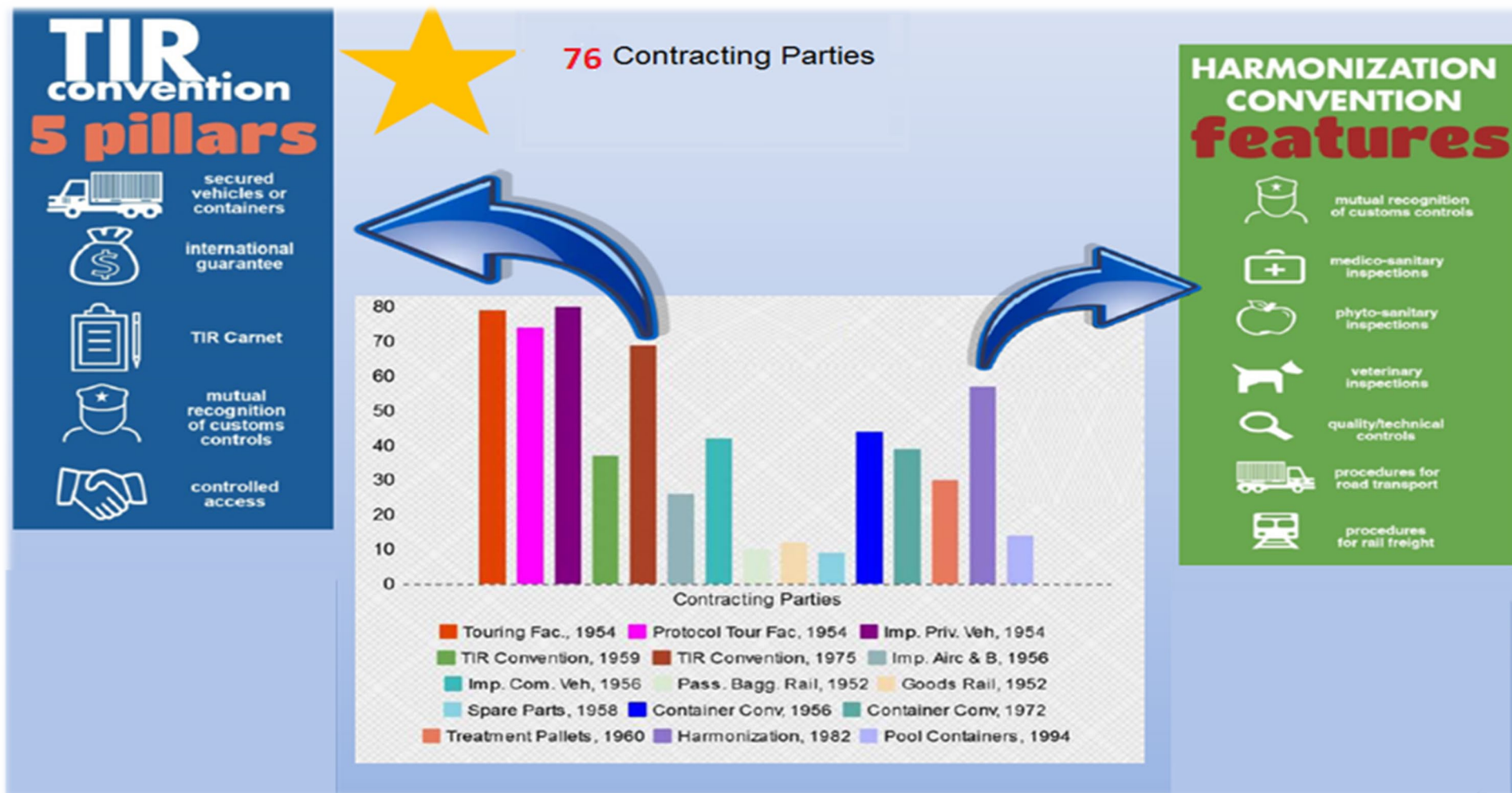
Thematic Working Group on Sustainable
Transport, Transit and Connectivity (TWG-STTC)
Twenty-fourth session, Ashgabat, 18-19.11.2019



UNECE

Border crossing facilitation

Conventions and agreements



Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

Status



- 58 Contracting parties, all SPECA countries except Afghanistan
- Turkmenistan acceded on **27.11.2016**



Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods:

Facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight



- Annex 9 on rail border crossing: Key principles for facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight (entered into force on 30.11.2011) Action plan for monitoring the implementation at the national level
- Administrative Committee invited SC.2 to assess whether it would be worthwhile to relaunch **the survey on facilitation of rail border crossings** (Eleventh session, 13 June 2019)
[ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/6](#)

Annex 9
Facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight

Article 1
Principles

1. This Annex, supplementing the provisions of the Convention, is intended to define the steps that need to be taken to facilitate and expedite the crossing of borders for international rail freight.
2. The Contracting Parties shall undertake to cooperate in order to standardize as fully as possible formalities and requirements in respect of documents and procedures in all areas connected with the carriage of goods by rail.

Article 2
Definition

"Border (interchange) station" shall mean a railway station where operational or administrative procedures are performed in view of enabling a border crossing of rail freight. This railway station may be at the border or near the border.

Article 3
Crossing of borders by officials and other persons engaged in international rail transport

1. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to facilitate the procedures for granting of visas for locomotive crews, refrigerated unit crews, persons accompanying freight shipments and staff at border (interchange) stations engaged in international rail transport in accordance with national best practice for all visa applicants.
2. The border crossing procedure for the persons listed in paragraph 1, including official documents confirming their status, shall be determined on the basis of bilateral agreements.
3. When a joint control is carried out, the officials of the border, customs and other agencies that conduct controls at border (interchange) stations shall, in the performance of their official duties, cross the State frontier using documents stipulated by the Contracting Parties for their nationals.

Article 4
Requirements for border (interchange) stations

To nationalize and expedite the required formalities at border (interchange) stations, the Contracting Parties shall observe the following minimum requirements for border (interchange) stations open to international rail freight traffic:

1. Border (interchange) stations shall have buildings (premises), plant, facilities and other controls are and adjacent tracks

Questionnaire

Question 1

4. How many and which border (interchange) stations exist in your country?

"Border (interchange) station" means a railway station where operational or administrative procedures are performed in view of enabling a border crossing of rail freight. This railway station may be at the border or near the border.

Question 2

5. What do you do to facilitate the procedures for granting visas for locomotive crews, refrigerated unit crews, persons accompanying freight shipments and staff at border (interchange) stations engaged in international rail transport? Please describe specific actions or procedures by specifying time and cost analysis of such procedures.

Question 3

6. Are there bilateral agreements between your country and neighbouring countries on the border crossing procedures mentioned in question 2? Please list these bilateral agreements and mention their basic provisions.

Question 4

7. Please specify in the table below for each border (interchange) station listed in Question 1 which of the following minimum requirements apply.

TIR Convention (1975)

...the only global transit system



- An important facilitation tool for international trade and transport
- Governing Bodies
 - Administrative Committee (AC.2)
 - TIR Executive Board
 - TIR Secretary
 - TIR Secretariat
- 76 Contracting Parties (recent: Argentina and Oman)



TIR Convention (1975)

continued

Objectives:

- Border crossing facilitation through an internationally recognized and harmonized procedure
- Effective revenue protection and security without excessive administrative burden for customs and time/cost losses for operators



TIR Convention (1975)

Recent developments



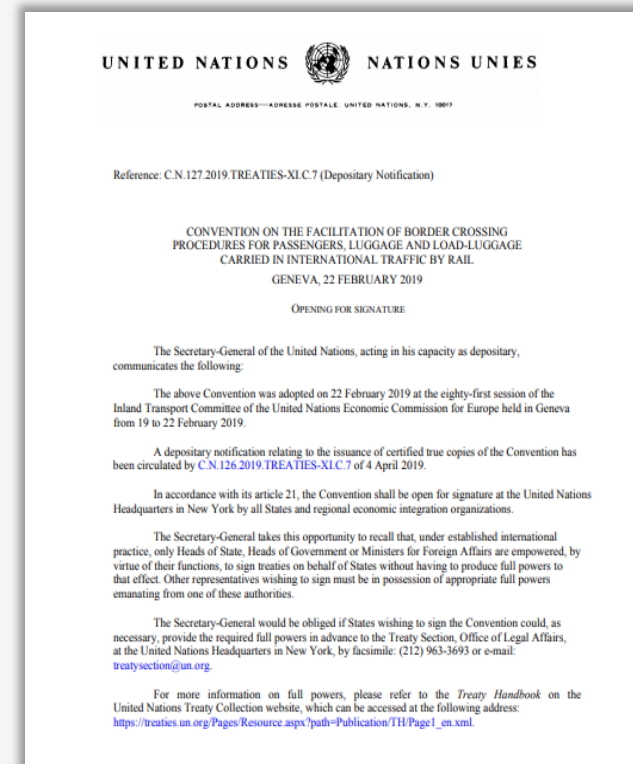
- 2018: a set of amendment proposals (pending formal adoption):
 - Article 6, paragraph 1, Explanatory Note 0.6.2 and Annex 9, Part I,
 - Article 18 - Effective revenue protection and security without excessive administrative burden for customs and time/cost losses for operators
- 2019:
 - Finalizing the draft Annex 11
 - Introducing eTIR in the legal text of the TIR Convention
 - Formal document for consideration at its next session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/9/Rev.2)
- The intergovernmental process towards the computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR)

Convention on rail border crossings for passengers and their luggage

4 April 2019



- Adopted on 22 February 2019
- Open for signature in Geneva since 4 April 2019
- Signatory: Chad (26 September 2019)



Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators Project

Developing indicators



- Sustainable Transport Connectivity
«Implementation of transport related Sustainable Development Goals in selected landlocked and transit/ bridging countries» (UNDA)
- **Development of a set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators**
- **Purpose:** enable countries to measure their degree of external connectivity
- **Time-frame:** September 2018 – December 2020
- **Beneficiaries:** Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Paraguay & Jordan
- **Implementing partners:** UNECE and ECLAC & ESCWA (UN regional commissions for Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean and Western Asia respectively)

Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators Project

Project phases



- I. Develop the initial set of Sustainable Inland Transport Indicators (SITCIN)
- II. Fact-finding missions to review national transport and logistics situation, resulting in five «national connectivity reports»
- III. National policy dialogue meetings to validate the reports
- IV. Tailor-made national capacity building programmes
- V. Concluding inter-regional forum (sustainability of the SITCIN)

Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators Project

Border crossing efficiency



- ✓ **TIR Convention**
- ✓ **Harmonization Convention**
- ✓ **In total: 16 UNECE conventions related to border crossings**



- ✓ Staff resources
- ✓ Availability of joint control facilities
- ✓ BCP infrastructure/ off-lane control areas
- ✓ Inland clearance and control procedures
- ✓ Coordination and delegation of controls among border agencies/ domestically, bilaterally
- ✓ Data exchange mechanisms
- ✓ Traffic separation for vehicles under cover of customs transit
- ✓ Average border clearance time
- ✓ Etc.

Workshop on strengthening security on inland freight routes

Geneva, 3-4 September 2019



- PANEL DISCUSSION – Setting the scene: current risks and threats to inland transport security
- Session I – At the border measures in support of international supply chain security
- Session II – The role of government authorities in facilitating technology driven solutions to improve security of inland freight routes
- Session III – The way forward – How to further strengthen security on inland freight routes

http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/strengthening_security_on_inland_freight_routes.html

Thank you!

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UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

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