



**Organization for Security  
and Co-operation in Europe**



**UNECE  
United Nations  
Economic Commission  
for Europe**

in cooperation with the



**Government of the  
Republic of Serbia**

Vienna/Geneva, 14 November 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Republic of Serbia and with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia have the pleasure to invite you to a training seminar concerning the implementation of the UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods to be held in Belgrade on 14-15 December 2006.

The organization of this joint OSCE-UNECE seminar stems from the UNECE reform, which has identified assistance and capacity building in the implementation of UNECE legal instruments in the field of transport as a new UNECE priority, and from the conclusions of the 14th OSCE Economic Forum on "Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability". It is funded by the Belgian 2006 OSCE Chairmanship.

As you may be aware, the "Harmonization Convention" establishes commonly agreed requirements for ensuring integrated border management (IBM), in order to reduce border formalities as well as the number and duration of all types of border controls of goods. It applies to all goods being imported, exported or in transit. Forty-eight States and the European Community are Contracting Parties to this Convention. The seminar will address, among others, issues such as the IBM concept, cross-border cooperation measures, national perspectives and experience sharing. A draft agenda is attached for your information. The seminar is designed for government officials responsible for customs, transport and trade policies in South Eastern European countries.

Participation will be free of charge; however, participants must make their own travel arrangements (including visas) and pay their travel and accommodation costs. In exceptional circumstances, financial assistance may be considered. English and Serbian will be the working languages and simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided.

Yours sincerely,

**Bernard Snoy**  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic  
And Environmental Activities

**Jose Capel Ferrer**  
Director, UNECE Transport Division