
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

14th Session
17 – 18 March 2009
Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Accession to and effective implementation of international conventions
recommended by the Group**

(Item 5.1 of the agenda)

Note by UNESCAP/ UNECE

1. Harmonizing the legal regimes relating to international transport continues to be a prerequisite to ensure the smooth movement of goods through national borders and for enhance the efficiency of international transport. At the 13th session, the Working Group reaffirmed the importance of the international legal instruments listed in the protocol of its second session and re-iterated the invitation to SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede to all of them as soon as possible. The working group Stressed that accession to the international legal instruments would only serve transport facilitation if followed by proper implementation/enforcement measures. It further encouraged SPECA countries to establish public and private sector partnerships to identify problems in the implementation of the international legal instruments and find timely solutions thereto.
2. While the situation of accession to the international legal instruments listed in ESCAP Resolution 48/11 of 1992 is positive there has been no change in the accession status since the 13th SPECA session. The accession status to the seven conventions recommended by Resolution 48/11 is shown in Annex 1.
3. With respect to the additional legal instruments adopted by the second Session of SPECA PWG TBC, the situation is as follows:
4. Despite the efforts of some SPECA Member countries to accede to the legal instruments listed in Commission Resolution 48/11 of 1992 in 2006, no concrete action has been further recorded.
5. Taking into consideration the fact that the new Annex 8 to the “Harmonization” Convention has already been enforced since 20 May 2008, it would therefore still be beneficial for the whole region if Tajikistan and Turkmenistan ratify this Convention and if all SPECA countries improve its implementation, with a view to ensuring territorial continuity and consequently facilitating transport within the sub region and beyond.

Issues for consideration

6. The Project Working Group may wish to consider the following recommendations to improve the acceptance and implementation of the key transport-related international legal instruments in the SPECA region:

- a) Reaffirm the importance of the international legal instruments listed in the protocol of its second session and reiterate the invitation addressed to SPECA countries to intensify their efforts to accede all of them as soon as possible and to properly implement them.
- b) Stress that accession to the international legal instruments would only serve transport facilitation if followed by proper implementation/enforcement measures
- c) Encourage public and private sectors to cooperate with a view of. establishing partnerships in order to
 - a. identify problems in the implementation of the international legal instruments regular monitoring mechanism,
 - b. set up a proper monitoring mechanism
 - c. identify further assistance needed from ECE and ESCAP secretariats in assessing the implications of acceding to and implementing the transport-related international legal instruments.

Status of accession by SPECA countries and their neighbouring transit countries to the legal instruments listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 1992, as of 15 January 2009

Country or area	Convention on Road Traffic (1968)	Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (1975)	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)	Customs Convention on Containers (1972)	International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)	Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (1956)
Afghanistan	-	-	x	x	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	x	-	x	x	x	x	x
Kazakhstan	x	x	x	-	x	x	x
Kyrgyzstan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tajikistan	x	x	x	-	-	-	x
Turkmenistan	x	x	x	-	-	-	x
Uzbekistan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Armenia	x	-	x	-	x	x	x
Mongolia	x	x	x	-	-	x	x
China, P R of	-	-	-	-	x	-	-
Pakistan	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
Iran, I R of	x	x	x	-	-	-	x
Russian Federation	x	x	x	-	x	x	x
Turkey	-	-	x	x	x	x	x
Georgia	x	x	x	-	x	x	x

Source: official UNECE publications.

Legend: x – Contracting Party, S- signature

**Accession Status to the UNECE International Agreements and Conventions indicated in the
Protocol of the second session of the PWG-TBC**
Status at 15 January 2009

№	UNECE International Agreements and Conventions	AFG	AZE	KAZ	KGZ	TJK	TKM	UZB
1	Road Traffic (1968)*		x	x	x	x	x	x
2	Road Signs and Signals (1968)*			x	x	x	x	x
3	Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR, 1956)*		x	x	x	x	x	x
4	Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)*	x	x		x			x
5	International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (1975)*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)*		x	x	x			x
7	Containers (1972)*		x	x	x			x
8	Supplementary Agreement on Road Traffic (1971)							
9	Supplementary Agreement on Road Signs and Signals (1971)							
10	Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Traffic (AETR, 1970)		x	x			x	x
11	Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954)							
12	International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR, 1957)		x	x				
13	International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs (ATP, 1970)		x	x				x
14	Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR, 1975)		x	x				
15	Main International Railway Lines (AGC, 1985)							
16	Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC, 1991)			x				

Notes:

- * Conventions recommended by UNESCAP Resolution 48/11
- x Final signature, ratification, accession (47 in 2008, 2007, 44 in 2006)