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Working Party on Rail Transport

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Item 13 (a) of the provisional agenda

Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region:

Facilitation of rail border crossings

Questionnaire on facilitation of rail border crossings

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. The Working Party at its last session was informed by the secretariat on facilitation of rail border crossings (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/6). The Working Party suggested implementing monitoring mechanisms for the new Annex 9 of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) (Harmonization Convention).
2. The proposal subsequently made by the secretariat was adopted by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/218, paras. 52–54). The secretariat was requested to prepare a questionnaire for distribution to all UNECE member States which would identify and determine the current situation at rail border crossings in UNECE countries, Contracting Parties to the Convention (taking account of the provisions of Annex 9 of the Harmonization Convention).
3. This background document (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/6) has been prepared by the secretariat for consideration and discussion by the Working Party.

II. Questionnaire

Question 1

4. How many and which border (interchange) stations exist in your country?

“Border (interchange) station” means a railway station where operational or administrative procedures are performed in view of enabling a border crossing of rail freight. This railway station may be at the border or near the border.

Question 2

5. What do you do to facilitate the procedures for granting visas for locomotive crews, refrigerated unit crews, persons accompanying freight shipments and staff at border (interchange) stations engaged in international rail transport? Please describe specific actions or procedures by specifying time and cost analysis of such procedures.

Question 3

6. Are there bilateral agreements between your country and neighbouring countries on the border crossing procedures mentioned in question 2? Please list these bilateral agreements and mention their basic provisions.

Question 4

7. Please specify in the table below for each border (interchange) station listed in Question 1 which of the following minimum requirements apply.

	<i>buildings (premises), plant, facilities and technical equipment</i>	<i>Phytosanitary, veterinary and other controls</i>	<i>Adequate traffic capacity</i>	<i>Inspection areas, warehousing for the temporary storage of goods subject to customs</i>	<i>Equipment, facilities, information technology and communications systems</i>	<i>Sufficient qualified staff of the railway, customs, border and other agencies</i>	<i>Receive and use data concerning the technical approval and the technical inspections of the rolling stock prior to the arrival of rolling stock</i>
Border station 1							
Border station 2							
Border station							
...							
Border station x							

Question 5

8. Do you cooperate with your neighbouring countries at border (interchange) stations on controls of rolling stock, containers, piggyback, semi-trailers and goods as well as the processing of shipping and accompanying documentation? Have you established any bilateral agreements where your country endeavours to arrange all forms of joint controls with your neighbouring countries? Please list these agreements, mention their main provisions and provide concrete examples of cooperation.

Question 6

9. Has your country established a mechanism for reciprocal recognition of all forms of control of rolling stock, containers, piggyback semi-trailers and goods?

Question 7

10. Does your country carry out customs controls relying on the principle of selection on the basis of risk evaluation and management? Please describe the procedures that are being followed.

Question 8

11. Does your country perform simplified controls at border (interchange) stations and do you, as far as possible, move certain forms of controls to the stations of departure and destination? Please describe the procedures of such simplified controls at borders.

Question 9

12. Does your country have any bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries which ensure time limits for technical operations (involving the reception and transfer of trains at border (interchange) stations, including all types of controls)? If yes, does your country ensure compliance with these time limits? Please specify these time limits for each technical operation and list any measures taken to reduce these time limits by improving the technology and equipment used.

Question 10

13. Does your country record delays of trains or wagons at border (interchange) stations and do you transmit the information to the parties involved which then conducts analyse and proposes measures to reduce the delays? Please indicate such delays.

Question 11

14. Does your country endeavour to reduce paper documents or simplify documentation procedures by using electronic systems for the exchange of information corresponding to the information contained in railway consignment notes and customs declarations accompanying the goods? Please list and describe measures taken.

Question 12

15. Does your country have an established procedure for providing the customs authorities, in advance, with information on goods arriving at border (interchange) stations as contained in the railway consignment note and customs declaration? If yes, please describe such a procedure.

Question 13

16. Does your country use the CIM/SMGS railway consignment note?

III. Guidance by SC.2

17. SC.2 may wish to consider the proposed questionnaire and provide guidance to the secretariat on further action.
