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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****166th session**

Geneva, 5 (p.m.), 6 and 7 (a.m.) June 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the 166th session^{*, **, ***}**

to be held in person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 5 June 2024 and continuing on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 (a.m.) June 2024, in Room VIII.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party.

Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee Strategy.
3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Revision of the Convention:

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

** 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 official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html. Delegates (including those holding long-duration badge) are requested to register online at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007156/> and delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Peace Gate (8, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

*** The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of contracting parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs.



- Amendment proposals to the Convention.
- (c) Application of the Convention:
 - (i) Comments to the TIR Convention;
 - (ii) eTIR:
 - a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects;
 - b. International TIR Data Bank and other eTIR related information technology projects.
 - (iii) New developments in the application of the Convention;
 - (iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
 - (v) Settlement of claims for payments;
 - (vi) Other matters.
 - 4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the Convention.
 - 5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:
Status of the Convention.
 - 6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
 - (a) Status of the Conventions;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the Conventions.
 - 7. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030.
 - 8. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party.
 - 9. Other business:
 - (a) Dates of the next session;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
 - 10. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/331

2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee strategy

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its October 2023 session, it decided to tentatively adopt the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) pending finalization of the European Union Council decision and to adopt its new name to “Global Forum on Customs Questions Affecting Transport including Border Crossing Facilitation”. The Working Party was informed that the European Union formal position and agreement on the new ToR for WP.30 was established on 8 November 2023 and therefore a request had been submitted to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to endorse the new ToR including the new name of the Working Party at its session in February 2024. The Working Party may wish to be informed about the decision of ITC and ExCom.

The Working Party at its 162nd session (February 2023), decided to revert to the proposed strategy and action plan (as proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/2) once agreement on the ToR had been reached (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/324, para. 9). Since the revised ToR was adopted, the secretariat prepared for the previous session of the Working Party (February 2024) the document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/1, containing a revised version of the strategy and action plan that is based on the new ToR for its consideration. The Working Party, after having discussed ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/1, decided to revert to the issue at its next session thereby allowing the secretariat to prepare a further revision of the document based on amendments received and allowing delegations to make further proposals.

The Working Party may wish to consider and adopt ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/1/Rev.1, which includes the strategy and action plan of the Working Party for the years to come.

The Working Party may wish to recall that ITC at its February 2023 session requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Committee's Bureau and relevant subsidiary bodies, to develop an ambitious strategy document for reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions on inland transport based on international United Nations legal instruments under the Committee's purview with priority actions for the ITC and all its relevant subsidiary bodies, supported by a strong action plan with milestones. The strategy document was considered and adopted at the eighty-sixth plenary session of ITC in 2024 (Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 8).

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its next session, taking into account the exchange of views and information provided, as well as the adopted ITC strategy document, for consideration and possible approval, as the Working Party contribution to the ITC strategy. The Working Party may wish to consider and approve ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/6 which includes the contribution to the ITC strategy on reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/1/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/6; Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 8

3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)**(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the TIR Convention, 1975 and the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Working Party may wish to note that, in accordance with its Article 53, paragraph 2, the Convention entered into force for Iraq on 27 September 2023. With the accession of Iraq, the TIR Convention now has seventy-eight contracting parties. Since the activation of the system for Qatar, TIR operations can be established with sixty-five countries. Detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

(b) Revision of the Convention**Amendment proposals to the Convention**

There are, at present, no amendment proposals to the Convention, submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

(c) Application of the Convention**(i) Comments to the TIR Convention**

There are, at present, no comments to provisions of the Convention, submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

(ii) eTIR*a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects*

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in the eTIR international system, based on version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications. The Working Party will also be informed about the status of the various interconnection projects.

b. International TIR Data Bank and other eTIR related information technology projects

The Working Party will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other eTIR related information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

(iii) New developments in the application of the Convention

The Working Party is invited to raise new developments in the application of the TIR Convention, if any.

(iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems

The Working Party will be informed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

¹ www.unece.org/tir/

(v) Settlement of claims for payments

The Working Party may wish to be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

(vi) Other matters

The Working Party may wish to consider any other issues or difficulties in the application of the TIR Convention faced by customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or IRU.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that the secretariat, in close collaboration with the delegation of the European Union and IRU, prepared a draft survey on the certificate of approval for TIR vehicles, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/3 (February 2023). The Working Party considered at its previous sessions (October 2023 and February 2024) the results of this survey (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/3). The Working Party acknowledged that, in some of the replies to the questions, considerable discrepancies existed between the replies of Customs Authorities and the National Associations. The secretariat informed the Working Party that the digitalization of the Certification of Approval by means of a new module in ITDB requires significant business processes and legal clarifications from the contracting parties before its development can start, following an analysis by the TIRExB. In this context, the secretariat informed the Working Party that the TIRExB had already agreed that this ITDB module implementation was to be resumed once higher priority tasks related to eTIR have been completed, and once the related process and legal pre-requisites are addressed. The Working Party considered this issue as a matter of high importance and requested the secretariat to keep it in the agenda for further consideration at its next sessions.

Furthermore, the formal documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/9–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/10–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/7 on eTIR financing and on financing the TIRExB and the TIR Secretariat were prepared to serve the extraordinary eighty-third session of the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) (5 June 2024).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/3; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/9–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/10–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/7

4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention)**(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Convention. Since the tenth session of the Committee, in 2014, only Turkmenistan has acceded to the Convention, in 2016, becoming the fifty-eighth contracting party to the Convention. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.²

(b) Issues in the application of the Convention

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 162nd session (February 2023), it mandated the secretariat to circulate the 5-year survey on the application of Annex 8 of the Convention among the regular delegates from governments (and, in the absence thereof, TIR focal points) as addressees in April 2023 with 1 July 2023 as deadline for reply (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/324, para. 26). The Working Party at its previous session considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/4, which included the results of the 5-year survey. The Working Party requested the secretariat due to the limited responses received,

² www.unece.org/tir.

to re-circulate the survey to contracting parties that have not responded so far with a new deadline until end of March 2024 for reply. In parallel, the Working Party advised the secretariat to directly contact the delegates from those contracting parties that have not responded so far to ensure the survey is indeed received. The secretariat prepared a revision of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/4 based on the new responses received for consideration by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/4/Rev.1).

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its previous session took note of information provided by the secretariat on the Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) developed by the secretariat in the framework of a United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the participation of Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay and Serbia. The indicators were also used by the customs authority of Uzbekistan in a project requiring the evaluation of Uzbekistan international border crossing points. The relevancy of some SITCIN indicators on border crossings were inspired by the Harmonization Convention. The secretariat suggested that the Working Party could discuss and examine if these indicators could be used also for evaluating the implementation of the Convention itself. In order for the Working Party to consider the SITCIN indicators as the appropriate tool to evaluate the implementation of the Harmonization Convention as a whole, the Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a document for the next session of the Working Party for its consideration. The Working Party may wish to consider ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/7 which includes the relevant to harmonisation convention SITCIN indicators.

The Working Party may also wish to consider Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 9 which was submitted by IRU addressing several challenges on visa facilitation for professional drivers.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/4/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/7; Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 9

5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail

Status of the Convention

The Working Party may wish to recall that Belarus became the second contracting party to the Convention after Chad, having signed (23 September 2022) and ratified (21 August 2023) the Convention.³

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in this issue, if any.

6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

(a) Status of the Conventions

The Working Party will be informed that the status and the number of contracting parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles has not changed and that the Conventions have eighty and twenty-six contracting parties, respectively. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the WP.30 website.⁴

³ www.unece.org/tir

⁴ www.unece.org/tir

(b) Issues in the application of the Conventions

The Working Party might wish to recall that at its last session was briefed about the latest developments in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECE and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme / Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA) on the revitalization and digitalization of the conventions and, in particular, the development of an eCPD (Carnet de Passage en Douane) system. The first session of the ad hoc informal group of experts on digitalization of CPD took place on 14 December 2023 and the Working Party considered the report of the first session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/5), summarizing the deliberations that took place.

The experts that had attended the meeting, among other issues, requested transforming the ad hoc informal group of experts on digitalization of CPDs to a formal group of experts, ensuring sessions with interpretation and translated documentation in the three ECE official languages. Against this background, the Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its next session that includes the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of such a formal group of experts, for consideration and possible adoption by the Working Party. The Working Party may wish to consider and adopt ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/8 which includes the terms of reference of the new group of experts.

The Working Party might wish to be informed about the second session of the informal group of experts on digitalization of CPD and consider its report (Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 10).

Delegations are also invited to raise, under this agenda item, any issue in the application of the Conventions, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2024/8; Informal document WP.30 (2024) No. 10

7. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030

As part of the contribution of the Working Party to the ITC Strategy until 2030, delegations are invited, under this standing agenda item, to raise technological developments that could be introduced or applied within the context of the legal instruments under the auspices of the Working Party.

The Working Party might wish to recall that at its previous session suggested some topics that could be addressed under this agenda item at its future sessions, such as the usage of electronic seals on international transports, as well as possible usage of the container security devices, and the use of artificial intelligence on risk analysis.

8. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic commissions or Customs Unions as well as by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and countries, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

9. Other business**(a) Dates of the next session**

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 167th session on 8 and 11 (p.m.) October 2024, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Working Party should decide whether or not there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

(c) List of decisions

The list of adopted decisions will be attached to the final report.

10. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 166th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
