

Distr.: General  
6 June 2012

English only

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

##### 131st session

Geneva, 12–15 June 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

##### **Round table on the role of best practices at border crossings in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention**

### **Draft programme of the round table**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The Harmonization Convention is a framework convention that lays down a number of key principles, which are sine-qua-non for border crossing facilitation, and provides for a high degree of flexibility in their implementation at the national level, due to the fact that there may be no ‘one fits all’ solution for the 55 Contracting Parties. Under this situation, examples of best practice have been found to be indispensable for the proper implementation of the Harmonization Convention. With this in mind, UNECE and OSCE have prepared and published, at the beginning of 2012, an extensive joint publication called ‘**Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective**’.<sup>1</sup> The main purpose of the Handbook is to assist countries in developing more efficient border and customs policies by promoting existing best practices in this field. It provides concrete examples from across the ECE region and beyond on how border crossing points can be made increasingly efficient and secure, thereby allowing smooth trade and transport operations while at the same time reducing the possibilities for corruption, illicit trafficking and transnational crime and terrorism.

2. Following the publication of the Handbook, OSCE and UNECE have started a promotion campaign which will include, inter alia, presentations at different transport and Customs related meetings as well as targeted seminars and workshops. A one-day round table on the role of best practices at border crossings in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention will be co-organised by both Organizations on 14 June 2012, in the framework of the 131<sup>st</sup> session of the Working Party. A first draft programme of the round table is reproduced below.

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<sup>1</sup> Can be downloaded at [www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publications/OSCE-UNECE\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publications/OSCE-UNECE_Handbook.pdf)

131<sup>st</sup> session of WP.30  
14 June 2012  
10.00 – 18.00  
Salle V

**Round table on the role of best practices at border crossings  
in the implementation of the Harmonization Convention**

**Moderators of the round table:**

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov, Chair of WP.30 and Head of Division, Customs Service of Ukraine  
Mrs. Éva Molnár, Director, UNECE Transport Division

**10.00 – 10.10**

**Opening and welcome**

Mrs. Éva Molnár  
Director  
UNECE Transport Division

Mr. Roel Janssens  
Economic Adviser  
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities  
Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

**10.10 – 11.20**

**Session 1. Harmonization Convention and the Handbook of Best Practices**

**General introduction of the Handbook and overview of its selected chapters**

Mr. Roel Janssens  
Economic Adviser  
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities  
Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

**Harmonization Convention as a unique global tool for border crossing facilitation**

Mr. Konstantin Glukhenkiy  
Economic Affairs Officer  
UNECE Transport Division

**Questions and Answers**

**11.20**

**Coffee break**

**11.40 – 13.00**

**Session 2. Selected examples of national and regional best practices**

**EURO 2012: joint border controls between Poland and Ukraine**

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov  
Head of Division  
State Customs Service of Ukraine

**Ensuring a smooth transit of goods through the territory of the Republic of Belarus**

Mr. Igor Makhovikov  
Head of Department  
State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus

**Local solution for single window: implementation features in Ukraine**

Mr. Oleksii Panasiuk  
Adviser to President and Executive Director  
ICC Ukraine, Odessa region

**Best practices at border crossing in the ECO region**

Mr. Esmaeil Tekyeh Sadat  
Director  
Transport and Communication  
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

**Questions and Answers**

13.00

**Break**

15.00 – 15.50

**Session 3. Role of the private sector in setting up best practices at borders**

**Modernization of border crossing points in Turkey**

Ms. Didem DIRLIK  
Head of Department  
Ministry of Customs and Trade  
Republic of Turkey

**IRU's projects and tools for border crossing facilitation**

Mr. Muratbek Azymbakiev  
Head of TIR relations  
International Road Transport Union (IRU)

**Questions and Answers**

15.50

**Coffee break**

16.10 – 17.40

**Session 4. Border performance measurement and benchmarking**

**Overview of various methodologies to evaluate border performance**

Mr. Gerard Rodrigues  
Director, Cargo Operations  
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

**Transport Route Attractiveness indeX (TRAX) methodology for international freight transport as applied in the Euro-Asian TRACECA corridor**

Dr. Ashraf Hamed  
Chief Consultant  
Dornier Consulting, Germany

**Use of the time-cost-distance methodology to identify bottlenecks**

Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos (to be confirmed)  
Economic Affairs Officer  
UNECE Transport Division

**Questions and Answers**

**Open discussion on how to incorporate border performance measurement and benchmarking in the Harmonization Convention**

17.40 – 18.00

**Conclusions and recommendations**

Mrs. Éva Molnár  
Director  
UNECE Transport Division