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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

(One-hundred-and-sixth session, 3-6 February 2004,
agenda item 5 (b))

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER
CONTROLS OF GOODS, 1982
(“HARMONIZATION CONVENTION”)^{*/}**

Report of the ad hoc Expert Group on a new draft Annex 8 to the Convention

Note by the secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present document has been prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the proceedings of the ad hoc expert group on the draft annex 8 to the “Harmonization” Convention (Geneva, 22 September 2003). The report summarizes the presentations made, the views expressed and the conclusions drawn during the meeting. The purpose of this report is to provide a basis for further work to be undertaken concerning this issue by the Working Party.

^{*/} This document was previously announced as TRANS/WP.30/2003/23.

ATTENDANCE

2. The session was attended by representatives from the following countries: Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Finland; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Lithuania; Netherlands; Portugal; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Slovakia; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom and United States of America. Representatives of the European Community (EC) were also present.

3. The following non-governmental organizations was represented: International Road Transport Union (IRU).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2003/21.

4. The expert group adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/2003/21).

CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW DRAFT ANNEX 8 TO THE CONVENTION

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1.

5. The Expert Group recalled that a number of the provisions contained in the new draft Annex 8 to the Convention were still outstanding in particular Article 2 concerning visa issues, Article 4 concerning vehicle inspection and finally Article 5 concerning the International Vehicle Weight Certificate.

6. The Expert Group in general seemed to be of the view that the proposed texts concerning all outstanding issues seemed to be acceptable with some minor modifications. Germany reserved its position, in particular, in relation to Articles 2 and 5.

CONCLUSIONS

7. The Expert Group recommended that the secretariat prepare a consolidated version of the proposal for a new draft Annex 8 to the Convention and convene the sixth session of the Administrative Committee of the "Harmonization" Convention in February 2004 in conjunction with the one-hundred-and-sixth session of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30).
