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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

One-hundred-and-twenty-first session
Geneva, 2 - 6 February 2009
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009 TO 2013

Note by the secretariat

The text of the Programme of Work reproduced below is based on the Programme of Work for 2008 to 2012 approved by the Working Party at its 118th session (29 January – 1 February 2008). The changes proposed are in **bold** (text to be added) or ~~strikethrough~~ characters (text to be deleted). The Working Party may wish to consider and amend as appropriate its Programme of Work for the years 2009 to 2013 based on the present document.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.10: CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport.

Description:

(a) Preparation and implementation and, where appropriate, review and modification of international legal instruments.

(b) Simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities, documents and procedures.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Review of relevant Conventions and Agreements on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their relevance and implementation as well as coherence with other international or sub-regional treaties and to keep them in line with modern transport and border control requirements. Priority: 1

Output expected in **2009**:

Analysis of the application of the following UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982; International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail 1952; Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles.

~~Consideration of the need for negotiating two model container pool agreements providing guidance to the transport industry and the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the provisions of the "Customs Container Pool Convention" covering international rail and international maritime transport.~~

~~(b) — Periodic review of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to confirming their usefulness and implementation as well as possible adopting modifications where deemed necessary~~ Priority: 2

~~Output expected in **2009**:~~

~~Review of all Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to deciding on which Resolutions and Recommendations to focus in the coming year.~~

(c) Study of the possible extension of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation to other regions, particularly relating to legal and administrative aspects. Priority: 2

Output expected in **2009**:

Preparation and organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with UNESCAP, ECA and UNESCWA and other relevant UN and international organizations, on the implementation of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation, in particular in Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

(d) Study of Customs questions with a view to simplifying Customs formalities and documents in the field of transport, in particular taking account of the possibility of electronic data interchange solutions. Priority: 1

Output expected in **2009**:

Analysis and revision of the provisions of both a strategic and technical nature of the TIR Convention, in particular the provisions relating to the guarantee system with a view to enhancing the functioning and efficiency for both the public and private partners in the TIR system;

Continuation of work on phase III of the TIR revision procedure, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and on provisions for a modernized EDI-based Customs administration and control system.

(e) Study of specific legal and other measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified Customs and other border crossing procedures, such as the TIR regime, including periodic review of the status of implementation of resolution No. 220 (prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by drug smugglers). Setting-up of mechanisms and administrative procedures for the regular exchange of information with other Governmental and non-governmental organizations to combat such fraud. Priority: 1

Output expected in **2009**:

Preparation of adequate instruments and measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fraud;

Review of Annex 10 of the TIR Convention on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets;

Exchange of intelligence among Customs authorities of Contracting Parties to relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation on abuses with a view to identifying measures to combat such occurrences.

(f) Analysis of difficulties encountered relating to border crossing formalities with a view to devising administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties. The analysis will cover health, phytosanitary, veterinary and quality controls, application of standards, public safety controls, etc., including the promotion of the implementation and extension of the scope of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 1982 (Harmonization Convention). Priority: 1

Output expected in **2009**:

Monitoring of the implementation of Annex 8 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the international road transport at the national level. Exchange of information on best practices in this field.

Finalization of a new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport.

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

(g) Study to facilitate railway transit traffic on the basis of the CIM and the SMGS Consignment Notes. Priority: 2

Output expected in **2009**:

Study the full integration of a harmonized Customs transit regime covering all COTIF and SMGS Member States.

Study the preparation of a new International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in International Railway Passenger Transport.

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