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

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Item 4bis of the provisional agenda

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

1. In accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being in 2016 (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) is requested to review and adopt its programme of work for 2016–2017 as well as the relevant parameters allowing for its biennial evaluation.

**II. Programme of work for 2016–2017****A. Introduction**

2. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the subprogramme of the ITC on Customs Questions affecting Transport for the biennium 2016–2017. The Working Party is invited to consider the programme for adoption at its current session. It will then be submitted to ITC and to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for formal approval. WP.30 and ITC will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium, which will be reflected in a separate document.

3. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2016–2017. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

4. The grouping of activities into clusters is exactly the same as that used by ITC for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.

5. The following clusters of activities make up the subprogramme of UNECE on Transport:

<i>Cluster No.</i>	<i>Subprogramme: 02 Transport</i>
1.	Overall coordination (Inland Transport Committee and Bureau)
2.	Transport trends and economics (including Euro-Asian transport links)
3.	Harmonization of vehicle regulations, climate change and intelligent transport systems (ITS)
4.	Rail transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) Project)
5.	Inland waterway transport
6.	Intermodal transport and logistics
7.	Customs Questions affecting Transport
8.	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European programme (THE PEP)
9.	Transport of dangerous goods (UNECE)
10.	Transport of dangerous goods (ECOSOC)
11.	Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ECOSOC)
12.	Transport of perishable foodstuffs
13.	Transport statistics
14.	Road transport and Trans-European north-south motorway (TEM) project
15.	Road traffic safety

6. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2016–2017. If necessary, they are complemented by additional items to reflect more recent developments and needs of UNECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities are clearly indicated as “additional”.

7. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong, according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material and (c) technical cooperation, including seminars, workshops, training sessions and advisory services.

8. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in section II of this document.

9. The present document is based in substance on the programme of work for 2014–2015 as adopted in 2014 by ITC (ECE/TRANS/2014/23).

## B. Objective and strategy

10. The objective of the UNECE subprogramme on Transport is to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport.

11. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division.

## C. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2016–2017 biennium

### Subprogramme: 02 Transport

#### Cluster 7

#### Customs questions affecting transport

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
<p><b>The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)</b> promotes harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport. To meet this objective, WP.30 reviews relevant Conventions on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their relevance and proper implementation; promotes their possible extension to other regions; studies customs questions with a view to simplifying customs formalities and documents, in particular taking account of the possibility of computerization; identifies measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified customs and other border crossing procedures; analyses difficulties encountered at border crossings formalities with a view to devising administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties.</p>	<p>New accessions to and more effective implementation of international legal instruments in the area of border crossing facilitation by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyse the implementation <del>application</del> of selected Conventions on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party;</li> <li>- <del>Study the reasons of the recent TIR crisis in one Contracting Party with the aim to avoid such difficulties in the future and to</del> Develop amendments to the TIR Convention which would increase the sustainability of the TIR system;</li> <li>- Draft a set of legal provisions to address computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR project), maintain <del>finalize</del> the eTIR Reference Model and identify possible funding mechanisms to introduce eTIR;</li> <li>- Contribute to the organization of regional and/or national workshops on the implementation of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation, possibly in cooperation with other relevant United Nations and international organizations;</li> <li>- Monitor the implementation of the functioning of various national and international TIR-related electronic data interchange (EDI) systems.</li> <li>- Encourage cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fiscal fraud;</li> <li>- Monitor the implementation of Annex 8 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of road border crossing at the national level and exchange information on best practices in this field.</li> <li>- Promote <b>and monitor implementation of a new Annex 9</b> to the “Harmonization</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main Actions by the Transport Division:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act as secretariat to WP.30, its subsidiary bodies as well as the Administrative Committees of the relevant Conventions on border crossing facilitation;</li> <li>- Assist in administering and updating the relevant legal instruments;</li> <li>- Collect and disseminate information in order to foster exchange of data between member countries on border crossing facilitation;</li> <li>- Facilitate the liaison among governments and with other stakeholders in the area of border crossing facilitation (intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations, private sector and academia), as well as to coordinate cooperation</li> </ul>	

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of obligations contained in the relevant legal instruments.	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.

### Outputs/activities

#### (a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation (2016–2017)

##### 7.1 Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th and 147th sessions)

###### *Documentation:*

Reports of three sessions of the Working Party per year. Parliamentary documentation also includes proposed amendments to the TIR Convention and other Conventions under the auspices of WP.30; documentation on the eTIR project; documents on the implementation of the TIR Convention, Harmonization Convention and other legal instruments on border crossing facilitation. Other parliamentary documentation is determined in the course of each session.

##### 7.2 ~~Informal Ad-hoc Expert~~ Group of Experts on Legal ~~Conceptual and Technical~~ Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.34) (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> session).

###### *Documentation:*

Reports of the sessions of GE.34. Parliamentary documentation also includes **drafts of the legal provisions updates required for the computerization of the TIR system TIR Reference Model**. Other parliamentary documentation is determined in the course of each session.

##### 7.3 Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention (WP.30/AC.2) (62nd, 63rd, 64th and 65<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup> and 67th sessions)

###### *Documentation:*

Reports of two or three sessions of AC.2 per year. Parliamentary documentation also includes proposed amendments to the TIR Convention; documentation on the implementation of the TIR Convention, in particular comments and examples of best practice; reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) – subsidiary body of AC.2; documentation on administration of TIRExB. Other parliamentary documentation is determined in the course of each session.

#### (b) Publications and other information material (planned for 2016–2017)

##### 7.4 ~~Publication of the Spectrum of UNECE border crossing facilitation activities~~

##### 7.54 Publication of the TIR Handbook

##### 7.5 Study on border crossing and customs questions affecting transport.

##### 7.6 Publication (**online**) of the Directory of the TIR and eTIR Focal Points.

#### (c) Technical cooperation including workshops, conferences and other events (2016–2017)

##### 7.7 Support for technical cooperation and capacity building to assist countries in the implementation of the TIR and Harmonization Conventions, including the convening of training workshops, drawing also on expertise of member Governments and international organizations.

### III. Biennial Evaluation

12. In February 2014, ITC approved the performance planning for evaluation of the biennium 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/2014/24). As part of the biennial evaluation, the activities of the Working Parties are measured against one expected accomplishment, two indicators of achievement and corresponding performance measures.

13. WP.30 may wish to review these parameters as well as the actual performance measures for 2014–2015 as provided below with a view to either maintaining them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2016–2017. In particular, WP.30 is invited to consider, as other indicators of achievement, the annual number of distributed TIR Carnets and the number of comments/examples of best practice adopted by WP.30 and/or AC.2.

#### *Biennial Assessment*

#### *Review of performance measures for 2014–2015 and establishment of targets for 2016–2017*

<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Expected Accomplishment</i>	<i>Indicators of Achievement</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>
7. Customs Questions affecting Transport	New accessions to and more effective implementation of international legal instruments in the area of border crossing facilitation	(a) Cumulative number of delegations of countries (Contracting Parties) and participants at the sessions of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), its Administrative Committees (AC.2 and AC.3) and expert group meetings  (b) Number of new amendments adopted and/or discussed, and number of new Contracting Parties  (c) Number of surveys on the implementation of border crossing legal instruments	Baseline 2012–2013: 400 delegations, 1,050 participants  Actual performance 2014–2015: 410 delegations, 1,100 participants  Target 2016–2017: 400 delegations, 1,000 participants  Baseline 2012–2013 :4 amendments adopted and/or discussed, 3 new Contracting Parties  Actual performance 2014–2015: 3 amendments, 0 new Contracting Parties  Target 2016–2017: 3 amendments, 2 new Contracting Parties  Baseline 2012–2013: 2  Actual performance 2014–2015: 2  Target 2016–2017: 2