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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****129th session**

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work and biennial evaluation**Programme of Work and Biennial Evaluation 2012–2013****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. In accordance with the decision of the Inland Transport Committee to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being in 2012 (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 120), the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) is requested to review and adopt its programme of work for 2012–2013 as well as the relevant parameters allowing for its biennial evaluation.

II. Programme of work for 2012–2013**A. Introduction**

2. The present document sets out the draft programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee's subprogramme on Customs questions affecting transport for the biennium 2012–2013. The Working Party is invited to consider the programme for adoption at its current session. It will then be submitted to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for formal approval. The Working Party and the Inland Transport Committee will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium, to be reflected in a separate document.

3. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2012–2013. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

4. The grouping of activities into clusters is exactly the same as that used by the Inland Transport Committee for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.
5. The following clusters of activities make up the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECEs) subprogramme on Transport:

| <i>Cluster No.</i> | <i>Subprogramme: 02 Transport</i> |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. | Overall coordination (Inland Transport Committee and Bureau) |
| 2. | Transport trends and economics, land-locked countries and transit facilitation |
| 3. | Road transport (Trans-European network for motorways (TEM) Project) |
| 4. | Road traffic safety |
| 5. | Harmonization of vehicle regulations, climate change and intelligent transport systems (ITS) |
| 6. | Rail transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) Project) |
| 7. | Inland waterway transport |
| 8. | Intermodal transport and logistics |
| 9. | Customs questions affecting transport |
| 10. | Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European programme (THE PEP) |
| 11. | Transport of dangerous goods (UNECE) |
| 12. | Transport of dangerous goods (ECOSOC) |
| 13. | Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ECOSOC) |
| 14. | Transport of perishable foodstuffs |
| 15. | Transport statistics |

6. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2012–2013. If necessary, they are complemented by additional items to reflect more recent developments and needs of UNECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities are clearly indicated as “additional”.

7. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material and (c) technical cooperation, including seminars, workshops, training sessions and advisory services.

8. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in section II of this document.

9. The present document is based in substance on the programme of work for 2010–2014 as adopted in 2010 by the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/2010/8).

B. Objective and strategy

10. The objective of the UNECE subprogramme of transport is to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve

safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport.

11. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division.

C. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2012–2013 biennium

Subprogramme: 02 Transport

Cluster 9

Customs questions affecting transport

| <i>Description of cluster (optional)</i> | <i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i> |
|---|--|
| <p>The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) promotes harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport. To meet this objective, WP.30 reviews relevant Conventions on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their relevance and proper implementation; promotes their possible extension to other regions; studies Customs questions with a view to simplifying Customs formalities and documents, in particular taking account of the possibility of computerization; identifies measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified Customs and other border crossing procedures; analyzes difficulties encountered at border crossings formalities with a view to devising administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties. .</p> <p>Main Actions by the Transport Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To act as secretariat to WP.30, its subsidiary bodies as well as the Administrative Committees of the relevant Conventions on border crossing facilitation; - To assist in administering and updating the relevant legal instruments; - To collect and disseminate information in order to foster exchange of data between member countries on border crossing facilitation; - To facilitate the liaison among governments and with other stakeholders in the area of border crossing facilitation (intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations, private sector and academia), as well as to coordinate cooperation with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of obligations contained in the relevant legal instruments. | <p>The Working Party is expected to promote more effective implementation of international legal instruments in the area of border crossing facilitation by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the application of selected Conventions on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party; - Finalize and endorse a new Annex to the TIR Convention on conditions and requirements for an authorized international organization; - Prepare and adopt comments and best practices for the application of the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956); - Contribute to the organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with other relevant United Nations and international organizations, on the implementation of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation; - Continue work on computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR project) with a view to finalization of Chapter 3 and 4 of the eTIR Reference Model and conducting a cost-benefit analysis of eTIR; - Monitor the implementation of the functioning of various national and international TIR-related electronic data interchange (EDI) systems. - Encourage cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fiscal fraud; - Monitor the implementation of Annex 8 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of road border crossing at the national level and exchange information on best practices in this field. - Promote a new Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and other stakeholders. |

Outputs/activities*(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation (2012-2013)*

- 9.1 Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th and 135th sessions)

Documentation:

The reports of three sessions of the Working Party per year. Parliamentary documentation also includes proposed amendments to the TIR Convention and other Conventions under the auspices of WP.30; documentation on the TIR project; documents on the implementation of the TIR Convention, Harmonization Convention and other legal instruments on border crossing facilitation. Other parliamentary documentation is determined in the course of each session.

- 9.2 Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) (20th session, 2012 and 21st session, 2013)

Documentation:

The report of the sessions of GE.1. Parliamentary documentation also includes updates to the eTIR Reference Model. Other parliamentary documentation is determined in the course of each session.

- 9.3 Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention (WP.30/AC.2) (53rd, 54th, 55th and 56th sessions)

Documentation:

The reports of two sessions of AC.2 per year. Parliamentary documentation also includes proposed amendments to the TIR Convention; documentation on the implementation of the TIR Convention, in particular comments and examples of best practice; reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) – subsidiary body of AC.2; documentation on administration of TIRExB. Other parliamentary documentation is determined in the course of each session.

(b) Publications and other information material (planned for 2012-2013)

- 9.4 Publication of the TIR study
9.5 Publication of the TIR Handbook
9.6 Publication of the Directory of the TIR Focal Points.

(c) Technical cooperation including workshops, conferences and other events (2012-2013)

- 9.7 Support for technical cooperation and capacity building to assist countries in the implementation of the TIR and Harmonization Conventions, including the convening of training workshops, drawing also on expertise of member Governments and international organizations.

III. Biennial Evaluation

12. In February 2010, the Inland Transport Committee approved the performance planning for evaluation of the biennium 2010–2011 (ECE/TRANS/2010/7). As part of the biennial evaluation, the activities of the Working Party are measured against one expected accomplishment, two indicators of achievement and corresponding performance measures.

13. The Working Party may wish to review these parameters as well as the actual performance measures for 2010–2011 as provided below with a view to either maintaining

them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2012–2013. In particular, WP.30 is invited to consider, as other indicators of achievement, the annual number of distributed TIR Carnets and the number of comments/examples of best practice adopted by WP.30 and/or AC.2.

Biennial Assessment

Review of performance measures for 2010–2011 and establishment of targets for 2012–2013

| <i>Cluster</i> | <i>Expected Accomplishment</i> | <i>Indicators of Achievement</i> | <i>Actual Performance Measures</i> |
|--|--|---|--|
| 9. Customs Questions affecting Transport | New accessions to and more effective implementation of international legal instruments in the area of border crossing facilitation | (a) Number of countries and participants in Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) and expert group meetings | |
| | | <i>Performance measures:</i> | |
| | | Baseline 2009: 475 countries and Contracting Parties, 1,300 participants | |
| | | Target 2010–2011: 300 countries, 900 participants | 330 countries, 750 participants ¹ |
| | | (b) Number of new amendments adopted and/or discussed, and number of new Contracting Parties | |
| | | <i>Performance measures:</i> | |
| | | Baseline 2009: 7 amendments adopted and/or discussed, 15 new Contracting Parties | |
| | | Target 2010–2011: 3 amendments, 3 new Contracting Parties | 4 amendments, 2 new Contracting Parties |

¹ Without WP.30 and AC.2 sessions in October 2011.

IV. Status and characteristics of the Working Party

14. In accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE, the mandate and extension of these Working Parties should be reviewed every 5-years (ECE/EX/1, para. 1 (c)).

15. As the first 5-year cycle will end in 2012 and on the basis of a comprehensive review of its activities, the Working Party may wish to propose to the Inland Transport Committee to renew the mandate and status of the Working Party for another cycle of 5-years as of 2013 (ECE/EX/1, para. 3 (d)).
