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**Administrative Committee for the International Convention
on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982**

Twelfth session
Geneva, Geneva, 5 February 2020

Report of the Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls for Goods, 1982 on its twelfth session

Contents

I. Attendance

1. The Committee held its twelfth session on 5 February 2020 in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan. Representatives from the European Union were also present.

2. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

3. The following non-governmental organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).

4. The Committee noted that the required forum for the purposes of taking decisions – not less than one-third of the States which are contracting parties (according to Annex 7, Article 6 of the Convention) – was attained.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

5. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda, as prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/23) without any addition.

III. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

6. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Committee elected Mr. O. Fedorov (Ukraine) as Chair for the session.

IV. Status of the Convention (agenda item 3)

7. The Committee was informed that, since its eleventh session (June 2019), no changes in the status of the Convention or the number of contracting parties had occurred. Thus, the Convention currently consists of fifty-eighth contracting parties, including the European Union. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.[1]

V. Proposals for amendments of the Convention (agenda item 4)

8. The Committee recalled that the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its 151st session (February 2019), had requested the secretariat to prepare an amendment proposal to Annex 8, Article 7 on the frequency of the reporting mechanism which would be extended from two to five years. At its 153rd session, the delegation of the European Union informed the Working Party that the formal adoption process of the amendment proposal was well under way and that the secretariat could arrange for AC.3 to meet. Thus, the Working Party mandated the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to convene the twelfth session of AC.3, including the preparation of pre-, in- and post-session documents in conjunction with the 154th session of the Working Party, with the formal adoption of the proposal as only agenda item (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/306, paragraph 27). The delegation of the European Union informed the Committee that, on 19 December 2019, the Council had formally adopted the proposed amendment (Council decision 2019/2150).

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[1] www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs

9.   The Committee formally adopted the proposal to amend Annex 8, Article 7, extending the frequency of the reporting mechanism from two to five years, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2020/1, in English, French, Russian and Spanish and requested the secretariat to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation among and acceptance by contracting parties, in accordance with Article 22 of the Convention.

10.   The Committee agreed that, further to the extended time-span between two surveys, the next survey would be conducted in 2023, on the understanding that the Working Party would use the interval to review and improve the method of data collection from contracting parties.

11.   Under this agenda item, the Chair raised the issue of the various certificates and documents that could be produced under this Convention and advised the Committee to invite the Working Party to assess converting them into electronic files. As a first step, he encouraged the secretariat to liaise with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), inviting it to deliver a presentation at one of the next sessions of the Working Party. The Committee agreed with this course of action.

VI.   Other business (agenda item 5)

A.   Date of next session

12.   The Committee decided not to fix a date for its next session.

B.   Restriction on the distribution of documents

13.   The Administrative Committee decided that there should not be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with this session.

VII.   Adoption of the report (agenda item 6)

14.   In accordance with Annex 7, Article 8 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee adopted the report of its twelfth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the ECE secretariat. During the adoption of the report, the French, Russian and Spanish speaking delegations deplored that the report was not available in all four official languages of the Convention and underscored the importance of ensuring that the report be made available in all four working languages without delay.

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