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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****153rd session**

Geneva, 15–18 October 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the 153rd session^{*, **, ***}**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 October 2019, and continuing Friday 18 October 2019 until around 6 p.m., Room XII, Palais des Nations.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) The Inland Transport Committee recommendations for enhancing national road safety systems;
 - (b) Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee Strategy.

* 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, documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html. During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=2UUavX at the latest one week prior to the session. 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 ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

** The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of contracting parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs.

*** Please note that the 153rd session of the Working Party will be convened in conjunction with the seventy-first session of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975 (AC.2), which will meet on 16 and 17 October 2019.



3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Revision of the Convention:
 - (i) Amendment proposals to the Convention;
 - (ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process:
 - a. eTIR pilot projects;
 - b. Activities of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure;
 - c. Conversion of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure into a formal Group of Experts.
 - (c) Application of the Convention:
 - (i) New developments in the application of the Convention;
 - (ii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
 - (iii) Settlement of claims for payments;
 - (iv) Relation between the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments;
 - (v) Other matters.
4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Amendment proposals to the Convention;
 - (c) Issues in the application of the Convention.
5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:
Status of the Convention.
6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
 - (a) Status of the Conventions;
 - (b) Issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan.
7. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) European Union;
 - (b) Economic Cooperation Organization;
 - (c) Eurasian Economic Union;
 - (d) World Customs Organization.
8. Other business:
 - (a) List of decisions;
 - (b) Dates of the next sessions;
 - (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. List of decisions taken at the 152nd session of the Working Party.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/305

2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

(a) The Inland Transport Committee recommendations for enhancing national road safety systems

The Working Party may wish to recall that, on 24 April 2019, the Chair of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division, in a joint letter, had invited the Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees under the purview of ITC to take follow-up actions on aligning their work with the ITC strategy, in particular its road safety related aspects. To that end, the ITC secretariat prepared draft ITC recommendations for enhancing national road safety systems for comments by Working Parties and Administrative Committees (Informal document WP.30 (2019) No. 4 – restricted). The Working Party took note of the recommendations. While fully supporting the scope of the recommendations in recognizing that road safety in its aspects affects the activities of the legal instruments under the purview of the Working Party, in particular when it comes to safe vehicles or drivers' behaviour, it did not see any avenue for direct intervention in the field of customs other than, possibly, in the area of enforcement. To factually establish this, the Working Party requested to secretariat to send a short survey to TIR customs focal points, with copy to WP.30 delegates, soliciting their national experience with customs-related activities mentioned in paragraph 32 of the draft recommendations and to prepare a document for its consideration at the next session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/304, para. 6).

In line with this request, the secretariat conducted a short survey among TIR contracting parties. The results are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/7. The Working Party is invited to consider the outcome of the survey and provide guidance to the Chair what to report to ITC at its eighty-second session (February 2020).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/7

(b) Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee strategy

The Working Party may wish to take note that, on 26 June 2019, the Chair of ITC and the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division, in a joint letter, had invited the Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees under the purview of ITC, to support the implementation of the ITC strategy by proposing a concrete plan aligning their work with the ITC strategy. The deadline for suggestions was set at 15 November 2019, after which date the ITB Bureau would prepare a concrete plan for presentation and, possibly, adoption at the eighty-second session of ITC (February 2020).

The secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/8, containing a list of tasks that the Working Party should undertake in the coming years in addition to its regular work and providing first proposals for their implementation, for consideration and, possibly, adoption by the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/8

3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)**(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the TIR Convention, 1975 and the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Working Party may wish to be informed that, further to the accession of Oman, the Convention now has seventy-six contracting parties, whereas TIR operations can be established with sixty-two countries. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

(b) Revision of the Convention*(i) Amendment proposals to the Convention*

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it noted that no amendment proposals had been submitted for its consideration (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/304, para. 12).

*(ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process***a. eTIR pilot projects**

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure and the eTIR pilot projects.

b. Activities of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Under this agenda item, the Working Party will be briefed about the activities of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1), and in particular about the outcome of its thirtieth session, convened in Budapest on 18–19 September 2019, at the kind invitation of the Hungarian customs administration. The Working Party will also be briefed about the survey by GE.1 of TIR contracting parties on the connection to the eTIR international system and the “opting out” of Annex 11.

c. Conversion of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure into a formal Group of Experts

Under this agenda item, the Working Party is invited to consider converting GE.1 into a formal group of experts to facilitate the participation of French and Russian speaking delegations in the work, leading to the preparation of a version of the eTIR specifications to be considered and adopted after the entry into force of Annex 11 by the contracting parties which will be bound by Annex 11 and by the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) which will be set up in line with Article 58 quater of the Convention. Document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/9 provides more details regarding the rationale of this conversion as well as the draft Terms of Reference of GE.1.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/9

¹ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

(c) Application of the Convention*(i) New developments in the application of the Convention*

The Working Party is invited to raise new developments in the application of the TIR Convention, if any.

(ii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems

The Working Party will be informed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system. In this context, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, while noting that the statistical data now provided information on the various types of termination (load, partial, final and exit) and inviting IRU to continue this type of reporting for the future, it had requested a clearer definition of the various termination types (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/304, para. 16).

The Working Party is invited to take note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/22019/10 by IRU and providing clear definitions of the various termination terms.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/10

(iii) Settlement of claims for payments

The Working Party may wish to be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

(iv) Relation between the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will brief the Working Party on developments in the field of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) and activities of the secretariat to promote the linkages between transport, customs and trade facilitation within the framework of WTO TFA, if any.

(v) Other matters

The Working Party may wish to consider any other issues or difficulties in the application of the TIR Convention faced by customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or IRU. Under this issue, the Working Party may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/11, containing a letter from the Lithuanian National Road Carriers Association (LINAFA) on the introduction of mandatory payment for electronic services in Belarus as well as document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/12, containing a letter from the International Road Carriers of Ukraine (AIRCU), reporting on problems related to the non-acceptance of TIR Carnets by the customs authorities of the Russian Federation as well as a letter, transmitted by IRU.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/11, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/12

4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of contracting parties. More detailed information on these issues as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.²

(b) Amendment proposals to the Convention

The Working Party may wish to be informed that the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (AC.3), at its eleventh session (June 2019), tentatively adopted a proposal to amend Annex 8, Article 7, extending the frequency of the reporting mechanism from two to five years, pending confirmation by a decision of the Council of the European Union (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/22, para. 14).

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the delegation of the European Union about having obtained such confirmation and, if so, mandate the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to convene the twelfth session of AC.3, including the preparation of pre-, in- and post-session documents, possibly in conjunction with the 154th session of the Working Party.

(c) Issues in the application of the Convention.

Delegations are invited to raise issues of their concern in the application of the Convention.

5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail

Status of the Convention

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it was informed that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, has issued depositary notifications C.N.126.2019.TREATIES-XI.C.7 and C.N.127.2019.TREATIES-XI.C.7 of 4 April 2019, informing of the opening for signature of the new Convention at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the issuance of certified true copies. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.³

At the session, the delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Working Party about the opportunity for all interested United Nations Member States to sign the new Rail and Baggage Convention at the 2019 Treaty Event, which would take place from 24 to 27 September 2019, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in conjunction with the General Debate of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Rail and Baggage Convention figures on the list of multilateral treaties to be highlighted during this year's Treaty Event. In the meantime, the internal process in the Russian Federation continued for obtaining endorsement from all involved governmental agencies for accession (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/304, paras. 21–22).

Against this background, the Working Party will be informed about any further development of this issue.

² www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

³ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

(a) Status of the Conventions

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles.

(b) Issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan

The Working Party may wish to recall the ongoing issues in Egypt and Jordan in the application of the 1954 Convention, particularly due to the fact that customs authorities do not seem to respect the deadlines and procedures laid down in the Convention.

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the latest developments of this issue, if any, possibly assisted by the International Touring Alliance / International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA).

7. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic commissions or Customs Unions as well as by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and countries as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

(a) European Union

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent developments in the European Union related to the activities of the Working Party.

(b) Economic Cooperation Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about relevant activities and ongoing projects carried out by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

(c) Eurasian Economic Union

The Working Party may wish to be informed about further progress in relevant activities and projects carried out by Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

(d) World Customs Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the World Customs Organization as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

8. Other business

(a) List of decisions

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, as requested at the 145th session, the secretariat includes a list of decisions as Annexes to the final reports of sessions. At its previous session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to continue this practice, thus keeping track of the status of decisions and include the practice as a separate agenda item for its future sessions. The secretariat agreed to this, adding that the list would also be attached to future draft agendas (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/290, para. 51), (see agenda item 11).

The Working Party is invited to review the list of decisions and provide guidance to the secretariat.

(b) Dates of the next sessions

The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates of its next sessions. The secretariat has made arrangements for the 154th session to take place in the week of 3–7 February 2020. It has also made provisional arrangements for the 155th session to take place in the week of 8–12 June 2020.

(c) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Working Party should decide whether or not there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

9. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 153rd session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present translation resource restrictions, parts of the final report may not be available at the session for adoption in all working languages.

10. List of decisions taken at the 152nd session of the Working Party

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
6	Conduct survey on ITC recommendations	secretariat	a.s.a.p.
9	Make list of TIR customs offices publicly available	delegations	ongoing
16	Provide definitions for load, partial, final and exit	IRU	15 October 2019.
19	Publish OIOS report as Informal document for AC.2 and submit report for official translation	secretariat	Done a.s.a.p
35	Prepare 153rd session on 15 October 2019	secretariat	23 July 2019 – agenda 6 August 2019 – documents