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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the
International Convention on the Harmonization
of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982
(16 and 17 June 2005)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Thursday, 16 June 2005***

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Status of the Convention

* 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 documentation available in the meeting room. Documents mentioned in bold in the documentation overview under each agenda item of this agenda are newly issued documents.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: poul.hansen@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://border.unece.org>). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, 3rd floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (poul.hansen@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 73258).

4. Proposals for amendments of the Convention

Consideration of a new Annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport

5. Proposals other than amendments to the Convention

- (a) Draft annex for facilitation of rail transport
- (b) Preparation of an annex for security related controls at borders
- (c) Facilitation of border crossing procedures in international road transport
- (d) Measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention

6. Other business

- (a) Date of next session
- (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

7. Adoption of the report

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Annex: Contracting Parties to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (21 October 1982)

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision taken at the one-hundred-and-eighth session of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) (TRANS/WP.30/216), the Executive Secretary of the UNECE is convening this seventh session of the Administrative Committee in conjunction with the one-hundred-and-tenth session of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30).

The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) will hold its one hundred-and-tenth session from 14 to 17 June 2005, starting at 15.00 hours on Tuesday, 14 June 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Representatives of all Contracting Parties to the Convention are strongly recommended to participate also in this session of the Working Party. The agenda as well as other relevant documents for the session of the Working Party may be obtained directly from the UNECE secretariat or downloaded from the relevant UNECE Transport Division web site (see page 1).

QUORUM

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 6 of the Convention, “a quorum consisting of not less than one third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purposes of taking decisions.” As of 1 December 2002, the number of States, Contracting Parties to the Convention is 41.

TEXT OF THE CONVENTION

The complete text of the Convention is contained in document ECE/TRANS/55 (English, French and Russian) and may be obtained from the UNECE secretariat. It may also be accessed and downloaded from the relevant page of the UNECE Transport Division web site <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>.

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1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: **TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13.**

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

The reports of the first to sixth sessions of the Administrative Committee, held since 1987, are contained in the following documents: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/4; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8; TRANS/WP30/AC.3/10 and TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/12.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to elect a Chairman and possibly a Vice-Chairman for its session.

3. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION

Documentation: **TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/13.**

The Administrative Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention. A list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is contained in the annex to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify this list.

Detailed information on the status of the Convention is available on the UNECE Transport Division web site: <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>.

4. PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OF THE CONVENTION

Contracting Parties to the Convention have been invited by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE to submit proposals for amendments of the Convention. Such proposals will be circulated when received before the session.

Consideration of a new Annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8; **TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1**;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2004/1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1; TRANS/WP.30/216;
TRANS/WP.30/210; TRANS/WP.30/204; TRANS/WP.30/202; TRANS/WP.30/200;
TRANS/WP.30/198; TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/194; TRANS/WP.30/192;
TRANS/WP.30/2004/12; TRANS/WP.30/2003/23; TRANS/WP.30/2002/19;
TRANS/WP.30/2001/16; TRANS/WP.30/2000/16; TRANS/WP.30/2000/11.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall its consideration on this subject at its fourth session in October 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8). It may also wish to recall the detailed considerations made by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) (TRANS/WP.30/216, paras. 14-17; TRANS/WP.30/204, paras. 16-18; TRANS/WP.30/202, paras. 14-19; TRANS/WP.30/200, paras. 12-17; TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 20-24; TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 14-17; TRANS/WP.30/194, paras. 18-23; TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 10-13). The Working Party may also wish to take note of the Ad hoc Expert Group on the new annex 8 which took place in 2003 (TRANS/WP.30/2004/12).

The Administrative Committee may also wish to recall that the objective of the new Annex 8 is to insert into the Convention complementing provisions to those already provided in Annex 1 of the Convention and to define, as a first step, the measures that need to be implemented in order to facilitate border crossing procedures for international road transport. Other border control provisions applying specifically to rail, inland water and possibly maritime and air transport might be included at a later stage. The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) had stressed in this context that the new Annex 8 should address in a comprehensive and consistent manner all major elements important for efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods, covering different types of cargoes, particularly perishable foodstuffs, road vehicles, drivers as well as border crossing procedures and infrastructures.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the proposal for a new Annex to the Convention as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1. This document, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the UNECE Working Party WP.30, is largely based on document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1, which had been prepared for the fifth session of the Administrative Committee and considered at the ad hoc expert group meeting on the Convention which took place on 24 September 2003 (TRANS/WP.30/2004/12). Document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2005/1 takes account of these considerations as well as the conclusions of the Working Party at its one-hundred-and-eighth

session (TRANS/WP.30/216) and contains a number of revised formulations for provisions for which, in the past, no consensus could be found in the Working Party.

5. PROPOSALS OTHER THAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2005/22.

(a) Draft annex for facilitation of rail transport

The Administrative Committee may wish to take note of developments in the field of facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport, in particular the considerations by the Organization for the Collaboration of Railways (OSZhd) to elaborate a new Annex to the “Harmonization Convention”, which would cover issues relating to railway border crossing (TRANS/SC.2/2004/7). The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its one-hundred-and-ninth session, took note that a second preparatory meeting on this issue had been held in Ukraine in November 2004, where it was decided to establish a small working group which would try to prepare the first draft for a new Annex to the “Harmonization Convention” on facilitation of border crossing for railways. The group is composed of experts (Customs, police, railways, etc.) from a few countries and it met in February 2005. The group prepared a draft Annex, to be considered by the third preparatory meeting in March 2005 and then submitted to this Working Party and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) for consideration, with the ultimate aim of presenting the final text of the Convention at an international conference in 2006. Documentation on the issue is available from the following web site: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html>.

The Committee may wish to consider document TRANS/WP.30/2005/22, prepared by the OSZhd, providing a first draft for a new Annex to the “Harmonization Convention” on facilitation of border crossing for railways.

(b) Preparation of an annex for security related controls at borders

The Committee may wish to take note that the WP.30, at its previous session, has considered the issue of preparing an annex for security related issues, in particular controls at border crossings. The Working Party felt that, on the one hand, it has an important task to enhance security but also considered, on the other hand, that any security related controls should be carefully balanced against facilitation requirements. The Working Party, at the time, felt that it might be premature to adopt any provisions in the framework of the Convention at the present time, while several other organizations were still in the process of developing initiatives in this field. At the same time, it was also mentioned that all efforts should be taken

to avoid duplication of work in this field. Therefore, the Working Party requested the secretariat to work closely with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and requested the secretariat to prepare a document for one of its future sessions, containing a comparative analysis of the measures taken in the field of security controls at borders and, on that basis, to prepare a first new draft Annex to the “Harmonization Convention” concerning controls at borders linked to security.

Bearing in mind the subsequent development, in particular the elaboration of a framework for supply chain security by the WCO, the Committee may wish to consider the issue in detail.

(c) Facilitation of border crossing procedures in international road transport

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed about progress made in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that had been prepared and signed by eleven Ministers of Transport of the States participating in the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI): Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Greece; Hungary; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Slovenia; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey.

This MoU on the facilitation of international road transport of goods stipulated *inter alia* that all Parties to the MoU should accede to the “Harmonization Convention”. It also established the SECI Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC), composed of representatives of the Parties to the MoU. The RRTC has prepared the concept and technical specifications of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate, part of the newly proposed Annex 8 to the Convention.

(d) Measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its consideration on possible measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention in line with resolution No. 230 adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee on 4 February 1983 entitled “Technical assistance measures for the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods” (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8, paras. 25-26; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6, paras. 22-25; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/4, paras. 15-20).

6. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4, sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to decide on the date for its next session.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Administrative Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 8 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report of its seventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Annex

**CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER
CONTROLS OF GOODS
(21 October 1982)**

Armenia	Lesotho
Austria	Lithuania
Azerbaijan	Luxembourg
Belarus	Netherlands
Belgium	Norway
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Poland
Bulgaria	Portugal
Croatia	Romania
Cuba	Russian Federation
Cyprus	Serbia and Montenegro
Czech Republic	Slovakia
Denmark	Slovenia
Estonia	South Africa
Finland	Spain
France	Sweden
Georgia	Switzerland
Germany	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Greece	Ukraine
Hungary	United Kingdom
Ireland	Uzbekistan
Italy	European Community
Kyrgyzstan	
Latvia	



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