

Harmonization Convention, 1982

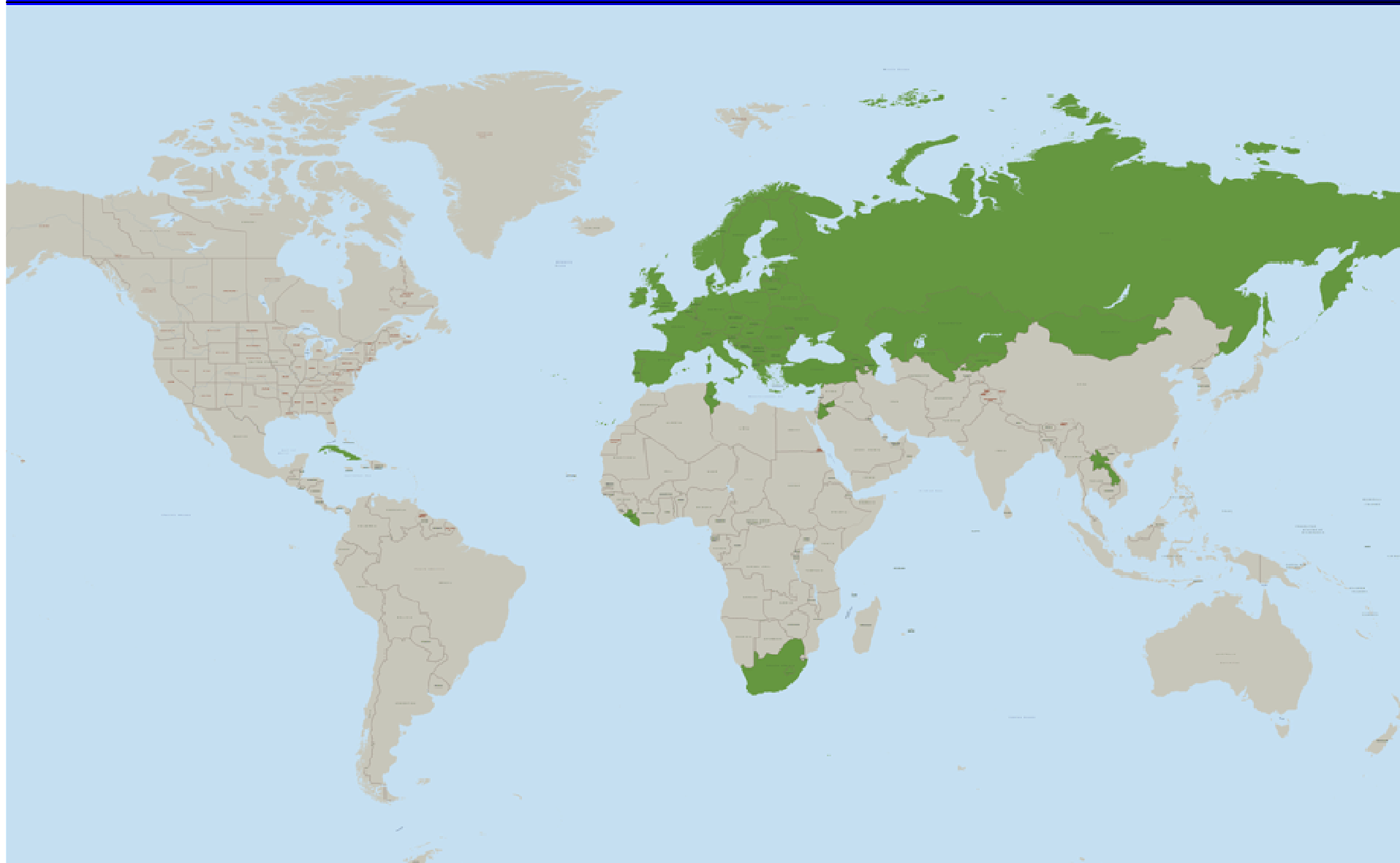
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Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

- **54 Contracting Parties**
- **Latest accessions: Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Moldova, Tunisia**
- **Expressed interest to join: China, Iran**

Harmonization Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982



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Objective

- To facilitate cross border transport of goods
- Through nationally coordinated, internationally harmonized, shorter, reduced formalities and controls of goods at borders



Benefits

- Reduction of border delays,
- Reduction of transport cost
- Reduction of trade transaction cost
- Reduction of border operating costs for State budget
- More efficient investments in border facilities

Scope of the Harmonization Convention

- **All goods moved across borders (exported, imported or in transit)**
- **All control services**
- **All modes of transport**
- **Specific provisions for certain transport modes and goods**
- **Also addresses certain issues with regard to vehicles and drivers**



Main features

- **Chapter I: General provisions incl. definitions**
- **Chapter II: Harmonization of procedures**
 - **Co-ordination of controls**
 - **Resources of the services**
 - **International co-operation**
 - **Co-operation between adjacent countries**
 - **Exchange of information, documents**
- **Chapter III: Goods in transit**
- **Chapter IV: Miscellaneous**
- **Operational annexes**

General principles vs. detailed provisions

- Framework providing for a high degree of flexibility in organizing national and international cooperation
- No universal 'one size fits all' solution
- Examples of best practice are essential
- Integrated operational annexes are required
- Annex 8 on road transport came into force in 2008
- A new Annex 9 on rail transport has been agreed

Major aspects of border crossing facilitation

- **Infrastructure**
- **Procedures**
- **Documents and information**
- **Personnel**

Infrastructure

- **Necessary equipment and facilities at frontier points**
- **Minimum list for road border crossings**
- **Common facilities and shared use of equipment, both domestically and with neighbour countries**
- **To the extent possible, controls should be moved from the border to other locations (e.g. departure or destination)**
- **At border crossing points, controls should be replaced by verification of internationally standardized documentation**

Domestic intra-service coordination: sine qua none for efficient procedures

- **There are many control authorities at the border. Who takes the lead?**
- **Control mentality is an obstacle**
- **Each control authority wants to have their share**
- **A decision should be taken at the highest possible political level**
- **Establishment of a single agency**
- **Delegation of authority**

Documents and information

- **Internationally standardized (UN Layout Key) documents and certificates**
- **Use of any technical/commercial documents**
- **Use of ICT**
- **Exchange of information**
- **Transparency with respect to legislation, regulations and procedures**

Personnel

- **Qualified personnel in sufficient numbers should be available**
- **Officers should get instructions for acting in accordance with international agreements and national provisions**
- **Joint controls**
- **Delegation of functions**

Annex 1

- **Harmonization of Customs controls and other controls**
 - **Organization of controls (simultaneous control, opening hours, availability of facilities and personnel, delegation to Customs)**
 - **Result of controls**

Annex 2

➤ **Medico-sanitary inspection**

- **Protection of life and health of persons**
- **Information (types of goods, offices, requirements)**
- **Organization of controls (availability of facilities, storage)**
- **Goods in transit and co-ordination**

Annex 3

➤ **Veterinary inspection**

- **Transport of animals and animal products**
- **Information (types of goods, offices, requirements)**
- **Organization of controls (availability of facilities, storage, working hours)**
- **Goods in transit and co-ordination**

Annex 4

➤ **Phytosanitary inspection**

- **Relating to transport of plants and plant products**
- **Information (types of goods, offices, requirements, restrictions/prohibitions)**
- **Organization of controls (storage, disinfection, working hours)**
- **Goods in transit and co-ordination**

Annex 5

- **Control of compliance with technical standards**
 - **Relating to technical standards of goods (conformity, PSI)**
 - **Information (types of goods, offices)**
 - **Harmonization of standards**
 - **Organization of controls**
 - **Goods in transit and co-ordination**

Annex 6

➤ Quality Control

- Information (offices, procedures)
- Organization of controls (facilities, working hours)
- Does normally not apply for goods in transit
- Co-ordination

Management of the Harmonization Convention

- **Languages: English, French, Russian and Spanish**
- **UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)**
- **Administrative Committee (Contracting Parties)**
- **Secretariat (UNECE)**

Harmonization Convention

<http://border.unece.org>

<http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapA/treaty17.asp>

<http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/harmone.pdf>