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Working Party on Rail Transport

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Item 15 (a) of the provisional agenda

Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region:

Facilitation of rail border crossings

Action Plan on implementation mechanisms of the provisions in the new Annex 9

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. The Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) at its sixty-sixth session was informed by the secretariat about facilitation of rail border crossings (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/6). The Working Party suggested implementing monitoring mechanisms for the new Annex 9 of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) (Harmonization Convention).
2. The proposal subsequently made by the secretariat was adopted by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/218, paras. 52–54). The secretariat was requested to prepare a questionnaire for distribution to all UNECE member States which would identify and determine the current situation at rail border crossings in UNECE countries that are Contracting Parties to the Convention (taking account of the provisions of Annex 9 of the Harmonization Convention) and to prepare a background document – action plan based on the replies to the questionnaire and on information received from different international organizations.
3. At its last session the Working Party was informed by the secretariat about replies to the questionnaire. This document (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2015/6) is a proposed action plan on implementation mechanisms for the provisions in the new Annex 9 and is for consideration and discussion by the Working Party as follow-up to the questionnaire.

II. Action Plan

<i>Annex 9 principles</i>	<i>Activities by Contracting Parties</i>	<i>Activities by secretariat, OSJD, OTIF, UIC*</i>
Visas		
Granting visas for locomotive crews, refrigerated unit crews, persons accompanying freight shipments and staff at border		Analyse and report good practices for granting visas for the noted crews/staff
Bilateral Agreements on visas of crews	Present such bilateral agreements and their main principles at SC.2 sessions to identify good practices	Analyse and report principles and articles including in such bilateral agreements that could become good practices in formulating such agreements and implementing Annex 9
Number of VISAs issued	Provide statistics on VISAs issued to rail crews and report any major problems identified during VISA issuance	Collect statistics on VISAs issued to rail crews and report any problems or obstacles
Border (interchange) station		
Border (interchange) stations identified by Contracting Parties	Contracting Parties that did not participate at the questionnaire sent by the UNECE secretariat are encouraged to do so	Mapping of border (interchange) stations identified by the Contracting Parties and listing all minimum requirements that apply
	Provide basic statistics for these border (interchange) stations	Collect basic statistics for these border (interchange) stations which could provide information about implementation of Annex 9
Controls of rolling stock, containers, piggyback, semi-trailers and goods as well as the processing of shipping and accompanying documentation		
Cooperation between neighbouring countries at border (interchange) stations	Provide concrete examples of cooperation with neighbouring countries at border (interchange) stations on controls of rolling stock, containers, piggyback, semi-trailers and goods as well as the processing of shipping and accompanying documentation	Collect concrete examples of cooperation with neighboring countries at border (interchange) stations as provided by the Contracting Parties and prepare report
	If bilateral agreements exist, provide information on basic principles of the agreements	Analyze the articles including in such bilateral agreements that could become good practices in formulating such agreements and implementing Annex 9

* Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), International Union of Railways (UIC).

<i>Annex 9 principles</i>	<i>Activities by Contracting Parties</i>	<i>Activities by secretariat, OSJD, OTIF, UIC*</i>
	<p>Provide basic statistics on controls for each border station</p> <p>Provide information on mechanisms established for reciprocal recognition of all forms of control of rolling stock, containers, piggyback semi-trailers and goods</p>	<p>Collect basic statistics on controls for the list of border stations provided by Contracting Parties which could provide information about implementation of Annex 9</p> <p>Collect the information and prepare a report on basic information implementation of Annex 9</p>
Risk assessment and evaluation		
<p>Procedures on customs controls</p>	<p>Provide information on procedures that are being followed on customs control and especially if controls are based on risk evaluation and management</p> <p>Provide information on simplified procedures of customs control at border (interchange) stations</p> <p>Provide basic statistics on the transfer of certain forms of controls to the stations of departure and destination</p> <p>Provide information on the electronic systems for the exchange of information contained in railway consignment notes and customs declarations of goods</p> <p>Provide information on established procedures which provide the customs authorities, in advance, with information on goods arriving at border (interchange) stations as contained in the railway consignment note and customs declaration</p>	<p>Collect information provided by Contracting Parties on the procedures and prepare a report which could identify good practices on customs controls procedures and ensure the implementation of Annex 9</p>
Time limits for technical operations		
<p>Measures taken to ensure time limits for technical operations</p>	<p>If bilateral agreements have been signed on time limits, provide information on the basic principles of the agreements</p> <p>Provide basic statistics on the compliance with time limits</p> <p>Provide basic statistics on the delays of trains or wagons at border (interchange) stations. Provide main reasons for such delays and measures taken to reduce such delays</p>	<p>Collect information from Contracting Parties and prepare reports and statistics on policies implemented that could be good practices for the implementation of Annex 9</p>

Annex 9 principles

Activities by Contracting Parties

*Activities by secretariat, OSJD, OTIF,
UIC**

Common CIM/SMGS consignment note

Provide statistics on annual common CIM/SMGS consignment notes issued and obstacles/problems identified – if any – during its implementation

Collect information and statistics provided by Contracting Parties on the implementation of common CIM/SMGS consignment note and prepare relevant report

III. Guidance by SC.2

4. SC.2 may wish to consider the proposed Action Plan and provide guidance to the secretariat on further actions.
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