



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

139th session

Geneva, 6 –10 February 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the 139th session ^{1,2}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday,
6 February 2015, Room VII

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party.

¹ 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 official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: wp.30@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the UNECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html. During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of Contracting Parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the UNECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs. Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from www.unece.org/meetings/practical_information/confpart.pdf and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest one week prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (wp.30@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.



4. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Revision of the Convention:
 - (i) Amendment proposals to the Convention;
 - (ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process;
 - (iii) Amendment proposal to the Convention: Use of the TIR procedure in a Customs Union with a single Customs territory;
 - (iv) Amendment proposals to the Convention: Audit requirements for an authorized international organization.
 - (c) Application of the Convention:
 - (i) New developments in the application of the Convention;
 - (ii) Increase in the number of loading and unloading places;
 - (iii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
 - (iv) Settlement of claims for payments;
 - (v) Other matters.
5. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Working Party.
6. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (“Harmonization Convention”):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;
 - (b) Annex 8 on road transport;
 - (c) Annex 9 on rail border crossing;
 - (d) Border performance measurement and the Harmonization Convention.
7. International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail, of 10 January 1952.
8. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956).
9. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:
 - (a) European Union;
 - (b) Economic Cooperation Organization;
 - (c) Customs Union and Single Economic Space of the Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation;
 - (d) World Customs Organization.
10. Other business:
 - (a) Dates of the next sessions;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/277

2. Election of officers

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party (WP.30) should elect a Chair and, possibly, a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2015.

3. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will be informed about activities of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), its Bureau, subsidiary bodies and other United Nations organizations on matters of interest to the Working Party.

4. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Working Party will be informed about any further changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of Contracting Parties. In particular, the Working Party may wish to take note that the proposals to amend Annex 1, Annex 6 as well as Annex 9 Part I, paragraph 3 (vi) of the Convention entered into force on 1 January 2015 for all Contracting Parties (C.N.426.2014.TREATIES-XI.A.16). More detailed information on these issues as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.³

(b) Revision of the Convention

(i) Amendment proposals to the Convention

At its previous session, the Working Party held first considerations of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/17, transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation, on proposals to amend the TIR Convention. The main aim of these proposals, in the view of the Russian Federation, is to (a) strengthen the control function of AC.2; (b) provide more transparency in the functioning of the international guarantee system; (c) offer immediate and full compensation in case of losses to the state budget; and (d) reform the TIR Executive Board. The Working Party also took note of Informal document WP.30 (2014) No. 11 by IRU which supported these proposals. The Working Party may

³ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html

wish to discuss proposals transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation as well as any other comments on the various amendment proposals received by the secretariat.

The Working Party is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/17, transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation, as well as ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/1, containing comments to these amendment proposals by other Contracting Parties.

Furthermore, the Working Party decided to consider a broader package of measures to modernize the TIR Convention and asked the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive document on all outstanding proposals for amendments to the Convention, including issues that have been discussed but on which decisions have not yet been taken. It was also agreed that this document should prioritize proposals with a tentative timeline for completion of their consideration. The Working Party is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/2, which contains information on outstanding proposals.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/17; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/2

(ii) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

The Working Party is invited to endorse the report of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) on its twenty-fourth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/3).

At its previous session, the Working Party took note of Informal document GE.1 Nos. 4 and 5 (2014) on, respectively, version 4.1a of the eTIR Reference Model and a preliminary summary of GE.1 activities and results as well as recommendations on how to pursue the computerization process from a technical perspective. The Working Party is invited to consider and endorse eTIR Reference model (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2011/4/Rev.1) and the summary of GE.1 activities (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/4).

The Working Party will be informed about:

(a) progress in developing the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Pilot Project between Italy and Turkey which has yet to be signed, though both countries have agreed to continue the project;

(b) the UNECE/IRU eTIR Pilot Project between Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey as pilot countries; and

(c) progress in implementing the United Nations Development Account project: “Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration”, and the first interregional Expert Group meeting for this project which took place (8 December 2014, Geneva).

The Working Party may wish to endorse the Terms of Reference (ToR) and tentative timeframe of the Group of Experts on Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure as outlined in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/14.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/3; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/4; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/14; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2011/4/Rev.1

(iii) Amendment proposal to the Convention: Use of the TIR procedure in a Customs Union with a single Customs territory

At its previous session, after extensive discussions, the Working Party recalled its decision to continue considering the implementation of the TIR procedure in a Customs Union with a single customs territory (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/276, para. 28). Thus, the Working Party is invited to reconsider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2013/9.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2013/9

(iv) Amendment proposals to the Convention: Audit requirements for an authorized international organization

At the request of the Working Party, the secretariat reproduces Informal document WP.30 (2014) No. 13 as an official document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/5 in the three working languages. The Working Party may wish to consider this document which contains the result of consultations between UNECE and IRU secretariats on the wording of the possible new provisions (o), (p) and (q) to Annex 9, Part III of the Convention. The document also lists the documents which were submitted by IRU to fulfil its obligations under Annex 9, Part III. The Working Party may recall that the TIRExB requested UNECE to seek advice from the United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to establish if the documents (i.e. the list), which should be regularly submitted by IRU, fully reflects the legal requirements of the Convention and if it provides a sufficient basis to ensure an appropriate and adequate level of audit of the authorized international organization.

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the advice of OIOS, if any.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/5

(c) Application of the Convention

(i) New developments in the application of the Convention

The Working Party may wish to recall its extensive discussions, at previous sessions, on the measures introduced by the national competent authorities that affected the implementation of the TIR procedure (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/270, paras. 19–30, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/272, paras. 37–43, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/274, paras. 26–30, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/276, paras. 13–19).

The Working Party will be informed about new developments, if any, (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/6) and, on this basis, may wish to continue its considerations of this issue.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/6

(ii) Increase in the number of loading and unloading places

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, the delegation of Turkey reiterated its continued attempts to seek a decision from the Working Party about an increase in the number of places of loading and unloading because of the advantages of these proposals for the road transport industry. At that session, some delegations expressed support for the optional introduction of an increased number of places for loading and unloading and a more flexible application of the TIR Convention. The delegation of the EU

reiterated that it does not see the immediate need to introduce such an option into the Convention. Consensus was not attained on this question and the Working Party decided to return to this issue at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to resume its discussions on the issues at stake.

(iii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems

The Working Party will be informed by IRU about the latest statistical data on the performance of Contracting Parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

Under this agenda item, delegations are also invited to report on the functioning of various national and international TIR-related electronic data interchange (EDI) systems.

(iv) Settlement of claims for payments

The Working Party may wish to be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

(v) Other matters

The Working Party may wish to consider any other issues and difficulties in the application of the Convention faced by customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or the IRU.

5. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Working Party

At its previous session the Working Party considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2014/11 on the status of non-ECE Contracting Parties in ITC subsidiary bodies. The document reflected the views expressed so far within ITC and the Working Party and drew parallels to the questions currently under discussion with regard to the establishment of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Working Party. Considering that different opinions were expressed on granting full participation rights to non-ECE countries which are Contracting Parties to the Conventions under the purview of WP.30, the Working Party decided to revert to this issue at the current session and requested the secretariat to prepare a document with proposals to amend its ToR and, possibly, its Rules of Procedure (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/276, para. 40).

Further to this request, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/7, for consideration by the Working Party.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/7

6. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (“Harmonization Convention”)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of Contracting Parties. More detailed information on these issues as well as on various Depositary Notifications are available on the UNECE website.

(b) Annex 8 on road transport

Under this agenda item, delegations will be informed about the preliminary results of the biennial survey on the national application of Annex 8, conducted by the secretariat (as mandated by the Administrative Committee of the Harmonization Convention, 1982 (AC.3) at its tenth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/20, para. 21).

(c) Annex 9 on rail border crossing

WP.30 will be informed about activities by UNECE, its Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) aimed at facilitating the implementation of Annex 9 at the national level. In particular, the Working Party will be informed about the results of a survey on the national application of Annex 9, conducted by SC.2 and the secretariat.

(d) Border performance measurement and the Harmonization Convention

Under this agenda item, the Working Party will be informed that AC.3, at its tenth session (October 2014) decided to organize in 2015 a workshop on best practice and performance measurement of national border authorities. Delegations will be invited to share views on the issues that could be discussed at such event.

7. International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail, of 10 January 1952

The Working Party may wish to recall its previous discussions on the drafting of a new convention to facilitate the crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail. The Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) will inform the Working Party about the progress in work of an informal group of experts established to elaborate a draft of such convention.

8. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles. In addition, the International Touring Alliance and the International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA) may report on several issues in the implementation of these Conventions.

9. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic or Customs Unions as well as by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and countries as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

(a) European Union

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent developments in the European Union (EU) related to the activities of the Working Party.

(b) Economic Cooperation Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about relevant activities and ongoing projects carried out by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

(c) Customs Union and Single Economic Space of the Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation

The Working Party may wish to be informed about further progress in relevant activities and projects carried out by the Eurasian Economic Commission (EurAsEC) Customs Union.

(d) World Customs Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the World Customs Organization (WCO) as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30).

10. Other business

(a) Dates of the next sessions

The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates of its next sessions. The secretariat has made arrangements for the 140th session to be held from 9–12 June 2015.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Working Party should decide whether or not there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

11. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 139th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present translation resource restrictions, parts of the final report may not be available at the session for adoption in all working languages.
