



Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis

**WP.5 Working Document No. 10
ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10**

*WP.30, 155th Session
Geneva, 13 October 2020*

ITC Mandate



- **At the 82nd session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (Geneva, February 2020), the Committee:**

*“Requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the Bureau, with the support of interested governments and key stakeholders to conduct **necessary research on provisions in existing frameworks** and new needed areas of work to **promote cooperation between transport authorities in the field of counteracting the effects of emergency situations of cross-country nature, including epidemics and pandemics**, and present this information to Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) in September 2020 for consideration of further steps and for inclusion to its programme of work.”*

- **Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group Meetings on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis (9 June 2020/ 8 September 2020)**



COVID-19 crisis initial impact

- Uncoordinated & unilateral actions resulted in huge delays at borders in many countries and made it increasingly difficult to keep transport and logistics supply chains function
- The delivery of essential goods, such as foods, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies were impacted
- Restrictions to cross-border and transit freight transport aggravated the economic and social impacts of the shock to the global economy



Available regulatory framework

WORKING DOCUMENT «Taking stock of the resilience of the inland transport sector to pandemics and international emergency situations»

[ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10](#)

- **World Health Organization International Health Regulations and its relevance for inland transport**
 - Striking a balance between protecting public health & avoiding interference with international transport and trade
 - Measures for crews and passengers (health declarations upon exit/ entry; collecting contact information for tracing purposes; later on use of vaccination certificate)
 - Measures for vehicles, cargo and containers (risk management through route tracking and tracing; issuance of e-sanitation certificates)



Available regulatory framework

- **ECE legal instruments of possible significance considering management of pandemics and cross-border emergencies**
 - **Harmonization Convention** [additional annex on international emergencies and pandemics?]
 - **TIR/ eTIR** [establishing a link between eTIR carnet and an (e-)health certificate for international truck drivers?]
 - **CMR/ eCMR** [digitalization of transport documentation to limit physical checks in transit and enable paperless solutions]
 - **Promotion of the use of ITS** [reduced frequency and duration of human-to-human contact while in transport]

Lessons learned for inland transport



- The **importance of immediate coordination** in response to the outbreak and the effective ongoing coordination at regional, national and international levels
- The importance of **efficient supply chains** and keeping goods moving
- The need to **collect and feed evidence and data into decision-making**
- **Significance of digitalization** turning transport processes contact free, safer and efficient
- The need for **clear communication to the public and to operators** on changes to procedures and new rules.
- **Engagement across sectors** (e.g. health, transport, customs, business) has been crucial in using an evidence-based approach to decision making



Lessons learned for border management



- **Need for enhanced preparedness, use of electronic services, risk management**
- **Need for stronger coordination – use of whole of government approach, CBM, coordination with neighbouring countries and/ or at regional levels**
- **Streamlining and simplifying customs procedures – green lanes for freight traffic**
- **Transparency of documentary requirements**



Recommendations for further action



■ At regulatory level:

- Continuation of the informal multidisciplinary group (as recommended by WP.5)
- Identify specific measures/ tools to be developed aimed at increasing the resilience of the inland transport system to future pandemics, e.g. emergency plans; conduct a stress test on the various ECE Conventions

■ At the level of existing legal instruments/ Conventions:

- Introduction of e-health certificates
- Rules for transiting and cooperation among transport authorities in case of pandemics/ cross-border emergencies

Recommendations for further action



- **At the level of digitalization:**
 - Support for transport/ trade digitalization
 - Development of online training tools on the use of eTIR, eCMR etc.

- **At the level of continuous regional/ inter-regional/ inter-governmental dialogue:**
 - Organization of multisectoral meetings as necessary (involving also maritime and aviation sectors) to share cross-sector experience?
 - As part of a regular inter-regional forum?

- **Any other suggestions/ feedback/ recommendations from the perspective of TIRExB?**

- **Next steps, revision of the ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10 for submission to and discussion at ITC 2021**

Thank you for your attention

Feedback:

roel.janssens@un.org

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