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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****150th session**

Geneva, 16–19 October 2018

Item 3 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

**Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods
under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):****Revision of the Convention****Amendment proposals to the Convention****Note by the secretariat****I. Background and mandate**

1. The Working Party, at its 150th session continued its discussions on proposals to amend article 20. The delegation of the European Union reiterated its proposal to replace, in article 20, “country” by “Contracting Party” as this would serve the application of the article within the single customs territory of the European Union, being a contracting party to the TIR Convention itself, without impeding its application in any other customs union constituting a single customs territory, however without being a contracting party itself. For that reason, it invited the Working Party to agree to transmit the proposal to the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) for final consideration and, possibly, adoption. The delegation of the Russian Federation could not agree with this proposal and, instead, proposed to continue working on the proposal outlined by the government of Ukraine in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/9 and its Corr.1. Unable to reach consensus, the Working Party decided to revert to this issue at the current session, based on a document by the secretariat with the proposal by the European Union and a (slightly) reformulated proposal by Ukraine (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/298, para. 7).

2. On 23 July 2018, the secretariat received an additional proposal to amend article 20 by the Government of the Russian Federation (see Annex).

3. The Working Party is invited to continue its considerations of the issue with the support of this document.

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II. Proposal by the European Union for article 20

3. “For journeys in the territory of their ~~country~~ *Contracting Party*, the customs authorities may fix a time-limit and require the road vehicle, the combination of vehicles or the container to follow a prescribed route.”

III. Proposal by Ukraine for article 20

4. “For TIR operations in a [the] customs territory [of a country or Contracting Party], the customs office of departure may fix a time-limit and require the vehicle, the combination of vehicles or the container to follow a prescribed route.”

IV. Proposal by the Russian Federation for article 20

5. “For a TIR operation in the territory of a contracting party or several contracting parties, forming a customs or economic union, the customs office of departure or entry (en route) may, within the limits of its competence, in conformity with the provisions of article 48, fix a time-limit and require the road vehicle, the combination of vehicles or the container to follow a prescribed route.”

V. Considerations by the Working Party

6. The Working Party is invited to agree on one of the above proposals and request transmittal to AC.2 for final consideration and, possibly, adoption.

Annex

[Informal translation by the secretariat]

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

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23 July 2018

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and, in relation to the forthcoming 150th session of WP.30 that will take place from 15–19 of October 2018 in Geneva, has the honour to transmit a proposal to amend article 20 of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets 1975 (TIR Convention), to read as follows:

«For a TIR operation in the territory of a contracting party or several contracting parties, forming a customs or economic union, the customs office of departure or entry (en route) may, within the limits of its competence, in conformity with the provisions of article 48, fix a time-limit and require the road vehicle, the combination of vehicles or the container to follow a prescribed route.»

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the secretariat of UNECE the assurances of its highest considerations.
