



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/7
9 August 2000

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the
International Convention on the Harmonization
of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982
(18 and 20 October 2000)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ^{*/}**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 14.30 hours on Wednesday, 18 October 2000 ^{*/}**

^{*/} 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 documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UN/ECE Transport Division (Fax: + 41-22-917-0039; E-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be accessed through the relevant web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm, click "Admin. Committees"). During the meeting, missing documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable to all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the UN/ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+ 41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, contact the UN/ECE secretariat (91-72453).

GE.00-

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision taken by the Contracting Parties to the Convention at the third session of the Administrative Committee (21 and 24 June 1999) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6, para. 26), the Executive Secretary of the UN/ECE is convening this fourth session of the Administrative Committee in conjunction with the ninety-sixth session of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30).

On the understanding that the large majority of participants of the Working Party will also represent their countries at the Administrative Committee and in order to use existing conference facilities as efficiently as possible, it is proposed to convene the Administrative Committee on Wednesday, 18 October 2000, starting at 14.30 hours for substantive discussions and to reconvene the Administrative Committee for the reading of the report on Friday, 20 October 2000, starting at 09.30 hours.

QUORUM

It is recalled that, according to Annex 7, Article 6 of the Convention, "a quorum consisting of not less than one third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purposes of taking decisions." As of 1 August 2000 the number of States, Contracting Parties to the Convention was 39.

TEXT OF THE CONVENTION

The complete text of the Convention is contained in document ECE/TRANS/55 (English, French and Russian) and may be obtained directly from the UN/ECE secretariat. It may also be accessed via the UN/ECE web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/conventions/list.htm).

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1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/7).

The reports of the first, second and third sessions of the Administrative Committee held in 1987, 1994 and 1999 are contained in documents TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2, TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/4 and TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6 respectively.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for its session.

3. ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may decide whether competent administrations of States which are not Contracting Parties or representatives of international organizations which are not Contracting Parties, are invited to attend the session of the Administrative Committee as observers. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Convention, international organizations referred to above, which are competent for the subject dealt with in the Annexes of the Convention, shall have the right to participate as observers in the work of the Administrative Committee.

4. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION

The Committee will be informed in detail about the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention. A list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is contained in the annex to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify this list.

The text as well as the status of the Convention is available on the UN/ECE web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/conventions/list.htm).

5. PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF THE CONVENTION

Contracting Parties to the Convention have been invited by the Executive Secretary of the UN/ECE to submit proposals for amendment of the Convention. Such proposals will be circulated when received before the session.

Preparation of a new annex on efficient border crossing procedures

The Administrative Committee, at its third session, had examined proposals for the insertion of new annexes to the Convention on (a) facilitation of the passage of ATP vehicles carrying perishable foodstuffs prepared by the UN/ECE Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11) and (b) efficient border crossing procedures prepared by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6, paras. 12-19).

Following preliminary discussions on the feasibility of such new annexes, based on further contributions made by TRANSFRIGORROUTE International and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) (TRANS/WP.30/1999/12; Informal document No. 6 (1999)), the secretariat, in accordance with the decisions of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (TRANS/WP.30/186, paras. 14-17), convened an informal ad hoc group of experts (4-5 April 2000) which considered the key elements required for efficient border crossing procedures and prepared a first draft of a new Annex 8 to the Convention.

Considering the results of the expert group meeting (TRANS/WP.30/2000/11), the Working Party, at its ninety-fifth session, felt that, in principle, the draft provisions for a new Annex 8 to the Convention seemed to be acceptable, but required further studies by competent national authorities and technical experts before they could be considered and adopted by the Administrative Committee at its forthcoming session in October 2000. In order to make rapid progress in this matter, the Working Party decided to create an informal ad hoc group of technical experts to be convened by the UN/ECE secretariat within the next few weeks in order to consider the establishment of an International Technical Inspection Certificate for Lorries as well as an International Vehicle Weight Certificate, based on a draft prepared by the SECI Regional Road Transport Committee (TRANS/WP.30/190, paras. 8-12 and 48).

On 1 August 2000, the secretariat convened an ad hoc expert group on technical questions which focussed its work on the establishment of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate with a view to avoiding repetitive and time-consuming weighing procedures at border stations. On the basis of the results of this expert group meeting, the secretariat has prepared a new draft Annex 8 to the Convention for consideration by the Working Party at its forthcoming session (16-20 October 2000) and by the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2000/1).

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider the results of the expert group meetings relating to a new Annex 8 to the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/2000/11) and to the new International Vehicle Weight Certificate (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2000/1) and may wish to provide guidance for further activities in this field.

Relevant background information on this issue is contained in the following UN/ECE documents: TRANS/WP.30/1998/12; TRANS/WP.30/1998/10; TRANS/WP.30/1998/9.

6. PROPOSALS OTHER THAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(a) Facilitation of border crossings in international rail transport

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed of progress made in the implementation of the resolution adopted by the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee on the reduction of border stopping time of shuttle trains in international traffic (maximum of 60 minutes, i.e. 30 minutes on each side of the border) (ECE/TRANS/128, paras. 71-73). The Administrative Committee may also wish to take note of progress made in this field in the framework of the Transport Infrastructure Development Group of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) (refer also to www.unece.org/seci/transp/transp_h.htm).

(b) Facilitation of border crossings in international road transport

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed about the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that had been prepared and signed by eleven Ministers of Transport of the States participating in the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI). This MoU on the facilitation of international road transport of goods stipulated *inter alia* that all Parties to the MoU should accede to the “Harmonization” Convention (refer also to www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/seci/intro.htm).

(c) Measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its consideration on possible measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention in line with resolution No. 230 adopted by the UN/ECE Inland Transport Committee on 4 February 1983 entitled “Technical assistance measures for the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods” (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6, paras. 22-25; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/4, paras. 15-20; ECE/TRANS/53, annex 1).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4, sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to decide on the date for its next session.

(b) **Restriction on the distribution of documents**

The Administrative Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 8 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report of its fourth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat.

Annex

**Contracting Parties
to the
International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods
(21 October 1982)**

Situation as of 1 August 2000

Armenia	Slovenia
Austria	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Spain
Belarus	Sweden
Belgium	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Bulgaria	United Kingdom
Croatia	Uzbekistan
Cuba	Yugoslavia
Czech Republic	
Denmark	European Community
Estonia	_____
Finland	
France	
Georgia	
Germany	
Greece	
Hungary	
Ireland	
Italy	
Kyrgyzstan	
Lesotho	
Lithuania	
Luxembourg	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Poland	
Portugal	
Russian Federation	
Slovakia	

Date :

Initials, UN Official

