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Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation

of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

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**Transmitted by the International Touring Alliance and the
International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA)**

I. Background

1. Currently, there are respectively 80 and 41 Contracting Parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and on Commercial Road Vehicles (1956). To facilitate the temporary importation of vehicles these Conventions establish a guarantee system built around the “Carnet de Passages en Douane” (CPD). A large number of non-acceded countries are also using these amenities provided by the Conventions.
2. In 2013, AIT/FIA are the only international organizations that operate in the framework of the two Conventions. AIT/FIA print the CPD Carnets centrally and distribute them to the issuing associations.
3. The last amendments to the Conventions were in 1999 and 1996, respectively. For reasons for modernity and security, AIT/FIA submit the following proposal to further secure the “Carnet de Passages en Douane” (CPD); to facilitate management of the CPD system and to facilitate transport and tourism.

II. Proposal

A. Secure the Carnet de Passage en Douane against Counterfeiting

4. Current protective features in the CPD include a watermark on each page and AIT/FIA stamps/seals on the front cover. The addition of a barcode on the CPD Carnet would greatly increase security. AIT/FIA's opinion is that such a barcode would not affect its conformity with the standard form in Annex 1 of the Conventions.

B. Database

5. An electronic CPD database could facilitate system management and aid in resolving customs claims more rapidly and efficiently. This electronic database system would, however, only become fully effective when provisions are included in the Conventions which oblige the Customs services of Contracting Parties to send information on the CPD Carnets that they receive to the administering organization. AIT/FIA will initiate a pilot project in the Middle Eastern countries.

C. Updating the Convention

Use of other United Nations official languages in the "Carnet de Passages en Douane"

6. CPDs are currently issued only in English and French, as foreseen in Annex 1 of the Conventions. AIT/FIA suggest that combinations of other United Nations official languages (e.g. Arabic/French for the Maghreb, Arabic/English for the Middle East region or English/Spanish for South America) would contribute to developing transport and tourism on a regional basis and convince countries to accede to the Conventions.

7. Annex 1, page 1 of the Conventions could include the following text below "The Carnet is issued in English and French":

"Carnets used for CPD operations within a specific region may be printed in other combinations of United Nations official languages on the condition that one of the two languages is English or French."

VI. Considerations

9. The Working Party is invited to:

- Endorse AIT/FIA's proposal for a barcode in the CPD Carnet, and confirm that the barcode conforms to the standard contained in Annex 1 of the Conventions.
- Support the pilot project for an electronic CPD database system and urge the Contracting Parties to take part in it.
- Call upon Contracting Parties to transmit the proposal for amending the Convention as in point 7 of this document, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.