



Regional TIR Seminar, Dushanbe 19-22 May 2015

UNECE and the simplification of Customs and Border Crossing Procedures



UNECE's Work on Transport - overview

For (mandate):

- SAFE AND SECURE
 - ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
 - EFFICIENT
 - COMPETITIVE
- TRANSPORT**

Through

- REGULATORY
- ANALYTICAL
- CAPACITY BUILDING
- POLICY DIALOGUE

ACTIVITIES

Specialised in

- INLAND TRANSPORT (ROAD, RAIL, INLAND WATER, INTERMODAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES)
- TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS
- VEHICLE REGULATIONS

With

- NATIONAL
- REGIONAL
- INTER-REGIONAL
- GLOBAL

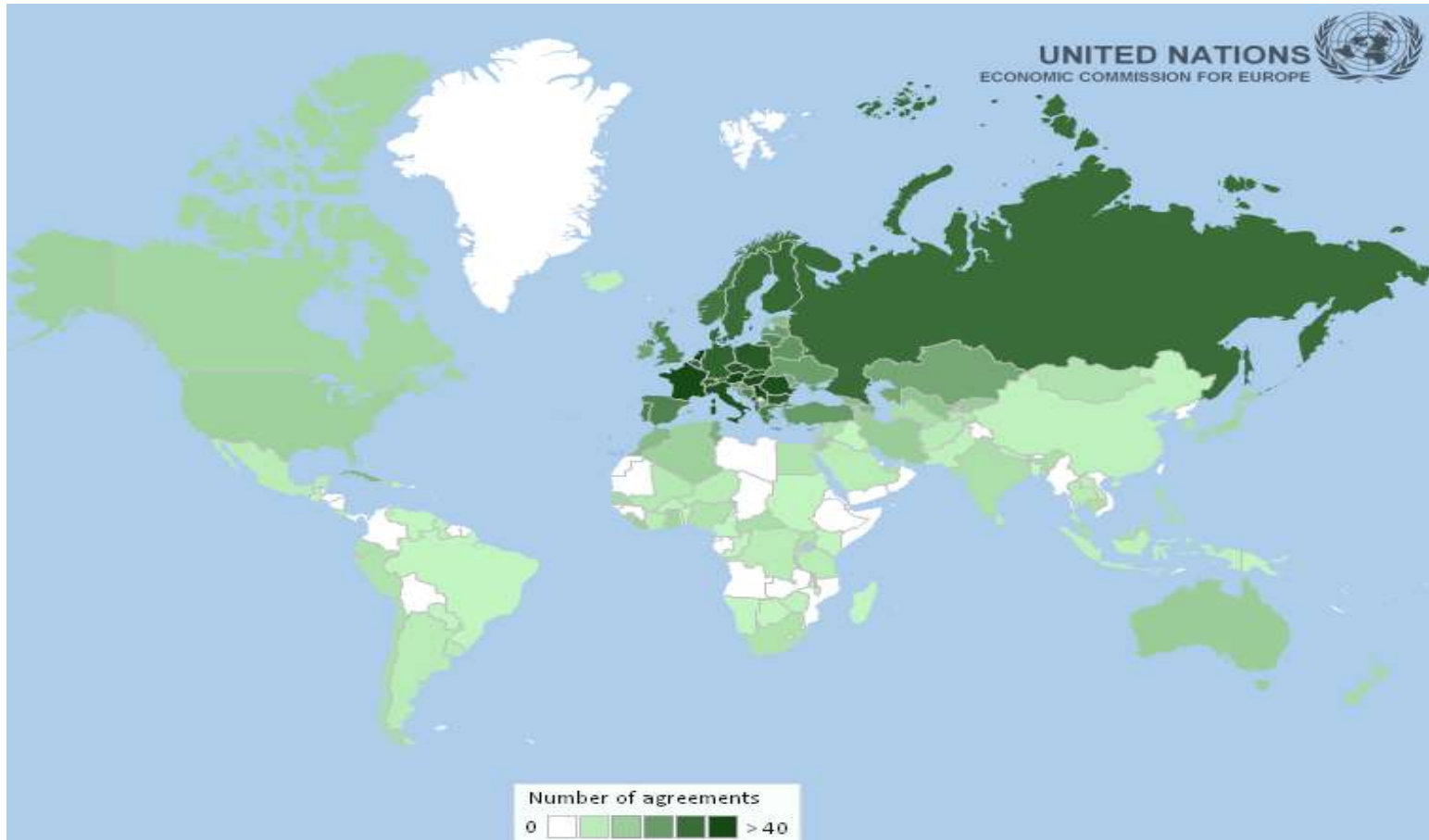
APPLICATION AND COOPERATION

With impact on daily life of people and businesses





UN Transport Conventions and Agreements Geographical Scope





Customs and Border Crossing Facilitation

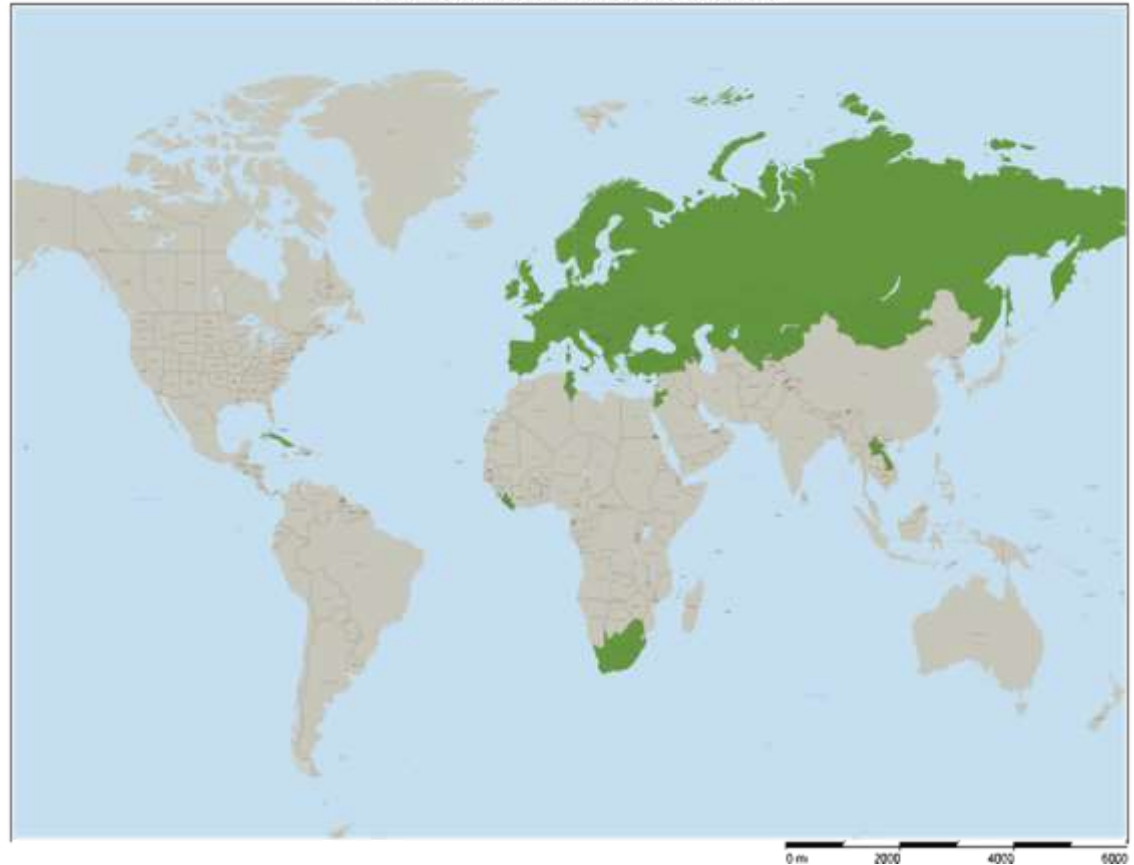
- Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30)
- Inter-governmental forum
- Prepares, reviews, modifies and administers 15 International UN Conventions



The Harmonization Convention

- 56 Contracting Parties
- Latest accessions: Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Moldova, Tunisia, Iran, Tajikistan
- Expressed interest to join: China

Harmonization Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982





Objective

- To facilitate cross border transport of goods through nationally coordinated, internationally harmonized, shorter, reduced formalities and controls of goods at borders





Scope

1. All goods moved across borders (exported, imported or in transit)
2. All control services
3. All modes of transport
4. Specific provisions for certain transport modes and goods
5. Also addresses certain issues with regard to vehicles and drivers



Main characteristics

The Convention provides a framework that enables:

- Harmonization of formalities
- Reduction of the number and duration of controls
- Standardization of documentation
- Co-ordination of national and international control procedures



Benefits of the Harmonization Convention

- Reduction of border delays
- Reduction of transport cost
- Reduction of trade transaction cost
- Reduction of border operating costs for State budget
- More efficient investments in border facilities



Structure of the Convention

- Chapter I: General provisions incl. definitions
- Chapter II: Harmonization of procedures
- Co-ordination of controls
- Resources of the services
- International co-operation
- Co-operation between adjacent countries
- Exchange of information, documents
- Chapter III: Goods in transit
- Chapter IV: Miscellaneous
- Operational annexes



General principles vs. detailed provisions

- Framework providing for a high degree of flexibility in organizing national and international cooperation
- No universal ‘one size fits all’ solution
- Examples of best practice are essential
- Integrated operational annexes are required
- Annex 8 on road transport came into force in 2008
- A new Annex 9 on rail transport came into force in 2011





Major aspects of border crossing facilitation

- Infrastructure
- Procedures
- Documents and information
- Personnel





Infrastructure

- Necessary equipment and facilities at frontier points
- Minimum list for road border crossings
- Common facilities and shared use of equipment, both domestically and with neighbor countries
- To the extent possible, controls should be moved from the border to other locations (e.g. departure or destination)
- At border crossing points, controls should be replaced by verification of internationally standardized documentation





Domestic intra-service coordination: sine qua none for efficient procedures

- There are many control authorities at the border. Who takes the lead?
- Control mentality is an obstacle
- Each control authority wants to have its share
- A decision should be taken at the highest possible political level
- Establishment of a single agency
- Delegation of authority



Documents and information

- Internationally standardized (UN Layout Key) documents and certificates
- Use of technical/commercial documents
- Use of ICT
- Exchange of information
- Transparency with respect to legislation, regulations and procedures



Personnel

- Qualified personnel in sufficient numbers should be available
- Officers should get instructions for acting in accordance with international agreements and national provisions
- Joint controls
- Delegation of functions



Annex 1- Harmonization of Customs controls and other controls

- Organization of controls (simultaneous control, opening hours, availability of facilities and personnel, delegation to Customs)
- Result of controls



Annex 2 - Medico-sanitary inspection

- Protection of life and health of persons
- Information (types of goods, offices, requirements)
- Organization of controls (availability of facilities, storage)
- Goods in transit and co-ordination



Annex 3 - Veterinary inspection

- Transport of animals and animal products
- Information (types of goods, offices, requirements)
- Organization of controls (availability of facilities, storage, working hours)
- Goods in transit and co-ordination



Annex 4 - Phytosanitary inspection

- Relating to transport of plants and plant products
- Information (types of goods, offices, requirements, restrictions/prohibitions)
- Organization of controls (storage, disinfection, working hours)
- Goods in transit and co-ordination



Annex 5 - Control of compliance with technical standards

- Relating to technical standards of goods (conformity, PSI)
- Information (types of goods, offices)
- Harmonization of standards
- Organization of controls
- Goods in transit and co-ordination



Annex 6 - Quality Control

- Information (offices, procedures)
- Organization of controls (facilities, working hours)
- Does not normally apply for goods in transit
- Co-ordination



Annex 7: Administrative Committee

- Decision making body of the Convention
- Composed of all Contracting Parties
- Meets at UNECE in Geneva



Annex 8 on road transport

- Visas for professional drivers (facilitation of procedures and exchange of information);
- Border crossing procedures for goods for urgent consignments, such as live animals and perishable goods;
- Acceptance of the International Technical Inspection Certificate and the identification of ATP vehicles carrying perishable goods;
- Acceptance of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate
- Efficient border crossing points with suitable infrastructures.





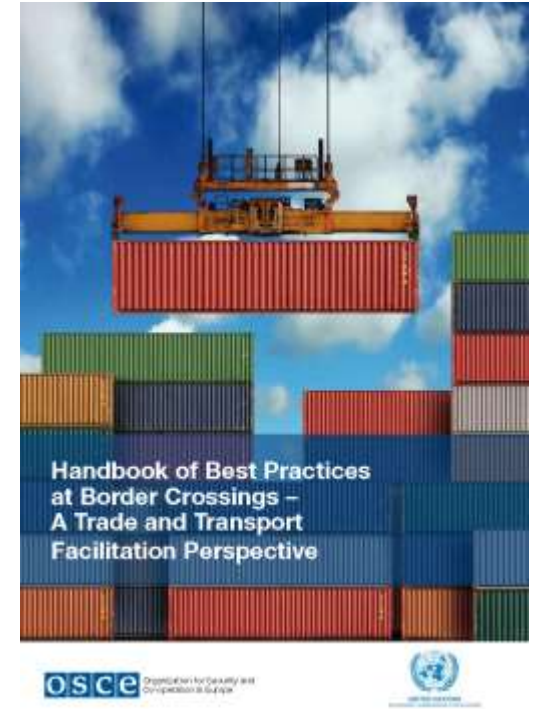
Annex 9 on rail border crossings

- simplified procedures for crossing of borders by officials, including granting them visas;
- minimum infrastructure and staff requirements for border (interchange) stations, including information technology and communications systems (advance cargo information);
- cooperation and coordination between adjacent countries at border (interchange) stations; reciprocal recognition of all forms of controls of rolling stock, containers and goods;
- selective Customs controls on the basis of risk assessment and management;
- simplified controls at border (interchange) stations and moving certain forms of controls to the stations of departure and destination;
- setting up time limits for border clearance and monitoring delays at border (interchange) stations;
- reducing paper documents and simplifying documentation procedures by using electronic systems;
- use of the joint International Convention concerning the Carriage of Goods by Rail/Agreement on International Railway Freight Communications (CIM/SMGS) railway consignment note, also as a Customs document.



OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings - A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective

- Reference material and more than 120 best practice examples at border crossings.
- It covers available legal instruments, inter-agency and international co-operation, balancing security and facilitation measures, processing of freight, risk management, design of border crossing points, use of ICT technologies, human resource management and benchmarking.





UNECE SECRETARIAT

8-14, Avenue de Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 23 92

Email address: Ariadne.Abel@unece.org



Thank you for your attention



Future

www.unece.org/trans