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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

##### 157th session

Geneva, 9 and 10 June 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### **Annotated provisional agenda for the 157th session\* \*\***

to be held virtually and in-person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 9 June 2021 and finishing on Thursday 10 June 2021 around 1 p.m, Room TPS 2, subject to confirmation.

## **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party:  
  
Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee Strategy.
3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
  - (a) Status of the Convention;
  - (b) Revision of the Convention:

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\* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (email: [wp.30@un.org](mailto:wp.30@un.org)). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations). Delegates are requested to register online at: [uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=XGGdPDat](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=XGGdPDat) at the latest one week prior to the session. All in-person attending delegates (including those holding long-duration badge), should register through INDICO badge system [indico.un.org/event/35299/](http://indico.un.org/event/35299/) and delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html).

\*\* The full text of the Conventions, as well as complete lists of contracting parties to the Conventions referred to in this agenda are available on the ECE website: [www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs).

- Amendment proposals to the Convention.
- (c) Application of the Convention:
  - (i) Comments to the TIR Convention;
  - (ii) eTIR:
    - a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects;
    - b. Activities of the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure;
  - (iii) New developments in the application of the Convention;
  - (iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
  - (v) Settlement of claims for payments;
  - (vi) Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat, recommendation No. 7a: Study on the decline of TIR Carnet sales;
  - (vii) Other matters.
- 4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):
  - (a) Status of the Convention;
  - (b) Issues in the application of the Convention.
- 5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:
 

Status of the Convention.
- 6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
  - (a) Status of the Conventions;
  - (b) Issues in the application of the Conventions.
- 7. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030.
- 8. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:
  - (a) European Union;
  - (b) Economic Cooperation Organization;
  - (c) Eurasian Economic Union;
  - (d) World Customs Organization;
  - (e) Bureau International des Conteneurs.
- 9. Other business:
  - (a) Dates of the next sessions;
  - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
  - (c) List of decisions.
- 10. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/313

### 2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

#### Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee strategy

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 156th session (February 2021), as a first assessment, the Working Party confirmed that, within the context of the current exercise (consider amending legal instruments with geographical or procedural barriers), there was no need to further discuss the following legal instruments, as enumerated in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/1:<sup>1</sup>

- (a) Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, 1954;
- (b) Additional Protocol to the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, 1954;
- (d) TIR Convention, 1959
- (h) International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage, carried by Rail, 1952;
- (i) International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Goods, carried by Rail, 1952;
- (j) Customs Convention concerning Spare Parts Used for Repairing EUROPE Wagons, 1958.

With regard to this Convention, the European Commission informed the Working Party that various member States had expressed an intention (in the long term) to withdraw from this Convention, whereas some others considered it obsolete, without being able to provide a final position.

- (o) Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport, 1994.

With regard to this Convention, the European Commission informed the Working Party that it had started internal consultations, which were still ongoing.

- (p) Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail under Cover of SMGS Consignment Notes, 2006 (not yet entered into force);
- (q) Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail, 2019 (not yet entered into force).

<sup>1</sup> To respect the official United Nations formatting rules, the original enumeration in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/1, being 1–17, has been adjusted to respect the formatting rules for the current document.

Considering that the following legal instruments were under constant review by either the Working Party, the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention (AC.2) or the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (AC.3):

- (c) Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, 1954;
- (e) TIR Convention, 1975;
- (g) Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, 1956;
- (n) Harmonization Convention, 1982.

the Working Party confirmed that its further activities on this topic be limited to:

- (f) Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation for Private Use of Aircraft and Pleasure Boats, 1956;
- (k) Customs Convention on Containers, 1956;
- (l) Customs Convention on Containers, 1972;
- (m) European Convention on Customs Treatment of Pallets Used in International Transport, 1960.

The Working Party reiterated its request to delegations to keep it informed about any consideration regarding those four Conventions and decided to continue its deliberations at the next session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, paras 6-8).

Based on the above, the Working Party is invited to continue its deliberations.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/8

### **3. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975)**

#### **(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about any changes in the status of the TIR Convention, 1975 and the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Working Party may wish to be informed that, since the accession of Egypt on 16 December 2020, the Convention has seventy-seven contracting parties, whereas TIR operations can be established with sixty-four countries.

The Committee may wish to be informed that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, issued the following depositary notifications: (i) C.N.513.2020.TREATIES-XI.A.16, of 4 November 2020, informing of the submission of various proposals to amend the body and annexes of the TIR Convention, 1975, including those that make the electronic submission of data to ITDB obligatory. In accordance with the provisions of Article 59 (3) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 4 February 2022, unless an objection has been communicated to the Secretary-General not later than by 4 November 2021; (ii) C.N.81.2021.TREATIES-XI.A.16, of 3 March 2021, informing that, by 25 February 2021, none of the contracting parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 had communicated an objection to the proposals to amend various provisions of the body of the TIR Convention and introducing new Annex 11 on eTIR. Therefore, in accordance with Article 59, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the said amendments will enter into force on 25 May 2021 for all contracting parties, except for those States which would notify, under Article 60 *bis*, paragraph 1, between 25 February 2021 and 25 May 2021, the depositary of their non-acceptance of Annex 11; (iii) C.N.85.2021.XI.A.16, of 9 March 2021, communicating that, by 1 March 2021, none of the Parties to the TIR Convention had communicated to the Secretary-General an objection to an amendment to Annex 6 of the Convention, introducing new Explanatory Note 0.49 of the TIR Convention, which grants

operators greater facilities, such as, but not limited to, the possibility to become authorized consignor. Consequently, in accordance with the provisions of article 60 (1) of the Convention, the amendment shall enter into force with respect to all Parties to the Convention on 1 June 2021. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>2</sup>

**(b) Revision of the Convention**

**Amendment proposals to the Convention**

There are at present no amendment proposals to the Convention submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

**(c) Application of the Convention**

**(i) Comments to the TIR Convention**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 156th session (February 2021), it considered and adopted the following comments contained in Annex I of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/1: (i) comment to Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.8.3; (ii) comment to Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.49 and (iii) comment to Annex 9, Part II “Model Authorization Form (MAF) and requested the secretariat to transmit them to AC.2 for endorsement. With regard to the comment “Possibilities of increasing the total number of loading and unloading places to more than four in exceptional cases” to Article 18, in Annex II of the said document, the Working Party tentatively agreed that it could be adjusted to accommodate maximally 16 places of loading and unloading, subject to further assessment at the next session. From the side of the private sector, IRU requested, at least for now, to keep the existing comment as long as the current model of the TIR Carnet with maximum four places of loading and unloading is still in circulation (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 12).

Based on the above findings, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/2 containing in Annex I the current text of the comment to Article 18 “Possibilities of increasing the total number of loading and unloading places to more than four in exceptional cases” and, in Annex II, a proposal for a new comment to Article 18 “Possibilities of increasing the total number of loading and unloading places to more than eight in exceptional cases”.

The Working Party is invited to adopt either the comment in Annex I or in Annex II of the said document or both and request the secretariat to submit it/them to the Committee for endorsement.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/2

**(ii) eTIR**

*a. eTIR international system: interconnection projects*

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in the eTIR international system, based on the draft version 4.3 version of the eTIR specifications.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that, further to the adoption of Annex 11 by the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) at its February 2020 session, the Executive Secretary of ECE, Ms. Olga Algayerova, invited contracting parties to start projects to interconnect their national customs systems with the eTIR international system. At its 156th session (February 2021), the Working Party was informed that the following countries have indicated an interest in such interconnection project, either in the form of a request for additional information or the willingness to start a connection project: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar,

<sup>2</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. It also took note that the following seven countries had already started an interconnection project: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Turkey. The delegation of Uzbekistan informed the Working Party that a letter of reply would soon be addressed to the Executive Secretary of ECE.

The Working Party further welcomed a presentation on the NCTS-eTIR Proof of Concept carried out by the European Commission and some European Union member States with assistance of the secretariat. The Working Party also noted that the secretariat had welcomed a proposal by the Russian Federation to carry out a similar exercise with the Eurasian Economic Commission (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, paras. 19-20).

The Working Party will be informed about additional countries (such as, but not limited to, Uzbekistan) that have expressed an interest to interconnect their customs systems with the eTIR international system, progress made with eTIR interconnections projects as well as other related activities, such as the NCTS-eTIR Proof of Concept.

*b. Activities of the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure*

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 156th session (February 2021), it was briefed about the outcome of the informal preparatory information meeting for the first session of Group of Expert on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) on 3 and 4 November 2020, the first session of WP.30/GE.1 on 20–21 January 2021 as well as the informal preparatory meeting for the second session of WP.30/GE.1 on 22 January 2021. Taking into account the current limitations in the organization of sessions with interpretation and the uncertainties with regard to the number of days with interpretation for the second session of the WP.30/GE.1, the Working Party mandated the secretariat to organize an additional WP.30/GE.1 session with interpretation on 7 and 8 (a.m.) April 2021 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, paras. 21 and 22).

The Working Party may wish to be informed about the outcome of the extraordinary session of WP.30/GE.1 on 7 and 8 (a.m.) April 2021 as well as of the second session of WP.30/GE.1 which took place on 25–28 May 2021.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may also wish to consider and approve the list of questions and answers (Q&A) on the application of various provisions of the TIR Convention for TIR transports carried out under the eTIR procedure, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/6 and request the secretariat to include them in the Q&A section of the eTIR website.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/6

**(iii) New developments in the application of the Convention**

The Working Party is invited to raise new developments in the application of the TIR Convention, if any.

**(iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems**

The Working Party will be informed by IRU about the latest statistical data on the performance of contracting parties in the control system for TIR Carnets — SafeTIR system.

**(v) Settlement of claims for payments**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by customs authorities and IRU about the current situation on the settlement of claims for payments made by customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at the 156th session (February 2021), the delegation of Uzbekistan informed the Working Party that there were some issues in the number of outstanding claims, but that it would submit an official document to that extent for consideration by the Working Party at its next session. In a first

reply, IRU stated that, from its side, it had sent out requests for clarification of the outstanding claims, and that the matter had its full attention (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 26).

The Working Party is invited to consider the issue, based on a document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/3 by the Government of Uzbekistan.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/3

#### **(vi) Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat, recommendation No. 7a: Study on the decline of TIR Carnet sales**

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at the specific request of AC.2 at its seventy-first session (October 2019) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/145, paras. 76 and 77), it started, at its February 2020 session, considering recommendation No. 7a of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)<sup>3</sup> to study the reasons for the decline in the sale of TIR Carnets, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/3. The Working Party requested the secretariat to distribute the study among TIR focal points of customs and associations, seeking their views. In view of the fact that, most likely due to the ongoing pandemic, only few focal points had provided any feedback, the Working Party requested, at its October 2020 session, the secretariat to send a reminder to TIR focal points from customs and associations, seeking their views on the study on the reasons for the decline in the sale of TIR Carnets, with 31 October 2020 as final deadline (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/310, paras. 23 and 24). Due to a lack of time, the issue was not discussed at the February 2021 session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 27).

The Working Party further may wish to be informed that TIRExB at its eighty-sixth session (December 2020), considered the revised version of the study, which also included feedback from TIR focal points. The secretariat mentioned that the requests from members of the Board, such as including statistical data about the use of TIR Carnets in the last decade, setting links between inputs and complementing the study with an action plan had all been addressed. The Board finalized the study and requested the secretariat to submit the study for further consideration (Informal document TIRExB/REP/86 final, paras 22 and 23, not yet published as official document).

The Working Party is invited to consider and, possibly, approve the final study, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/3/Rev.1 and establish that it considers OIOS recommendation No. 7a implemented and closed.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/3/Rev.1

#### **(vii) Other matters**

The Working Party may wish to consider any other issues or difficulties in the application of the TIR Convention faced by customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or IRU.

## **4. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls for Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention)**

### **(a) Status of the Convention**

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Convention.

Since the tenth session of the Committee in 2014, Turkmenistan acceded to the Convention in 2016, becoming the fifty-eighth contracting party to the Convention.

In addition, the Working Party may wish to be informed that, on 5 March 2021, the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his capacity as depositary, issued depositary notification

<sup>3</sup> For the full report, please refer to: [unece.org/DAM/trans/bcf/ac2/documents/2019/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC2-2019-25e.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/bcf/ac2/documents/2019/ECE-TRANS-WP30-AC2-2019-25e.pdf)

C.N.83.2021.TREATIES-XI.A.17, informing that, by 27 February 2021, none of the parties to the Harmonization Convention, 1982 had communicated an objection to a proposal to amend Annex 8, Article 7 of the said Convention, extending the interval between surveys among contracting parties on progress made to improve border crossing procedures in their countries from two to five years. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Article 22, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the amendment shall come into force with respect to all contracting parties to the Convention on 27 May 2021. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.<sup>4</sup>

**(b) Issues in the application of the Convention**

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to note that the Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls for Goods, 1982 (AC.3) held its twelfth session on 5 February 2020 and that the report is contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/24.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to take note that, at its eighty-third session, ITC, *inter alia*, adopted a decision in which it “entrusted the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and WP.30 to include on the agenda of the meetings the issue of monitoring the implementation of Annex 9 “Facilitation of border crossing procedures for international rail freight traffic” to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (ITC Informal document No. 8/Rev.5 (2021), decision No. 57). In an effort to respond to this request, the Secretaries of SC.2 and WP.30 have prepared a survey for circulation among participants of both working parties, as well as, possibly, TIR focal points customs.

The draft is contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/4. The Working Party is invited to express itself on the questions and the intended addressees as well as to provide the secretariat with instructions about the distribution of the survey and deadlines for reply.

At that same session, ITC took another decision, in which it “encouraged interested countries to accede to the United Nations Conventions in the field of border crossing facilitation, to foster digital information exchange, and promptly implement the provisions of Annex 11 to the TIR Convention, launching the eTIR system, and urged all contracting parties to comply with the provisions of the Harmonization Convention, 1982 for the sake of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic (ITC Informal document No. 8/Rev. 5 (2021), decision No. 58).”

In document ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10, “Taking stock of the resilience of the inland transport sector to pandemics and international emergency situations”, the Secretary of the Working Party on Trends in Transport (WP.5) lists the activities of the “Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis” established, in 2020 at the request of ITC, 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 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10, para. 1). One of the possible recommendations by the group is to study the possibility to establish “Rules for transiting and cooperation among transport authorities in case of pandemics/ cross-border emergencies, such as amendments to the Harmonization Convention (ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2020/10, para. 55). In the context of its discussions, delegations may also wish to take note of a publication of the World Customs on what customs can do to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, submitted by 113 WCO members as of 29 May 2020.<sup>5</sup>

The Working Party is invited to express itself about the recommendation and, if possible, provide guidance to the secretariat how to proceed with the matter.

<sup>4</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

<sup>5</sup> [www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/natural-disaster/covid\\_19/covid\\_19-categorization-of-member-input\\_may-29-2020\\_edition-4\\_en.pdf?la=en](http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/natural-disaster/covid_19/covid_19-categorization-of-member-input_may-29-2020_edition-4_en.pdf?la=en)



**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/24; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/4

## **5. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail**

**Status of the Convention**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 156th session (February 2021), the delegation of the Russian Federation informed the meeting that, at the national level, all required procedures in preparation of signing the Convention had been completed and that a Government decree to that extent had been issued. Steps were currently being undertaken at the level of the Ministry of Transport in order to facilitate signing the Convention in New York. The delegation requested the Chair to repeat the call on interested countries to sign the Convention at the forthcoming session of ITC (23–26 February 2021) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 32).<sup>6</sup>

The Working Party will be informed about the latest developments in this issue, if any.

## **6. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)**

**(a) Status of the Conventions**

The Working Party will be informed about the status of the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles.

**(b) Issues in the application of the Conventions**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 156th session (February 2021), it took note of progress in the efforts of ECE and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme / Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA) to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on the revitalization and digitalization of relevant United Nations inland transport conventions, as contained in Informal document WP.30 (2021) No. 3. Due to a lack of time, the Working Party requested the secretariat to submit the draft as an official document for discussion and, possibly, endorsement at the next session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 34).

The Working Party is invited to consider and, possibly, endorse document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/5.

Delegations are also invited to raise, under this agenda item, any issue in the application of the Conventions, of interest to the Working Party.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/5

## **7. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030**

As part of the contribution of the Working Party to the ITC Strategy until 2030, delegations are invited, under this standing agenda item, to raise technological developments that could be introduced or applied within the context of the legal instruments under the auspices of the Working Party.

<sup>6</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

In particular, the secretariat invites delegations wishing to report on its efforts to contribute to the digitalization of the TIR Convention, to do so under this agenda item (see also ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 15).

## 8. Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

The Working Party will take note of activities by various regional economic commissions or Customs Unions as well as by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, and countries as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

### (a) European Union

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent developments in the European Union related to the activities of the Working Party.

### (b) Economic Cooperation Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about relevant activities and ongoing projects carried out by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

### (c) Eurasian Economic Union

The Working Party may wish to be informed about further progress in relevant activities and projects carried out by Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

### (d) World Customs Organization

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the World Customs Organization as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

### (e) Bureau International des Conteneurs

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities of the Bureau International des Conteneurs (BIC) as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

## 9. Other business

### (a) Dates of the next sessions

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 158th session on 12, 13 and 15 (a.m.) October 2021 and the 159th session on 8, 9 and 11 (a.m.) February 2022, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing COVID pandemic and the United Nations liquidity crisis.

### (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Working Party should decide whether or not there shall be any restrictions on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

### (c) List of decisions

The Working Party is invited to review the list of decisions taken at its 156th session and provide guidance to the secretariat.

*Reference in  
final report  
(para.)*

*Short description of decision*

*Actor*

*Deadline*

7–8

The Working Party confirmed that its further activities on this topic be limited to: (f) Customs Convention on the

secretariat

Agenda

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
	Temporary Importation for Private Use of Aircraft and Pleasure Boats, 1956; (k) Customs Convention on Containers, 1956; (l) Customs Convention on Containers, 1972; (m) European Convention on Customs Treatment of Pallets Used in International Transport, 1960  The Working Party reiterated its request to delegation to keep it informed about any considerations regarding those four Conventions and decided to continue its deliberations at the next session.		
12	The Working Party considered and adopted the comments in Annex I of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/1 and requested the secretariat to transmit them to AC.2 for endorsement. The comment in Annex II could be tentatively adopted subject to further assessment at the next session	secretariat	31 March 2021
22	The Working Party mandated the secretariat to organize an additional WP.30/GE.1 session with interpretation on 7 and 8 (a.m.) April 2021.	secretariat	a.s.a.p.
26	The Working Party decided to revert to some issues between Uzbekistan and IRU regarding the settlement of claims	secretariat	Agenda + at session
27	Revert to study on decline in the sale of TIR Carnets	secretariat	Agenda + document (?)
31	Secretariat to further engage with UN/CEFACT secretariat	secretariat	ongoing
32	Chair of WP.30 to encourage interested countries to accede to the Convention	Chair/secretariat	ITC
34	Submit draft MoU ECE/FIA as official document	secretariat	31 March 2021
44	Provide information on silence procedure	secretariat	Circulate document ECE/EX/2020/L.12
	Prepare 157th session 9–10 (a.m.) June 2021		17 March 2021 – agenda 31 March 2021 – documents

## 10. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 157th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.