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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

##### 149th session

Geneva, 12–14 June 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the 149th session\*, \*\*, \*\*\*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 12 June 2018, and finishing around 6 p.m. on Thursday, 14 June 2018, Room VII, Palais des Nations.

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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, documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: [wp.30@unece.org](mailto:wp.30@unece.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, 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=bWd18c](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=bWd18c) or to complete the registration form available from [www.unece.org/meetings/practical\\_information/confpart.pdf](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical_information/confpart.pdf) and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat, at the latest one week prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by email ([wp.30@unece.org](mailto:wp.30@unece.org)). 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 website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

\*\* The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of Contracting Parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the ECE website:

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

\*\*\* Please note that the ITDB seminar on Thursday, 14 June 2018 (10 a.m.–1 p.m.) will take place in Room XII.

GE.18-04320(E)



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## I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party.
3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
  - (a) Status of the Convention;
  - (b) Revision of the Convention:
    - (i) Amendment proposals to the Convention;
    - (ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process;
    - (iii) Draft Annex 11 to the TIR Convention:
      - a. Financial aspects of the computerization of the TIR procedure and the financial legal provisions;
      - b. Other legal provisions.
  - (c) Application of the Convention:
    - (i) New developments in the application of the Convention;
    - (ii) Issues transmitted by the Administrative Committee:
      - a. The application of greater facilities in the Convention;
      - b. The use of subcontractors in the Convention.
    - (iii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
    - (iv) Settlement of claims for payments;
    - (v) Relation between the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments;
    - (vi) IRU external audit report;
    - (vii) Other matters.
4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):
  - (a) Status of the Convention;
  - (b) Issues in the application of the Convention.
5. Draft Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail.
6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
  - (a) Status of the Convention;
  - (b) Issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan.
7. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:
  - (a) European Union;

- (b) Economic Cooperation Organization;
  - (c) Eurasian Economic Union;
  - (d) World Customs Organization.
8. Other business:
    - (a) List of decisions;
    - (b) Dates of the next sessions;
    - (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
  10. Adoption of the report.
  11. Tentative timetable.
  12. List of decisions taken at the 148th session of the Working Party.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/297

### 2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will be informed about activities of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), its Bureau, subsidiary bodies and other United Nations organizations on matters of interest to the Working Party. In particular, the Working Party will be informed about the decisions taken by ITC related to issues in the field of border crossing facilitation (see Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13).

### 3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)

#### (a) Status of the Convention

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the TIR Convention, 1975 and the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Working Party will be informed about the various proposals to amend Annexes 6, 8 and 9 of the convention, as contained in depositary notification C.N.700.2017.TREATIES-XI.A.16. In this context, the Working Party may wish to recall that the Administrative Committee decided, at its sixty-sixth session (12 October 2017) that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 60 of the convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 July 2018 unless no later than by 30 March 2018 five of the States which are contracting parties notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of their objection to the amendment. More detailed

information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>1</sup>

**(b) Revision of the Convention**

*(i) Amendment proposals to the Convention*

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it continued its discussions on proposals to amend Article 20, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2017/21. At the session, the delegation of the European Union confirmed its wish to maintain the proposal to replace, in Article 20, the word “country” by “Contracting Party”, and invited other delegations to support this proposal, as it would not have any negative repercussions on the application of the provision in customs unions that were not contracting party to the TIR Convention in their own right. The delegation of Ukraine, while expressing support for the position of the European Union, offered to prepare a comparison between the TIR Convention and other relevant international legal instruments such as, in particular, the Revised Kyoto Convention or the World Trade Organization Transit Facilitation Agreement (WTO-TFA). The delegation of the Russian Federation advised the Working Party to apply caution to the various proposals, which it regarded a complex matter. In addition, it stated that the application of Article 48 did not fully offer a solution for the situation of the Eurasian Economic Union. In conclusion, the Working Party accepted the offer of the delegation of Ukraine to prepare a comparative document for consideration, if possible, at its next session. In addition, delegations were invited to carefully study the various amendment proposals contained in the Annex to document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2017/21, and to provide the secretariat with feedback, comments or further considerations no later than 1 April 2018 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, para. 8).

The Working Party is invited to continue its considerations of the issue with the support of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/9, submitted by the Government of Ukraine and document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/10 by the secretariat, transmitting feedback, comments or further considerations by delegations, if any.

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, the delegation of the Russian Federation confirmed that, in its view, aligning the texts of Article 8, paragraph 3 and of Explanatory Note 0.8.3 was warranted to remove any ambiguity that could rise from the use of two different terms. The delegation of the European Union stated that, in its view, the difference in wording introduced, on the one hand, a harmonized approach, whereas, on the other hand, it provided contracting parties flexibility in the application of the recommended maximum amount. The proposed amendment would take away the flexibility contracting parties have and the European Union did not support such modification. The delegation of Belarus proposed to assess whether it would not be possible to convert E.N. 0.8.3 into a comment of similar wording. The delegation of Ireland reiterated that, in its view, the wording “determine” in Article 8, paragraph 3 imposed a finite amount, whereas the words “limit to a sum equal to” provided the desired flexibility. Unable to reach consensus, the Working Party agreed to revert to the issue at the next session. Delegations were invited to (a) assess if for Explanatory Note 0.8.3 a better term than “determine” could be found, (b) assess if a conversion from Explanatory Note to comment would provide contracting parties sufficient flexibility and (c) provide their comments to the secretariat no later than 1 April 2018 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, para. 9).

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<sup>1</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html)

At the current session, delegations are invited to express themselves about questions (a) and (b). In addition, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/11 with comments by delegations, if any.

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it continued its discussions on proposals to amend Article 11 with a new paragraph 4 *bis*. In reply to the three questions raised by the secretariat in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/8, the Working Party confirmed that the final phrase of Explanatory Note 0.11.4 should remain with Article 11, paragraph 4. The delegation of the Russian Federation stated that a conversion of Explanatory Note 0.11.4 to become new Article 11, paragraph 4 *bis* would solve its problems with regard to the limited timeframe, according to national law, to bring claims to the court, subject to some changes as contained in its proposal. The Working Party noted that the issue of the consequences of the proposed changes for the national agreements between customs authorities and national associations warranted further assessment. The Working Party mandated the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its next session, a short document, outlining the rationale behind the Russian proposal and the proposed text of Article 11, paragraph 4, its amended Explanatory Note 0.11.4 and new Article 11, paragraph 4 *bis* (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, paras. 10–11).

The Working Party is invited to continue its considerations, with the support of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/12 by the secretariat.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/10, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/11, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/12

#### *(ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process*

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure, as well as the eTIR pilot projects.

In the context of its discussions, the Working Party may wish to note that ITC, at its eightieth session, expressed its support for continuing the eTIR project, and to this end: (a) decided to prolong the mandate of the Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) to the year 2018, (b) urged contracting parties and relevant stakeholders to ensure continuation of the required financing for operationalizing the eTIR project and (c) urged contracting parties to expediently finalize considerations on a new Annex 11 to the TIR Convention, introducing the computerization of the TIR procedure into the legal text of the convention (see Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13, Decision 36).

Further, the Working Party may wish to note that TIRExB, at its seventy-fifth session, noting the limited use of the International TIR Databank (ITDB) by contracting parties, concluded that more attention should be paid to awareness-raising and requested the secretariat to prepare an ITDB webservice customs guide as official document for consideration by the Working Party. The Working Party will be briefed about the ITDB webservice customs guide, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/13 and about the latest developments in the ITDB. As announced at the 148th session of the Working Party, delegations are also invited to take part in a half-day seminar on practical issues related to the use of the ITDB that will be held in the framework of the present session, on Thursday, 14 June 2018 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The seminar will take place in Salle XII.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/13

(iii) *Draft Annex 11 to the TIR Convention*

- a. Financial aspects of the computerization of the TIR procedure and the financial legal provisions

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it had a first round of discussions about the financial aspects of the computerization of the TIR procedure and the financial legal provisions contained in Annex 11 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, paras. 18, 26 and 27). The Working Party requested the secretariat to provide additional information on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between UNECE and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure and the Contribution Agreement (CA) signed between UNECE and IRU and on the functioning of the eTIR system, as well as on the applicable United Nations financial rules and regulations mentioned in Annex 11, Article 10, paragraph 3 and the timeline to be applied for the financing of the operational costs of the eTIR international system. In line with these requests, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/14 for consideration by the Working Party.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/14

- b. Other legal provisions

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it agreed that the application of Trusted Third Parties (TTPs) should be further considered by GE.1 at its next session. The representative of IRU proposed that either a TTP recognized by all contracting parties be appointed (in this case: UNECE) or that Annex 11 stipulate that national representatives could sign on behalf of authorized TIR Carnet holders according to national requirements. The Working Party had decided to continue its considerations of electronic authentication methods when discussing Articles 6 and 7 of draft Annex 11.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that the Office of Legal Affairs – Treaty Section (OLA-TS) had informed the secretariat that it would not be possible to introduce the opt-out clause for Annex 11 by means of a reservation. The secretariat informed the Working Party that it would submit a new proposal, stipulating that Annex 11 would come into force by a certain deadline for all contracting parties, except for those that would notify the depositary, in writing, before that same (or another deadline) of their non-acceptance of the Annex. In this context, the delegation of the European Union proposed to review the decision-making mechanism as contained in Article 4 of draft Annex 11, possibly in combination with the introduction of a transitional period for contracting parties that (a) would accept Annex 11, but (b) not apply eTIR in the first phase. In its view, it seemed not correct to exclude this group of countries from the decision-making procedure as proposed in said Article 4. In reply, the secretariat proposed to consider introducing a clear differentiation between the moment a contracting party would accept Annex 11 and the moment that it would start implementing the Annex (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, paras. 19–27).

The secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/15, containing comments on or proposals to Annex 11 in general and its financing mechanism in particular by delegations, if any, and document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/16, containing an updated version of draft Annex 11, for consideration by the Working Party.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/15, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/16

(c) **Application of the Convention**

(i) *New developments in the application of the Convention*

The Working Party is invited to raise new developments in the application of the Convention, if any.

(ii) *Issues transmitted by the Administrative Committee*

a. The application of greater facilities in the Convention

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/5, containing background information on the issue, as well as a number of examples of best practice of the use of the concept of authorized consignor/consignee in various contracting parties. The Working Party noted that TIR Carnet holders in various countries already benefitted from the facilitations of authorized consignor or consignee, while noting, at the same time, that the requirements and conditions differ from country to country. The delegation of the European Union confirmed its provisional agreement with the proposals prepared by TIRExB (see Part III of the document) and conveyed its willingness to continue sharing its experiences with the concepts of authorized consignor/consignee with other contracting parties. The delegations of France, Latvia, Poland, Turkey and Ukraine shared their positive experience with the application of either or both concepts on its territory and clarified the strict conditions and requirements that applied for authorized TIR Carnet holders to be granted such facilitations under the application of the provisions of national law. The delegation of the Russian Federation confirmed that it could not support the proposals, considering that the absence of any evidence about the accuracy of the checks applied or the requirement imposed on TIR Carnet holders created risks for recipient countries. In addition, it felt that in order to accept the concepts, a clear description of conditions and requirements for the application of greater facilities in the TIR Convention would be required. It could only see any merit in the application of greater facilities at the end of a TIR transport, as it did not affect the application of the TIR Convention in other countries. The delegation of Belarus argued that any further discussions should focus on drafting a new provision to the Convention, which would address all aspects of the TIR procedure involved in the application of greater facilities. The Working Party concluded that, in the absence of consensus on the proposal, it only seemed feasible to make progress in the field of authorized consignee, while taking note that, in the meantime, the described practices in various contracting parties would continue. The Working Party decided to revert to the issue at its next session and invited delegations to provide the secretariat with comments or proposals no later than 1 April 2018 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, para. 29).

The Working Party is invited to continue its discussions, supported by document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/17 with comments or proposals by delegations, if any.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/17

b. The use of subcontractors in the Convention

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it reviewed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/13 and noted the different points of view on the subject matter. The representative of Turkey expressed its willingness to further consider the proposals in terms of practical consequences, including the need for a common understanding of the concept of subcontractor, clarification of the requirements to use vehicles, approved in accordance with the provisions of the TIR Convention if the

subcontractor is not a TIR Carnet holder, and the requirement of a clear provision that the person directly liable would be the TIR Carnet holder. The representative of the national association of Ukraine informed the Working Party that, based on a recent Decree, it had started permitting the use of authorized TIR Carnet holders as subcontractors. The representative of IRU underlined the importance of the issue for intermodal transports and requested the Working Party to work on a formulation that would not leave rail and shipping companies out of scope, due to the increased application of intermodal TIR transports. IRU also informed the Working Party that it had comprehensive information on the use of subcontractors in various contracting parties and proposed to submit a document for consideration of the Working Party at its next session. The Working Party welcomed the proposal by IRU and decided to revert to the issue at its next session on the basis of the IRU submission (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, para. 30).

The Working Party is invited to continue its considerations, supported by document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/18, submitted by IRU.

### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/18

(iii) *TIR-related electronic data interchange systems*

The Working Party will be informed by IRU about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

(iv) *Settlement of claims for payments*

The Working Party may wish to be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

(v) *Relation between the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments*

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will brief the Working Party on developments in the field of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) and activities of the secretariat to promote the linkages between transport, customs and trade facilitation within the framework of WTO TFA, if any.

(vi) *IRU external audit report*

Further to a request of the delegation of the Russian Federation to leave this issue on the agenda, the Working Party is invited to revisit the IRU external audit report, pending further developments (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, para. 34).

(vii) *Other matters*

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, under this agenda item, it took note that, on 14 November 2017, IRU had informed the UNECE secretariat that, at a meeting of the IRU Presidential Executive on 8 November 2017, the Presidential Executive had decided to exclude Asociația Română Pentru Transporturi Rutiere Internaționale (ARTRI) from its membership. ARTRI had filed an appeal with the IRU General Assembly, which would rule on this appeal at its meeting on 4 May 2018.

The Working Party may wish to continue its considerations of the matter, based on the latest available information.



Under this agenda item, the Working Party will be informed that ITC, at its eightieth session adopted the changes to the terms of reference of WP.30, as reflected in the Annex to ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2017/19 (see Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13, Decision 39).

#### **4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention)**

##### **(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the convention and in the number of contracting parties. More detailed information on these issues as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the UNECE website.<sup>2</sup>

##### **(b) Issues in the application of the Convention**

The Working Party may wish to consider issues or difficulties in the application of the convention, if any. In particular, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 148th session, it had decided that the eleventh session of the Administrative Committee of the Harmonization Convention (AC.3) should be convened in conjunction with its 2019 June session and mandated the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, including the preparation of pre-, in- and post-session documents (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, para. 38). In this context, the Working Party may wish to be informed that ITC, at its eightieth session, endorsed this decision (see Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13, Decision 40).

#### **5. Draft Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/6 containing the final text of the draft convention, in combination with document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/6/Corr. 2, containing the following two corrections to the text of Article 27, further to a final review by OLA-TS: (a) to change the deadline for an amendment to enter into force from thirty days to three months, in order to achieve alignment with the entry into force of the convention for newly acceding States, as stipulated by Article 22, paragraph 2; (b) to invert, for reasons of logic, the order of paragraphs 3 and 4, which should then be renumbered accordingly. The Working Party may further wish to recall that, at the session, it was informed about the outcome of the discussions by the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) at its seventy-first session (November 2017). In particular, the Working Party took note that SC.2 had asked WP.30 to take further steps towards finalizing the adoption of the draft convention for the purpose of submitting it for approval to ITC (see ECE/TRANS/SC.2/228, paras. 33–39). The delegations of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Turkey and Uzbekistan expressed their interest in the draft convention and reported on the ongoing inter-agency consultations that were currently taking place. The delegation of the European Union informed the Working Party that consultations on a Council decision about the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union were ongoing. In its view, the absence of a clause stipulating the possibility for Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO) to accede to the new convention constituted a problem for the European Union to agree on the

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<sup>2</sup> [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html)

text. In conclusion of the agenda item, the Working Party invited the representatives of interested countries to conclude their internal approval procedures and inform the secretariat about any eventual comments no later than 1 April 2018, so that a final text of the draft convention could be considered as official document at the June 2018 session of the Working Party. The delegations of Belarus and the Russian Federation requested the secretariat to make arrangements so that SC.2 delegations would attend future sessions of the Working Party as well as to extend invitations to interested countries from Asia, including China and Mongolia, to participate in the discussions. Finally, the Working Party requested the Chair to duly report to ITC at its forthcoming session on progress with the road map and the latest state of play of the draft convention (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, paras. 39 and 40).

In this context, the Working Party may wish to be informed that ITC, at its eightieth session, (a) noted that the ongoing work on the draft of the new Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail is an important element of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and invited the interested parties to participate in this work (Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13, Decision 29); and (b) considered the text of the new convention on the facilitation of border-crossing procedures for passengers, luggage and load-luggage carried in international traffic by rail, as under discussion by WP.30 and urged the Working Party to finalize its considerations in the course of 2018, with the aim that a draft text of the new convention could be transmitted to ITC for consideration and possible endorsement at its eighty-first session and, subsequent transmittal to the depositary (Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13, Decision 38).

In preparation of this agenda item, the secretariat extended invitations to the Ministries of Railways of China and Mongolia and invited participants of SC.2 to attend this part of the session, which will be conducted on 13 June 2018, from 3.00 p.m. The secretariat further prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/6/Rev.1 containing a full version of the text of the draft convention as well as document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/19 with comments from delegations, if any.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/6/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/19

## **6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)**

### **(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles.

### **(b) Issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 147th session, it took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2017/27, about the ongoing problems in Egypt and Jordan in the application of the 1954 Convention, particularly due to the fact that customs authorities did not seem to respect the deadlines and procedures laid down in the Convention and that the secretariat had sent official letters on 27 July 2017 to the Governments of Egypt and Jordan through their permanent missions in Geneva and had sent reminder letters on 27 September 2017. The secretariat offered, in consultation with AIT/FIA, to see if contact could be established with the related missions to facilitate any feedback from their respective customs authorities or, ultimately, invite them to participate in the next session of WP.30.

At its 148th session, the secretariat informed the Working Party that, since then, contact had been established with the permanent missions of both countries to request their assistance in obtaining feedback from their respective customs authorities, but that, so far, no such feedback had been provided. The representative of FIA/AIT informed the Working Party that over the last months the situation in both countries had remained unchanged and expressed her regret that despite all joint efforts of FIA/AIT, their affiliated associations and, lately, UNECE, no feedback or clarifications from either country had been obtained. She reconfirmed the availability of FIA/AIT to facilitate discussions between customs authorities and guaranteeing associations to address and, hopefully, resolve this situation within the legal framework of the convention. The Working Party requested the secretariat to extend an official invitation to the permanent missions of Egypt and Jordan to attend further discussions of the matter at its next session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/296, paras. 42 and 43).

In the context of this issue, the Working Party may wish to be informed that ITC, at its eightieth session, expressed its support for the joint efforts by AIT/FIA, its national associations and the UNECE secretariat to improve the application of the 1954 Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles in general and, in particular, in Egypt and Jordan, and encouraged the permanent missions of both countries to attend future sessions of WP.30 in order to familiarize themselves with the underlying issues so as to report them accordingly to the respective customs administrations (see Informal document ITC (2018) No. 13, Decision 37).

Further to the request by the Working Party, the secretariat has invited the permanent missions of Egypt and Jordan to be present for this agenda item, which will be discussed on Wednesday, 13 June 2018, in the course of the afternoon.

## **7. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party**

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic commissions or Customs Unions as well as by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and countries as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

### **(a) European Union**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent developments in the European Union related to the activities of the Working Party.

### **(b) Economic Cooperation Organization**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about relevant activities and ongoing projects carried out by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

### **(c) Eurasian Economic Union**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about further progress in relevant activities and projects carried out by the Eurasian Economic Union.

### **(d) World Customs Organization**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the World Customs Organization as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

## 8. Other business

### (a) List of decisions

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, as requested at the 145th session, the secretariat includes a list of decisions as Annexes to the final reports of sessions. At its previous session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to continue this practice, thus keeping track of the status of decisions and include the issue as a separate agenda item for its future sessions. The secretariat agreed to this, adding that the list would also be attached to future draft agendas (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/290, para. 51), (see agenda item 12).

The Working Party is invited to review the list of decisions and provide guidance to the secretariat.

### (b) Dates of the next sessions

The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates of its next sessions. The secretariat has made arrangements for the 150th session to take place in the week of 15–19 October 2018 and the 151st session in the week of 4–8 February 2019.

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

The Working Party should decide whether or not there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

## 10. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 149th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present translation resource restrictions, parts of the final report may not be available at the session for adoption in all working languages.

## 11. Tentative timetable

Tuesday, 12 June 2018	10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Items 1–3
	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Item 3 (cont'd)
Wednesday, 13 June 2018	10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Items 3 (cont'd), 4, 7–9
	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Items 5-6
Thursday, 14 June 2018	10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Item 4 (ii): ITDB seminar
	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Item 10

## 12. List of decisions taken at the 148th session of the Working Party

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
7	Invitation letter to Chinese customs	secretariat	done

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
8	Prepare comparative document TIR/RKC and WTO/TFA on the application of customs procedures in customs unions	Delegation of Ukraine	1 April 2018
8	Provide feedback to secretariat on proposals to amend Art. 20	Delegations	1 April 2018
9	Assess E.N. 0.8.3. to improve wording or conversion to comment	Delegations	1 April 2018
11	Prepare document on new Article 11, 4 <u>bis</u>	secretariat	1 April 2018
18	Provide information on MoU and CA	secretariat	1 April 2018
27	Submit comments to Annex 11	Delegations	1 April 2018
27	Prepare updated version of Annex 11	secretariat	1 April 2018
27	Prepare document on United Nations Financial Rules	secretariat	1 April 2018
27	Prepare timeline for financing operational costs	secretariat	1 April 2018
29	Provide comments/proposals authorized consignor	Delegations	1 April 2018
30	Prepare document on subcontractors in various countries	IRU	1 April 2018
35	Request TIRExB to study E.N. to Article 6, 2 <u>bis</u> (via AC.2)	secretariat	asap
38	Convene 11th session of AC.3 in conjunction with the 152nd session of WP.30 (June 2019)	secretariat	March 2019
39	Submit comments to new draft rail convention	Delegations	1 April 2018
39	Rephrase title and substance of agenda item	secretariat	12 March 2018
39	Report findings on draft rail convention to ITC	Chair	21 February 2018
39	Invite Ministries of Railways of China and Mongolia	secretariat	asap
43	Invite missions Egypt and Jordan to 149th session of WP.30	secretariat	asap