
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

17th Session
25-26 April 2012
Almaty, Kazakhstan

International Conventions and Agreements

(Item 4.2 of the Agenda)

Note by UNECE/UNESCAP

1. Harmonizing the legal regimes relating to international transport continues to be a prerequisite to ensure the smooth and efficient movement of goods through national borders. During its previous sessions, the Working Group reaffirmed the importance of the international legal instruments listed in the protocol of its second session and re-iterated the invitation to SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede to all of them as soon as possible. The Working Group stressed that accession to the international legal instruments would only serve transport facilitation if followed by proper implementation/enforcement measures. It further encouraged SPECA countries to establish public-private partnerships to identify problems in the implementation of the international legal instruments and find timely solutions thereto.

2. The accession status to the conventions recommended by UNESCAP Resolution 48/11 and the Group is shown in Annex 1. Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have acceded to all the seven conventions recommended by UNESCAP Resolution 48/11, and Kazakhstan has acceded to six of the seven conventions. There is a need for other SPECA countries to take concrete steps towards accession to the rest of the seven core conventions.

3. Within the framework of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), the UNESCAP secretariat is preparing to establish the regional network of legal experts on transport facilitation, providing advice and promoting the harmonization and coordination of different legal instruments on transport facilitation.

4. With respect to the additional legal instruments adopted by the second Session of SPECA PWG- TBC, the situation is as follows:

- Taking into consideration the fact that the new Annex 8 to the “Harmonization” Convention has already been enforced since 20 May 2008, it would therefore still be

beneficial for the whole region if Afghanistan and Turkmenistan ratify this Convention and if all SPECA countries improve its implementation, with a view to ensuring territorial continuity and consequently facilitating transport within the sub region and beyond;

- Bearing in mind the development of equipment certification centres for the transportation of perishable goods in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the frame of ATP Agreement and under the European Union's TRACECA Programme for Central Asia, it is highly advisable that the Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan become as soon as possible parties of the ATP Agreement, if only for the sake of coherence and consistency.

5. In order to promote the use of regional transport networks and efficient cross-border and transit movements in the region, the UNESCAP secretariat continued to assist in formulating of the draft Agreement between the Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States on Facilitation of International Road Transport and its Annexes with involvement of four SPECA countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. At the negotiating meeting on the draft Annexes held in Beijing, China on 28 February – 2 March 2012, the SCO member States reached consensus on the draft Annexes. The main Agreement and its Annexes are expected to be signed in June 2012.

The Project Working Group may wish to

- Reaffirm the importance of the international legal instruments listed in the protocol of its second session and reiterate the invitation addressed to SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede all of them as soon as possible;
- Support the establishment of the regional network of legal experts on transport facilitation;
- Stress proper implementation/enforcement measures for international legal instruments; and
- Encourage public and private sectors to cooperate with a view of establishing partnerships in order to:
 - a. identify problems in the implementation of the international legal instruments;
 - b. set up a proper monitoring mechanism; and
 - c. identify further assistance needed from UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats in assessing the implications of acceding to and implementing the transport-related international legal instruments.

Accession Status to the UNECE International Agreements and Conventions Listed in the Protocol of the second Session of the PWG-TBC

by 27 February 2012

№	Agreements and Conventions	AFG	AZE	KAZ	KGZ	TJK	TKM	UZB
<u>Conventions Recommended by UNESCAP Resolution 48/11</u>								
1	Convention on Road Traffic (1968)		X (2002)	X (1994)	X (2006)	X (1994)	X (1993)	X (1995)
2	Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)		X (2011)	X (1994)	X (2006)	X (1994)	X (1993)	X (1995)
3	Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR, 1956)		X (2006)	X (1995)	X (1998)	X (1996)	X (1996)	X (1995)
4	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)	X (1977)	X (2000)		X (1998)			X (1999)
5	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (1975)	X (1982)	X (1996)	X (1995)	X (1998)	X (1996)	X (1996)	X (1995)
6	International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)		X (2000)	X (2005)	X (1998)	X (2011)		X (1996)
7	Customs Convention on Containers (1972)		X (2005)	X (2005)	X (2007)			X (1996)
<u>Additional Agreements and Conventions:</u>								
8	European Agreement on Main International traffic arteries (AGR) (1975)		X (1996)	X (1995)				
9	European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (1985)							
10	European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) (1991)			X (2002)				
11	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (1971)			X (2011)				
12	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1971)		X (2011)	X (2011)				
13	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) (1970)		X (1996)	X (1995)		X (2011)	X (1996)	X (1998)
14	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954)							
15	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (1957)		X (2000)	X (2001)		X (2011)		
16	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP) (1970)		X (2000)	X (1995)		X (2011)		X (1999)

Notes: 1. X - Final signature, ratification, accession;

2. AFG – Afghanistan; AZE – Azerbaijan; KAZ – Kazakhstan; KGZ – Kyrgyzstan; TJK - Tajikistan; TKM – Turkmenistan; and UZB – Uzbekistan.