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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

INLAND TRANSPORT SECURITY

Some considerations

The WP.11 is responsible for the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP).

In the context of the ATP, the most pressing problem at the moment in the area of security is that of fake (forged) ATP certificates. This is quite a common problem and one which permits the selling and use of old vehicles that normally have already reached the end of their lifetime and can no longer guarantee the efficiency of ATP equipment and should be destroyed.

This is one of the reasons why WP.11 proposed some years ago the establishment of a working group to study this problem and this year adopted a new standardized ATP certificate.

Another way to try to deal with this problem would be through the creation of an international database of ATP certified vehicles, but this proposal has not yet been universally accepted. Some delegations totally refuse this kind of control.

Regarding the safety of the perishable foodstuffs transported, this is more or less guaranteed if the transport equipment is genuine ATP equipment and not fake or old equipment.

In this respect, it is perhaps possible that a better temperature control method could be implemented, for example through the use of temperature stamps or labels that change color if the temperature of the product goes higher than the foreseen upper limit during transport.

Regarding the possibility of terrorist attacks using ATP equipment, there have been no cases up until now. However, there is always the possibility that such equipment could be

used for terrorism or even that goods transported in ATP equipment could be used as agents to carry and spread a biological, chemical or even radioactive attack.

At its 64th session in 2008, a brief introduction was made to WP.11 on the work of the UNECE Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security and on its recommendations that ITC subsidiary bodies, *inter alia*, review international legal instruments under their responsibility and create an inventory of existing security measures and a list of potentially desirable additional security provisions. The WP.11 decided to undertake this work at its session in 2009.