
Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (WG-STTC)

26th Session
25 November 2021
(Videoconference)

**Accession to and implementation of transport-related
International Conventions and Agreements**

(Item 5.2 of the Agenda)

Note by UNECE/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 all previous sessions, the Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity 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 United Nations transport-related legal instruments would only serve transport connectivity and facilitation if followed by proper implementation measures.

2. The forty-eighth session of ESCAP adopted resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 which recommended that countries in the region should consider acceding to seven international conventions in the field of international land transportation facilitation as a cost-effective prerequisite step towards enhancing road and rail transport routes throughout the region. The accession status to the conventions recommended by ESCAP resolution 48/11 and the Working Group is shown in Annex 1.

3. This year is marked with four accessions to United Nations transport-related legal instruments:

- In October 2020, Uzbekistan acceded to the Protocol to the CMR concerning the electronic consignment note (e-CMR) (2008).

- In August 2021, Turkmenistan acceded to two United Nations legal instruments: Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport (1994) and Customs Convention on Containers (1972).
- In August 2021, Kyrgyzstan acceded to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) (1970).

Nevertheless, all SPECA countries are invited to take concrete steps towards accession to the rest of the conventions stated in Annex I.

Inland Transport Committee Capacity Development Action Plan

4. Based on the request of the Government of Turkmenistan, UNECE continued capacity development activities on accession and efficient implementation of UN transport-related legal instruments. Three capacity development events (online 10 and 20 November 2020 and 8 October 2021) on how efficiently implement UN legal instruments on transport infrastructure, road safety and vehicle regulations were tailor-made for Turkmen national stakeholders.

The Thematic Working Group may wish to

- Reaffirm the importance of United Nations transport-related legal instruments listed in the Annex I and reiterate the invitation addressed to SPECA countries to follow pace of accession in 2021
- Take measures for efficient implementation of ratified United Nations transport-related legal instruments in SPECA member States
- Invite SPECA countries to familiarize with principles and strategic areas of the ITC Capacity Development Action Plan and demand capacity development activities on UN legal instruments
- Indicate further technical assistance and capacity development needs to UNECE and ESCAP secretariats in relation to the accession and/or implementation of the transport-related United Nations legal instruments.

**Accession Status to United Nations International Agreements and Conventions Listed in
the Protocol of the Session of the TWG-STTC
as of 20 November 2021**

№	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 (2020)	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 (2021)	X (1996)
<u>Additional Agreements and Conventions:</u>								
8	European Agreement on Main International traffic arteries (AGR) (1975)		X (1996)	X (1995)			X (2020)	
9	European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) (1985)						X (2020)	
10	European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) (1991)			X (2002)			X (2020)	
11	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (1971)			X (2011)			X (2020)	
12	European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1971)		X (2011)	X (2011)			X (2020)	
13	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) (1970)		X (1996)	X (1995)	X (2021)	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)		X (2020)
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.