
**Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and
Connectivity (TWG-STTC)**

23rd Session
27-28 August 2018
Astana, Kazakhstan

International Conventions and Agreements

(Item 4.2 of the Agenda)

Note by ECE/ESCAP

1. Harmonizing the legal regimes relating to international transport continues to be a prerequisite to ensure the smooth and efficient movement of goods through national borders. During its previous sessions, the Thematic 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 UN transport legal instruments would only serve transport facilitation if followed by proper implementation/enforcement measures.

2. The accession status to the conventions recommended by ESCAP resolution 48/11 and the Group is shown in Annex 1. The situation is the same like the last year - Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have acceded to all the seven conventions recommended by ESCAP resolution 48/11, and Kazakhstan has acceded to six of the seven conventions. There is a need for other SPECA countries to take concrete steps towards accession to the rest of the seven core conventions.

3. In comparison to the last year, with respect to UN transport-related legal instruments, the situation is the following:

- Uzbekistan ratified the Agreement concerning the establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles (1998);
-

4. SPECA countries could benefit from acceding and implementing the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network which was signed by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation on 8 December 2016 during the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport held on 5-9 December 2016 in Moscow, Russian Federation. This Agreement will enhance regional connectivity by providing new links between the Russian Federation and China through the central and western parts of Mongolia, and sea access to landlocked Mongolia. The Commission, at its 73rd session (May 2017), recognized this agreement as an important initiative to operationalize the AH Network and adopted resolution 73/4, which encourages all Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the AH Network to consider accession to the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the AH Network and requested the secretariat to continue to support its implementation .

5. Taking into consideration the complexity of dealing with different international, subregional and bilateral agreements, SPECA countries may use the Database of Agreements on International Road Transport which was developed by ESCAP Transport Division fulfilling the request of the Second Meeting of the Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation (25-26 March 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea). It includes the texts of over 200 documents, including bilateral agreements and other legal instruments related to international road transport or related to it, as well as selected major multilateral agreements containing provisions on international road carriage.

6. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure that information and documents provided in this database are accurate and up-to-date based on available information. However, SPECA countries are invited to access the database and review the information for accuracy. The countries are also encouraged to send updates on the agreements when they appear so allowing the secretariat to include them in the database. The database can be accessed under the following web link:

<http://www.unescap.org/resources/database-agreements-international-road-transport>

The Thematic Working Group may wish to

- Reaffirm the importance of the UN transport-related legal instruments listed in the protocol of TWG-STTC's twenty second session and reiterate the invitation addressed to SPECA member States to intensify their efforts to accede all as soon as possible;
- Take measures for efficient implementation of ratified UN transport-related legal instruments in SPECA member States;

- Encourage SPECA member States to consider acceding to the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network;
- Indicate further technical assistance needed from ECE and ESCAP secretariats in relation to the accession and/or implementation of the transport-related UN legal instruments.
- Provide the text of missing agreements, additions, corrections or updates to the Database of Agreements on International Road Transport

**Accession Status to the UN International Agreements and Conventions Listed in the
Protocol of the Session of the TWG-STTC
as of 1 August 2018**

№	Agreements and Conventions	AFG	AZE	KAZ	KGZ	TJK	TKM	UZB
<u>Conventions Recommended by UNESCAP Resolution 48/11</u>								
1	Convention on Road Traffic (1968)		X (2002)	X (1994)	X (2006)	X (1994)	X (1993)	X (1995)
2	Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)		X (2011)	X (1994)	X (2006)	X (1994)	X (1993)	X (1995)
3	Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR, 1956)		X (2006)	X (1995)	X (1998)	X (1996)	X (1996)	X (1995)
4	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)	X (1977)	X (2000)		X (1998)			X (1999)
5	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (1975)	X (1982)	X (1996)	X (1995)	X (1998)	X (1996)	X (1996)	X (1995)
6	International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)		X (2000)	X (2005)	X (1998)	X (2011)	X (2016)	X (1996)
7	Customs Convention on Containers (1972)		X (2005)	X (2005)	X (2007)			X (1996)
<u>Additional Agreements and Conventions:</u>								
8	European Agreement on Main International traffic arteries (AGR) (1975)		X (1996)	X (1995)				
9	European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (1985)							
10	European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) (1991)			X (2002)				
11	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (1971)			X (2011)				
12	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1971)		X (2011)	X (2011)				
13	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) (1970)		X (1996)	X (1995)		X (2011)	X (1996)	X (1998)
14	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954)							
15	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (1957)		X (2000)	X (2001)		X (2011)		
16	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP) (1970)		X (2000)	X (1995)	X (2012)	X (2011)		X (1999)

Notes: 1. X - Final signature, ratification, accession;
2. AFG – Afghanistan; AZE – Azerbaijan; KAZ – Kazakhstan; KGZ – Kyrgyzstan; TJK - Tajikistan; TKM – Turkmenistan; and UZB – Uzbekistan.