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Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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Item 4 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) – Revision of the Convention: Amendment proposals to the Convention

Article 18 of the Convention

Revision 1

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. At its 140th session, the Working Party, inter alia, discussed a proposal to amend Article 18, increasing the number of loading and unloading places from four to eight. As diverging opinions on this issue continued to exist, the Working Party invited Contracting Parties to submit their views on the matter to the secretariat, not later than 15 July 2015, for consideration at the next session of the Working Party (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/280, para 6 (k) (ii)). Below, the secretariat presents contributions submitted by Contracting Parties until the deadline for submission of this document.
2. At its 141st session, the Working Party invited delegations to provide any additional comments or views to the secretariat, by 16 November 2015 at the latest, for a revision of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/19, for consideration at the current session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/282, para. 12).
3. Further to this request, the secretariat prepared this document which now also contains a contribution by the Government of Switzerland.

II. Contributions by Contracting Parties

2. In an e-mail of 15 July 2015, the customs administration of Iran (Islamic Republic of) informed the secretariat that national consultations about the possibility to increase the number of loading and unloading places from four to eight are still ongoing. Pending a final position, Iran (Islamic Republic of) can support that such increase can be implemented provisionally by countries which are in favour of the proposal.

3. In a letter of 21 July 2015 (dated 15 July 2015), the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus informs the secretariat that it does not oppose a proposal to amend Article 18 of the Convention so as to increase the number of loading and unloading places from four to eight.

4. In a letter of 13 November 2015, the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) of Switzerland informs the Working Party that, in its opinion, there is no evidence that an increase in the number of loading and unloading places would lead to higher risks for customs. According to the comment to Article 18, it is already now possible to increase the total number of loading/unloading places. However, the procedure to do so is complicated and not practical for transport operators or customs authorities. In addition, the use of two TIR Carnets increasing the risk that infringements be committed. In conclusion, Switzerland supports the proposal to increase the number of loading and unloading places from four to eight, while at the same time proposing to delete the comment to Article 18 on "Possibilities of increasing the total number of loading and unloading points to more than four in exceptional cases".
