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News

Opening for signature of new UNECE Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail under Cover of SMGS Consignment Notes

30 March 2007

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, has issued the following Depositary Notification C.N.304.2007.TREATIES-1 of 26 February 2007, informing of the opening for signature of a new UNECE Convention for Customs Transit for rail carriage for countries using the SMGS consignment note.

The Convention will be open for signature for Members of the United Nations, which are members of the 1951 Agreement on International Goods Transport by Rail, the so-called SMGS Agreement.

The Convention is open for signature from 23 to 27 April 2007 including, at the United Nations Office in Geneva in conjunction with the sixtieth anniversary session of the UNECE. A special signing event will be organized on 27 April 2007. The exact time and location for the event will be communicated later.

Thereafter, it shall remain open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 31 December 2007 including.

Certified true copies of the Convention, of which the English, French, and Russian texts are equally authentic, will be prepared and will be transmitted to all States as soon as possible.

Only Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered to sign a treaty on behalf of a State without having to produce full powers to that effect. Other representatives wishing to sign a treaty must be in possession of appropriate full powers, which expressly authorize signature of a specified treaty by a named representative issued and signed by one of these authorities. Credentials alone are not
adequate for the purpose of signing a treaty.

Therefore, States wishing to sign the Convention, should notify, and provide copies of the required full powers in advance to the UN Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, at United Nations Headquarters in New York,
Tel.: +1 212) 963-5047, Fax: (212) 963-3693, e-mail: treaty@un.org)

Questions regarding the signing of the Convention can be addressed to the Transport Division, UNECE secretariat, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneve, Switzerland, Tel.: +41 22 917 1267, Fax.: +41 22 197 0039, e-mail: robert.nowak@unece.org)