UN Transport Conventions

Erik Willems
Customs expert
UNECE Transport division
• Driving licence
• Registration
• Insurance
• Food safety
• Exempt of Taxes – import duties

TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT POSSIBLE WE NEED COMMON RULES
→ INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CONVENTIONS
- UNECE, is a pioneer in international transport cooperation ➔ 57 agreements

- Many conventions are world wide relevant
Multilateral transport agreements

- Vital to tourism
- Essential to growth and competitiveness
- International transport is key to international trade, exports and imports,
- Regional integration
- Requires intergovernmental cooperation
Examples of Main transport conventions:
Convention on Road Traffic, 1968

Key provisions

- General and specific rules for drivers
  - Obligation for a driving license with exams
  - Driver must be in control (future...?)
  - Driving rules: speed, distance overtaking

- General rules for Vehicles
  - Must be registered, registration certificate

Reciprocal recognition of documents issued in conformity with the rules of the Convention

73 Contracting Parties (Morocco, Tunisia, Niger, Senegal, ...)
European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), 1957

- Objectives
  - To increase safety of international road transport
  - To ensure the highest possible safety in the transport of dangerous goods by road in economically sustainable conditions

- Rules:
  - for packing and marking
  - training for the drivers

(48 Contracting Parties)
On some major routes 57% of the transport time is lost at border crossings.

- Long waiting times at borders result in major human suffering for drivers blocked in queues for hours/days.
- Harmful impact on the environment.
- Border waiting times also cost billions annually => increasing the cost of goods for the end consumer, not to mention lost business opportunities.

Border crossing facilitation is needed for keeping a country on the main Transport links.
UNECE - Conventions

- Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 ➔ Framework Convention containing best practices at border crossings

- TIR Convention, 1975 ➔ efficient customs transit system

- Other important UN border crossing facilitation Conventions
  - Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, 1954
  - Customs Convention on Containers, 1972
Questions?

Thanks for your participation