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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport

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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER
CONTROLS OF GOODS 1982 (“HARMONIZATION CONVENTION”)

Seminars on the implementation of the Convention

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The UNECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) organized in the autumn of 2006 two training seminars (Moscow, 17-18 October 2006 and Belgrade, 14-15 December 2006) concerning the implementation of the UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.

2. The organization of these joint seminars stems from the UNECE reform, which has identified assistance and capacity building in the implementation of UNECE legal instruments in the field of transport as a new UNECE priority, and from the conclusions of the 14th OSCE Economic Forum on “Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability”. The seminars were funded by the Belgian 2006 OSCE Chairmanship.

II. CONCLUSIONS

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3. The participants of the two seminars made the following recommendations and conclusions:

- Recommended accession to the “Harmonization” Convention by countries that have not acceded;
- Considered that duplication of work, in particular, with regard to the revised Kyoto Convention should be avoided;
- Recommended the development in the “Harmonization” Convention of operational guidelines with a view to strengthen implementation;
- Recommended the elaboration in the “Harmonization” Convention of additional modal specific regulations and guidelines;
- Appreciated the aspects of knowledge sharing in the context of the joint UNECE/OSCE initiative
- Recommended in the “Harmonization” Convention of work towards developing a cross border data exchange model together with other international organizations
- Considered that security related controls, such as use of scanners at borders, should be addressed in the framework of the Convention in line with the WCO Framework of Standards;
- Recommended that further studies of waiting times and release times at borders should be carried out;
- Supported the idea of holding further training seminars on the implementation of the Harmonization Convention, at regional and national level;
