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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

##### 152nd session

Geneva, 12–14 June 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the 152nd session\*.\*\*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 June 2019, and finishing around 6 p.m. on Friday, 14 June 2019, Room XXVI, Palais des Nations.

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

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\* 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 ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: [wp.30@un.org](mailto:wp.30@un.org)). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://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).

Delegates are requested to register online at: [uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=iDAmds](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=iDAmds) at the latest one week prior to the session. 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 ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html).

\*\* 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 ECE website: [www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs).



2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party.
3. 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.
  - (c) Application of the Convention:
    - (i) New developments in the application of the Convention;
    - (ii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
    - (iii) Settlement of claims for payments;
    - (iv) Relation between the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments;
    - (v) Other matters.
5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:  
Status of the Convention.
6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
  - (a) Status of the Conventions;
  - (b) Issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan.
7. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:
  - (a) European Union;
  - (b) Economic Cooperation Organization;
  - (c) Eurasian Economic Union;
  - (d) World Customs Organization.
8. Other business:
  - (a) List of decisions;
  - (b) Dates of the next sessions;
  - (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. List of decisions taken at the 151st session of the Working Party.

## 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.30/303

### 2. 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. In particular, the Committee will be informed about the main decisions of the eighty-first session of ITC (Geneva, 19–22 February 2019) and the results of a side-event on digitalization and eTIR, organized in the afternoon of 19 February 2019.

### 3. 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 changes in the status of the TIR Convention, 1975 and the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Working Party may wish to be informed that, since its previous session, the Convention has entered into force for Argentina and Oman and, thus, now has seventy-six contracting parties, whereas TIR operations can be established with sixty-two countries. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>1</sup>

#### (b) Revision of the Convention

##### (i) *Amendment proposals to the Convention*

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it finalized its discussions of a proposals to amend Article 20 and to raise the reference amount for the transport of certain alcohol and tobacco products, as stipulated by Explanatory Note 0.8.3, from \$200,000 to €400,000, while keeping the amount for small quantities at €100,000 and had requested the secretariat to transmit the proposals to AC.2 for consideration and, possibly, adoption.

The Working Party may wish to note that, at present, no further amendment proposals have been submitted for its consideration.

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

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure and the eTIR pilot projects. The Working Party will also be briefed about the survey by the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Technical and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

Conceptual Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure (GE.1) of TIR contracting parties on the connection to the eTIR international system and the “opting out” of Annex 11.

**(c) Application of the Convention**

*(i) New developments in the application of the Convention*

The Working Party is invited to raise new developments in the application of the TIR Convention, if any.

*(ii) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems*

The Working Party will be informed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

*(iii) 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.

*(iv) Relation between the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments*

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will brief the Working Party on developments in the field of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) and activities of the secretariat to promote the linkages between transport, customs and trade facilitation within the framework of WTO TFA, if any.

*(v) Other matters*

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

## **5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail**

### **Status of the Convention**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, four countries (Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkey) voted in favour the new Rail Convention, with no countries objecting, whereas the remaining ECE member States either abstained or were not present during the vote. Thus, the Working Party adopted the text of the new Convention, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/5 and its Corrigenda 1 and 2, with the exception of Article 21, paragraph 5 and looked forward to its final adoption by ITC. The Working Party congratulated the drafters and main stakeholders for their hard work and tenacity in finding a compromise text for the Convention, whose main aim is to provide high-quality service to passengers, while reducing the running time of international trains (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/302, paras. 36 and 37).

At its eighty-first session (February 2019), ITC considered the text of the new Convention, as agreed by WP.30 at its 151st session, and adopted, with the abstention of European Union member States, document ECE/TRANS/2019/18 and its Corr. 1, containing the latest agreed

text of the new Convention and requested the secretariat to transmit the text to the depositary to be opened for signature (Informal document ITC (2019) No. 9/Rev.5, decision No. 46).

Against this background, the Working Party will be informed about any further development of this issue.

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

### **(a) Status of the Conventions**

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.

### **(b) Issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it took note of Informal document WP.30 (2019) No. 3 by International Touring Alliance / International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA), which reported on the latest state of play in the ongoing issues which still remained unresolved. The Working Party was informed that, as per request from the Customs Council of AIT/FIA, the Executive Secretary of ECE had, once more, addressed the competent authorities of Jordan through diplomatic channels, soliciting a reply to a letter from 2017 in which the problems in the application of the 1954 Convention in the Kingdom of Jordan had been elaborated. The Working Party requested the secretariat to also inform ITC (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/302, para. 40).

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the latest developments of this issue.

## **7. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party**

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic commissions 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 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.

### **(c) Eurasian Economic Union**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about further progress in relevant activities and projects carried out by EEU. Under this agenda item, the Working Party is also invited to take note of a presentation by a representative of the EEU about the Union's new customs code.

### **(d) World Customs Organization**

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the World Customs Organization as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party. In particular,

the secretariat will inform the Working Party about the results of the seventeenth session of the Administrative Committee for the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972 (Brussels, 25 and 26 February 2019).

## 8. Other business

### (a) List of decisions

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, as requested at the 145th session, the secretariat includes a list of decisions as Annexes to the final reports of sessions. At its previous session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to continue this practice, thus keeping track of the status of decisions and include the practice as a separate agenda item for its future sessions. The secretariat agreed to this, adding that the list would also be attached to future draft agendas (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/290, para. 51), (see agenda item 11).

The Working Party is invited to review the list of decisions and provide guidance to the secretariat.

### (b) 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 153rd session to take place in the week of 14–18 October 2019. It has also made provisional arrangements for the 154th session to take place in the week of 3–7 February 2020.

### (c) 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.

## 9. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 152nd 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.

## 10. List of decisions taken at the 151st session of the Working Party

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
11	Transmit article 20 to AC.2 for adoption	secretariat	4 April 2019
12	Transmit amendment E.N. 0.8.3 to AC.2 for adoption	secretariat	4 April 2019
15	Submit next version of eTIR specifications to WP.30	secretariat	p.m.
20	Transmit Annex 11 to AC.2	secretariat	Done

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<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
24	Transmit comment Article 1 (o) to AC.2 for endorsement	secretariat	<del>4 April 2019</del> 8 August 2019
30	Prepare document on results survey Annex 8	secretariat	4 April 2019
37	Transmit text new Rail Convention to ITC for adoption	secretariat	Done
40	Inform ITC about ongoing issues Egypt and Jordan in implementation 1954 Temporary Importation Convention	secretariat	21 February 2019
47	Prepare 152nd session from 12 to 14 June 2019	secretariat	20 March 2019 – agenda 3 April 2019 – documents

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