



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
21 March 2019

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Eleventh session

Geneva, 13 June 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh session\* \*\*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on Thursday,  
13 June 2019

## I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Status of the Convention.
4. Proposals for amendments of the Convention.
5. Application of the Convention:
  - (a) Annex 8 on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport;
  - (b) Annex 9 on facilitation of border crossing procedures for rail transport;

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\* 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, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: [wp.30@un.org](mailto:wp.30@un.org)). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html). During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

Delegates are requested to register online at: [uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=z4mXQm](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=z4mXQm) at the latest one week prior to the session. Prior to the session, 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 Pregny Gate (14, 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](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html).

\*\* The full text of the Harmonization Convention, 1982, as well as a complete list of contracting parties to the convention, is available on the ECE website:  
[www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs).



- (c) Implementation of the Harmonization Convention and the use of best practices in this context.
- 6. Other business:
  - (a) Promotion of the Harmonization Convention;
  - (b) Date of next session;
  - (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
- 7. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda, as prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/21). The Committee will also be informed that, 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.” For the time being, the number of contracting parties to the Convention is 58.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/21

### **2. Election of officers**

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Committee should elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair for every session.

### **3. Status of the Convention**

The Committee will be informed about the status of the Convention.

Since the tenth session of the Committee in 2014, Turkmenistan 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **4. Proposals for amendments of the Convention**

The Committee will be informed about proposals to amend the Convention. In particular, the Committee will be informed about the efforts to create an Annex 10 on seaports, which stranded in 2017. An overview of the discussions by the Working Party is contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2019/1, for information of the Committee.

The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its 151st session (February 2019), 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. The text of the amendment proposal is contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2019/2 for consideration and, possibly, adoption by the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs)

The Committee is invited to raise, under this agenda item, further proposals to amend the Convention.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2019/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2019/2

## **5. Application of the Convention**

### **(a) Annex 8 on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport**

The Committee may wish to recall that Annex 8 to the Convention entered into force on 20 May 2008. Surveys on the implementation of Annex 8 have since been held every two years (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018) demonstrating good awareness of the contracting parties of their obligations under Annex 8 and positive progress in areas of transfer of controls from borders to inland offices, treatment of urgent consignments and infrastructure requirements for border crossing points. On the other hand, progress was slow in areas of visa procedures and of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate.

The Committee will be informed about the results of the 2018 survey in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2019/3.

Delegations are invited to inform the Committee about issues in the implementation of Annex 8 provisions in their countries.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2019/3

### **(b) Annex 9 on facilitation of border crossing procedures for rail transport**

The Committee may wish to recall that Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention entered into force on 30 November 2011.

This is a second annex to the Harmonization Convention dealing with a particular mode of transport. Annex 9 provides, inter alia, requirements for border (interchange) stations and for cooperation between adjacent countries. It foresees also a mechanism for reciprocal recognition of controls of rolling stock, containers, etc., a need to comply with time limits for reception and transfer of trains, means of documentation facilitation (through the use of the CIM<sup>2</sup>/SMGS<sup>3</sup> railway consignment note, instead of other shipping documents, and also as a customs document).

The Committee may wish to recall that, in 2013–2014, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) conducted a survey on national applications of Annex 9. The survey is contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/6 and its results in Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2014). The Committee may wish to consider, from the perspective of customs authorities, recommending SC.2 to relaunch the survey

The delegations may wish to inform the Committee about issues in the implementation of Annex 9 provisions in their countries.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/SC.2/2013/6, Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2014)

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<sup>2</sup> CIM stands for: Uniform Rules Concerning the Contract of International Carriage of Goods by Rail

<sup>3</sup> SMGS stands for: Agreement on International Goods Transport by Rail

(c) **Implementation of the Harmonization Convention and the use of best practices in this context**

In this context, the Committee may wish to recall the joint ECE and OSCE “Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective”, of 2012 which is available in various languages.<sup>4</sup>

**6. Other business**

(a) **Promotion of the Harmonization Convention**

The Committee may wish to discuss means of promoting awareness and capacity-building of the Harmonization Convention in the ECE and other regions.

(b) **Date of next session**

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

(c) **Restriction on the distribution of documents**

The Administrative Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with this 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 eleventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the ECE secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions in translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the end of this meeting (organized in conjunction with a WP.30 session) for adoption in all working languages.

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<sup>4</sup> Available at: [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publications/OSCE-UNECE\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publications/OSCE-UNECE_Handbook.pdf)