

Distr.: General
27 January 2015

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

139th session

Geneva, 3 – 6 February 2015

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

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

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

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. Both the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) are used worldwide since their inception.
2. At this moment the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT) and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), are the only international organizations which are operational in the framework of the two Conventions. The AIT and FIA manage the distribution of CPD Carnets to the issuing associations and the international guarantee chain covering the temporary importation of private and commercial road vehicles.
3. Currently 66.53% of the users of the Carnet de Passage en Duane (CPD) as established under the two Conventions are Arab-speaking users while the CPD is distributed through authorized AIT and FIA issuing associations of 15 Arab speaking countries (Middle East Region, Arab Gulf Countries and North Africa).
4. In the provisions of the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Customs Formalities for the Temporary Importation of Private Road Motor Vehicles and for Tourism as well as in the Customs Convention on Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (June 1954) it was foreseen that the text of the Convention will be available in all official languages of the UN at that moment (French, English and Spanish languages) and it was also requested to the Secretary General to prepare an authoritative translation of this Final Act in the Chinese and Russian languages. However, none of the abovementioned Customs Conventions are translated into Arabic, since the Arab language only became an official UN language in 1973.

II. Translation of the Customs Conventions on Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) to Arabic and update of the translations of the other UN official languages.

5. The official translation of both Customs Conventions into Arabic is expected to improve the interpretation and application of the two Conventions in the Arab speaking countries. Thus, it would help the current system to be more inclusive, more accurate and more efficient. It would contribute to the development of transport and tourism in that region and it would also help to promote the accession to the Conventions of the countries who are using the CPD system “de facto” (i.e. accept the CPD issued in Contracting Parties) but that have not acceded yet to them.

6. In view of the above, the Working Party may wish to consider giving the necessary mandate to the Secretariat in order to proceed with the translation into Arabic of both Customs Conventions as well as the update of the translation of the other official languages (Spanish, Russian and Chinese) and to make them available on the UNECE website for the general public. The AIT and FIA are pro-actively promoting the Conventions in the Arabic speaking countries and are also in firm agreement that the availability of the text in the Arabic language would play a crucial role in ensuring the correct implementation of these Conventions in these countries.

III. Amendment to the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954)

7. The Working Party may wish to note that, on 1 July 2014, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, had issued Depositary Notification C.N.315.2014.TREATIES-XI.A.8, communicating an amendment proposal to the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954), transmitted by the government of the United Arab Emirates. The amendment enables the issuance of the Carnet de Passage en Duane in a combination of any two UN official languages as long as one of the two is English or French. In accordance with Article 42, paragraph 3 of the abovementioned Convention, no objections to the proposed amendment were deposited by Contracting Parties by 1 January 2015, as per Depositary Notification C.N.26.2015.TREATIES-XI.A.8. As such, the amendment will enter into force on 1 April 2015. The Depositary Notifications are reproduced, for ease of reference, in Annex to the present document.

IV. Considerations by the Working Party

8. The Working Party may wish to consider the benefits of making the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) available in the Arabic language, considering the vast usage of the Convention in Arabic speaking countries. In such a case, the Working Party is invited to provide the mandate to the secretariat, to be endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee, in order to proceed with the translation and subsequent update/consolidation of the legal text in the other languages.

Annex

Reference: C.N.315.2014.TREATIES-XI.A.8 (Depositary Notification)

CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF PRIVATE ROAD VEHICLES NEW YORK, 4 JUNE 1954

PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 1 BY THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On 30 June 2014, the Government of the United Arab Emirates transmitted a proposal of amendment to the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 42 (1) of the above Agreement.

In this connection, reference is made to the procedure for the amendment of the said Convention set forth in article 42 thereof, which reads as follows:

“1. Any Contracting State may propose one or more amendments to this Convention. The text of any proposed amendment shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall circulate it to all Contracting States.

2. Any proposed amendment circulated in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall be deemed to be accepted if no Contracting State expresses an objection within a period of six months following the date of circulation of the proposed amendment by the Secretary-General.

3. The Secretary-General shall notify as soon as possible all Contracting States whether an objection to the proposed amendment has been expressed, and if no such objection has been expressed, the amendment shall enter into force for all Contracting States three months after the expiration of the period of six months referred to in the preceding paragraph.”

The text of the proposed amendment in English, French and Spanish is contained in the annex to this notification.

1 July 2014



Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned. Depositary notifications are issued in electronic format only. Depositary notifications are made available to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, under "Depositary Notifications (CNs)". In addition, the Permanent Missions, as well as other interested individuals, can subscribe to receive depositary notifications by e-mail through the Treaty Section's "Automated Subscription Services", which is also available at <http://treaties.un.org>.

C.N.315.2014.TREATIES-XLA.8

Annex/Annexe

The first paragraph of Annex 1 shall be amended to read as follows / Le premier paragraphe de l'Annexe 1 sera amendé comme suit:

English/Anglais

“Carnet used for CPD operations within a specific region may be printed in other combinations of United Nations official languages on the condition that one of the two languages is English or French.”

French/Français

« Le carnet de passage en douane utilisé dans une région donnée peut être rédigé dans toutes autres langues officielles de l'ONU, l'anglais ou le français devant en être une. »

Spanish/Español

“En relación con las operaciones realizadas en una región concreta, la libreta de paso por las aduanas podrá imprimirse en otras combinaciones de idiomas oficiales de las Naciones Unidas, siempre que uno de los dos idiomas sea el francés o el inglés.”

Reference: C.N.26.2015.TREATIES-XI.A.8 (Depositary Notification)

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF
PRIVATE ROAD VEHICLES
NEW YORK, 4 JUNE 1954**

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AN AMENDMENT TO ANNEX I

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

By 1 January 2015, none of the Contracting Parties to the above-mentioned Convention had communicated an objection to the Secretary-General. Consequently, in accordance with the provisions of article 42 (3) of the Convention, the proposed amendment to Annex I to the Convention shall enter into force for all Contracting Parties on 1 April 2015.

13 January 2015


