

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
31 March 2015

Original: English

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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****140th session**

Geneva, 9–12 June 2015

Item 4bis of the provisional agenda

**Work Plan 2016–2020 and Programme of  
Work and Biennial Evaluation 2016–2017  
for the Working Party****Draft Work Plan, for the years 2016–2020****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The text reproduced below is based on the Work Plan for 2014–2018 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/1), as approved by the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) at its 136th session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/272, para. 46) and subsequently by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 105 and ECE/TRANS/2014/26).

2. WP.30 may wish to examine its draft Work Plan for 2016–2020 and, in particular, the continued relevance of priorities assigned to individual work elements and the expected outputs identified for this period.

**II. Draft Work Plan for 2014–2018****Programme activity 02.10: Customs Questions affecting Transport**

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport.

Description:

- (a) Preparation and implementation and, where appropriate, review and modification of international legal instruments.
- (b) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, documents and procedures.

*Work to be undertaken:* WP.30 will pursue the following activities:

## A. Continuing activities

1. **Review of relevant conventions and agreements on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the WP.30, in order to ensure their relevance and proper implementation, as well as coherence with other international or subregional treaties and to keep them in line with modern transport and border control requirements.**

Priority: 1

*Outputs expected:*

- Analysis of the application of the following United Nations Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982 (Harmonization Convention); Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles;
- Further increasing the sustainability of the TIR Convention by developing amendments, comments and/or examples of best practice with the aim to improve communication between the competent authorities, TIR guarantee chain and intergovernmental bodies as well as to raise transparency in the settlement of disputes;
- Consideration, in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), of a new draft Convention to facilitate the crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail.

2. **Promotion of the possible extension of relevant UN Conventions on border crossing facilitation to other regions, particularly relating to legal and administrative aspects.**

Priority: 2

*Output expected:*

- Preparation and organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with ~~United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and other<sup>1</sup>~~ relevant UN **Regional Commissions** and international organizations **such as Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), etc.** on the implementation of relevant UN Conventions on border crossing facilitation, in particular in Asia, North Africa, ~~and~~ the Middle East **and South America**.

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<sup>1</sup> Text recommended to be deleted is in ~~strike through~~ font and new text to be inserted in **bold italics**.

3. **Study of Customs questions with a view to simplifying Customs formalities and documents in the field of transport, in particular, taking account of the possibility of electronic data interchange solutions.** Priority: 1

*Output expected:*

- Draft a set of legal provisions to address computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR project), ~~maintain~~ ~~finalize~~ the eTIR Reference Model and identify possible funding mechanisms to introduce eTIR;
- Monitoring the implementation of the functioning of various national and international TIR-related electronic data interchange (EDI) systems;
- *Finalize proposals to further accommodate facilities such as authorized consignor and consignee within the context of the TIR Convention, and draft new proposals such as, for example, the maximum level of guarantee per TIR carnet, expansion of the intermodal use of the TIR Convention, etc.*

4. **Study of specific legal, as well as other measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified Customs and other border crossing procedures, such as the TIR regime, including periodical reviews of the status of implementation of resolution No. 220 (prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by drug smugglers). Setting-up mechanisms and administrative procedures for the regular exchange of information with other Governmental and non-governmental organizations to combat such fraud.** Priority: 2

*Outputs expected:*

- Preparation of adequate instruments and measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fraud;
- Exchange of intelligence among Customs authorities of Contracting Parties to relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation on abuses with a view to identifying measures to combat such occurrences.

5. **Analysis of difficulties encountered with border crossing formalities so as to develop administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties. The analysis would cover health, phytosanitary, veterinary and quality controls, application of standards, public safety controls, etc., including the promotion of implementation and extension of the scope of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 1982 (Harmonization Convention).** Priority: 1

*Outputs expected:*

- Continued monitoring of the implementation of Annex 8 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of road border crossing at the national level. Exchange of information on best practices in this field.
- Promotion *and monitoring of the implementation* of a new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and other stakeholders.
- Consideration, in cooperation with the interested stakeholders, and elaboration of a new annex on facilitation of border crossing procedures at sea ports.

## **B. Activities of a limited duration**

- ~~6. Study the causes and reasons for the recent TIR crisis in a specific Contracting Party with the aim to facilitate the settlement of the underlying dispute and to develop a set of measures to avoid similar difficulties in the future.~~
  6. Finalize amendment proposals to the TIR Convention to include technical prescriptions for a new type of construction of vehicles and containers with sliding sheets *to the TIR Convention aimed at introducing flexibility into the TIR guarantee system as well as further securing the payment of claims by national associations and the international guarantee chain, and adopt the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Working Party.* Priority: 1 2
  7. *Adopt the Protocol to facilitate the electronic exchange of TIR related data within the context of the TIR Convention prior to the finalization and entry into force of the legal provisions introducing eTIR.* Priority: 2
  8. Renew the UNECE and IRU Agreement as of 1 January 2017. Priority: 2
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