



United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe



Organization of the Black Sea
Economic Cooperation

Road Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation

Seminar on the Implementation of Annex 8 to the International
Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

Geneva, 18 June 2009

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- The global economic crisis calls for an increased efficiency of transport and trade. This goal can only be achieved by removing infrastructure gaps and implementing facilitation measures.
- The International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 is a key legal instrument in the area of border crossing facilitation and coordinated border management. Its proper implementation can not only reduce border delays and transport/trade costs, but also minimize governmental expenditures on the infrastructure and operation of border crossing points.
- The road transport industry can benefit from the facilitation measures set out in Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention, namely:
 - facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers;
 - operational measures to speed-up border crossing procedures for goods, particularly for urgent consignments, such as live animals and perishable goods;
 - harmonized technical provisions relating to faster controls of road vehicles (technical inspections) and equipment used for the transport of goods under controlled temperatures;
 - standardized weighing operations and procedures to avoid, to the extent possible, repetitive weighing procedures at border crossings;
 - minimum infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points;
 - monitoring provisions facilitating appropriate implementation of the Annex in all Contracting Parties to the Convention.
- Given the fact that the Harmonization Convention provides for a flexible legislative framework, examples of best practices and/or guidelines are essential for its harmonized application at the national level. Various speakers at the Seminar presented a number of such examples.
- Effective public-private partnership is instrumental for the implementation of border crossing facilitation measures, in particular:
 - monitoring the situation at border crossings and sharing this information with all parties concerned;

- meeting the infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points;
 - use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to speed up border crossing procedures.
- Monitoring is a crucial element to ensure the proper implementation of the provisions of Annex 8.
 - Harmonized border performance indicators and/or benchmarking are required to further improve the efficiency of border crossing points.