Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
133rd session
Geneva, 5–8 February 2013
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda
Activities of other organizations and countries of interest
to the Working Party: European Union

Activities of the European Union

Note by the secretariat

I. Common transit convention

1. The Convention of 20 May 1987 on a Common Transit and the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the simplification of formalities in trade of goods has been extended on the 1st of July 2012 to Croatia and on the 1st of December 2012 to Turkey. No major difficulties have been reported.

II. TIR transit system for goods transport under Customs control within the EU.

2. A Member of the European Parliament questioned the European Commission on reinstating the use of the TIR transit system for goods transport under Customs control within the EU. The Commissioner for Taxation and the Customs Union Mr Šemeta answered that there is no need, neither from a legal nor from a Customs policy point of view, to revert to a situation which predated the introduction of the internal market. Moreover, the absence of internal borders excludes the possibility of using TIR Carnets for EU internal transports.

III. Proposal for stronger controls on drug precursors

3. Stronger controls on drug precursors used in heroin and methamphetamine production have been proposed by the Commission in September.


IV. Action Plan to combat IPR infringements

4. The EU Council of Ministers on 10 December adopted the Action Plan to combat Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements.

The strategic objectives of this Action Plan are the following:

- Effectively implementing and monitoring the new EU legislation on Customs enforcement of IPR;
- Tackling major trends in trade of IPR infringing goods;
- Tackling trade of IPR infringing goods throughout the international supply chain. (http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/Customs/Customs_controls/counterfeit_piracy/com_mission_initiatives/index_en.htm)