



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

Ninth session

Geneva, 27 May 2010

## Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Ninth Session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 27 May 2010<sup>1,2</sup>

### I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Status of the Convention.
4. Proposals for amendments of the Convention.
5. Application of the Convention:

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<sup>1</sup> For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: wp.30@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the UNECE Border Crossing Facilitation website <<http://border.unece.org>>. During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Palais des Nations).

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the Harmonization Convention, 1982, as well as a complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, is available on the UNECE website: <<http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>>. Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division <<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>> and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest one week prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (wp.30@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 73263). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website <<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>>.

- (a) Annex 8 on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport;
  - (b) Implementation of the Harmonization Convention within the context of other international legal instruments.
6. Other business:
- (a) Date of next session;
  - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
7. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

### Item 1

#### Adoption of the agenda

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/17

1. The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session, as prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/17). The Committee will also be informed that, in accordance with Annex 7, Article 6 of the Convention, “a quorum consisting of not less than one third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purposes of taking decisions.” For the time being, the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention is 54 out of which 53 are Contracting States.

### Item 2

#### Election of officers

2. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Committee should elect a chair and a vice-chair on the occasion of every session.

### Item 3

#### Status of the Convention

3. The Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various Depositary Notifications is available on the UNECE website.<sup>3</sup>

### Item 4

#### Proposals for amendments of the Convention

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2010/1

4. The Administrative Committee may wish to note that, following extensive deliberations in 2005-2010, the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting

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<sup>3</sup> < <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>>.

Transport (WP.30) finalized a draft new Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention on facilitation of border crossing in international rail transport and decided to transmit it to the Committee for consideration and possible adoption (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2010/1). This new Annex was originally proposed by the Organization for the Collaboration of Railways (OSJD) and the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF). A summary of WP.30 considerations can be found under TRANS/WP.30/218, para. 10; TRANS/WP.30/222, paras. 14 and 15; TRANS/WP.30/224, paras. 18 and 19; TRANS/WP.30/226, paras. 18 and 19; TRANS/WP.30/228, para. 10; TRANS/WP.30/230, paras. 17 and 18; TRANS/WP.30/232, para. 19; TRANS/WP.30/234, para. 14; TRANS/WP.30/236, para. 13; TRANS/WP.30/238, para. 13; TRANS/WP.30/240, para. 17; TRANS/WP.30/242, para. 18; TRANS/WP.30/244, para. 18; TRANS/WP.30/246, para. 17 and TRANS/WP.30/246, para. 14.

5. Against this background, the Committee may wish to consider and adopt the proposal for a new Annex 9 to the Convention as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2010/1.

## **Item 5**

### **Application of the Convention**

#### **(a) Annex 8 on facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/8, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/10

6. The Committee will be informed that, in May 2008, a new Annex 8 to the Convention has come into force. This is the first time that an annex to the Harmonization Convention deals with a particular mode of transport, i.e. road transport, in recognition of the fact that the road transport industry should be considered as the main beneficiary of the facilitation measures set out in the Convention. New Annex 8 covers, inter alia, facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers, standardized weighing operations and vehicle weight certificate, minimum infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points and provisions to monitor the border crossing performance.

7. In 2008-2009, WP.30 noted with concern the slow implementation of Annex 8 at the national level and invited all Contracting Parties to the Harmonization Convention to start its application without delay (for example, see TRANS/WP.30/240, para. 12). To facilitate this process, the Working Party mandated the secretariat to organize a seminar on the implementation of the Annex and to launch a survey of Contracting Parties with a view to identifying the progress in this area.

8. In this context, the Committee may take note of the outcome of such a seminar which was jointly organized by UNECE and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in Geneva on 18 June 2009 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/10). The Committee will also be informed of preliminary results of a survey concerning the implementation of Annex 8 at the national level (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/8).

9. The Committee may also wish to consider various public and private projects aimed at ensuring the proper implementation of Annex 8, such as the OSCE-UNECE Handbook on best practices at border crossings, including a chapter on border crossing performance measurement, and the Border Waiting Time Observatory (BWTO) established by the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

10. Finally, the Committee will be informed of activities by the secretariat towards the preparation of the authentic Spanish text of Annex 8.

**(b) Implementation of the Harmonization Convention within the context of other international legal instruments**

11. In the light of increasing threats of global terrorism, a number of initiatives have recently been undertaken by various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with the aim to ensure security in the global trade and transport. For example, the World Customs Organization (WCO) has developed the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework) which was adopted in June 2005. The Committee may wish to exchange views on the implications of the above developments for the Harmonization Convention.

**Item 6  
Other business**

**(a) Date of next session**

12. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4, sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to decide on the date for its next session.

**(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents**

13. The Administrative Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

**Item 7  
Adoption of the report**

14. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 8 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report of its ninth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the end of the session for adoption in all working languages.

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