



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****160th session**

Geneva, 8, 9 and 10 (a.m.) June 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the 160th session* ****

to be held virtually and in-person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 8 June 2022 and finishing on Friday 10 June 2022 at 12 a.m., Room TPS 2, subject to confirmation

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. 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.
4. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):
 - (a) Status of the Convention;

* 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). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html.

Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=ZJUWy9 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 <https://indico.un.org/event/1000492/> 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.

** 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.

- (b) Revision of the Convention:
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 Technical Implementation Body;
 - (iii) New developments in the application of the Convention;
 - (iv) TIR-related electronic data interchange systems;
 - (v) Settlement of claims for payments;
 - (vi) Other matters.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail:
Status of the Convention.
- 7. Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956):
 - (a) Status of the Conventions;
 - (b) High-level workshop on the functioning of the 1954 and 1956 temporary importation conventions and their digitalization (Thursday, 9 June 2022).
- 8. Introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Other business:
 - (a) Dates of the next sessions;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
- 11. 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.30/319

2. Election of officers

Due to the inability to do so at its previous session, the Working Party (WP.30) should, in accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures and established practice, at its current session, elect a Chair and, possibly, a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2022. Governments are strongly encouraged to nominate candidates for either post in order to facilitate any future election process.

3. 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 its ongoing discussions of the topic, which were initiated at its 154th session (February 2020) (Please refer to ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308, paragraphs 6–9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/310, paragraphs 3 and 4, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, paragraphs 5–8, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/314, paragraphs 4–10, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/316, paragraphs 3–9 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/318, paragraphs 5 and 6) on the basis of documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/8.

In particular, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its October 2021 session, it confirmed that this had been a useful exercise, which had highlighted issues in the application of various legal instruments, leading to a review of their relevance at national level, including, at times, up to denunciations. Although it had been established that some legal instruments had lost their relevance or seemed to have been overtaken by more recent legislation, developed under the aegis of the United Nations or other international organizations, such as, in particular, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Working Party was of the view that these legal instruments should continue to exist, as they may very well have served as the basis for more recently developed legal instruments and, therefore, continued to be of relevance. At the same time, and exactly for the same reason, the Working Party felt that there was no reason, or it could even be risky, to amend or adjust them to current realities as, by doing so, they might undermine the construction of more recent legislation that has been based on them. The Working Party was of the view that this exercise should now be considered finalized and requested the secretariat to report this to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its February 2022 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/316, paras. 8 and 9). At its 159th session (February 2022), the Working Party confirmed its findings at its previous session and took note that they had been transmitted to ITC for consideration, in document ECE/TRANS/2022/25 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/318, paragraph 6).

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the latest developments on this issue, such as, but not limited to, the reporting to ITC. Also, delegations are encouraged to share any further information on the legal instruments at stake with the Working Party. In this regard, the Working Party may wish to take note that, on 11 March 2022, France has informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations that it denounces the Customs Convention concerning Spare Parts Used for Repairing EUROPE Wagons, of 15 January 1958. The denunciation shall take effect for France on 11 September 2022. With this action, the

Convention will have six remaining contracting parties: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland. In accordance with its Article 8, the Convention will cease to have effect if, for any period of twelve consecutive months after its entry into force, the number of contracting parties is less than three (see also depositary notification C.N.76.2022.TREATIES-XI.A.12).

In the context of this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to note that ITC, on the occasion of the commemoration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, adopted a resolution entitled “Ushering in a decade of delivery for sustainable inland transport and sustainable development”, The Ministerial Resolution recognizes and validates 75 years of accomplishments of ITC, leveraging its unique assets for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals on the road to 2030. As part of the resolution, ITC decided, inter alia, “to accelerate the further development and regular updating of the legal instruments of the Inland Transport Committee in order to make the regulatory framework less fragmented and more harmonized, relevant and impactful, given the fast-changing strategic landscape, by fully integrating and promoting technological changes in all inland transport modes, especially in relation to intelligent transport systems, autonomous and connected vehicles, automated driving and digitalization of transport documents and procedures in international transport.”

The Working Party may also wish to note that, at that same session, ITC, in line with its decisions since the adoption of the ITC Strategy, welcomed the progress achieved during 2021 by its Working Parties in implementing the ITC Strategy until 2030 and decided: to request Working Parties to continue the implementation of the Strategy particularly, but not limited to, next steps included in document ECE/TRANS/2022/3; to invite the secretariat to continue monitoring, in collaboration with the Bureau and the Working Parties, the implementation of the Strategy and report on progress made and the next ITC annual session and make adjustments to the next steps, as necessary; and to invite Working Parties to seize opportunities and address risks as relevant in the development of the legal instruments under the purview of ITC, as identified in ECE/TRANS/2022/3.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to be informed that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted, on 16 February 2022 resolution 2022/2, entitled “Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe” (E/RES/2022/2) (see ECE/TRANS/316, draft).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/1; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2020/8; ECE/TRANS/2022/3;
E/RES/2022/2

4. 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 entry into force of the accession of Egypt on 16 June 2021, the Convention has seventy-seven contracting parties and that, since the activation of the system for Qatar, TIR operations can now be established with sixty-five countries.

The Working Party may wish to recall that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, issued the following depositary notification:(i) C.N.99.2021.TREATIES-XI.A.16 of 25 March 2021, informing of the submission of a proposal to amend Article 18 and Annexes 1 and 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975. In accordance with the provisions of Article 59 (3) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 25 June 2022, unless an objection has been communicated to the

Secretary-General not later than by 25 March 2022. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

(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

There are at present no comments to provisions of the Convention, submitted for consideration by the Working Party.

(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 version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications. The Working Party will also be informed about the status of the various interconnection projects.

b. Activities of the Technical Implementation Body

The Working Party may wish to be informed that the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2), at its seventy-seventh session (February 2022), adopted, in line with Annex 11, Article 5, the eTIR concepts and the eTIR functional specifications, contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/3-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/12 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/4-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/13, including the amendments adopted by TIB at its first session including some amendments thereto, contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/7. Together with the adoption of the eTIR technical specifications (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/5-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/14) by TIB at its first session in January 2022, this provides a complete legal and technical basis for those countries that are willing to implement the eTIR procedure as soon as possible, while noting that the ongoing work will allow all other contracting parties to Annex 11 to bring forward their requirements for consideration by TIB and the Committee in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, paragraphs 29 and 33).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/3-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/12;
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/4-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/13;
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/5-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/14;
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/7.

(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.

¹ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

(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.

(vi) **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.

5. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of 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, only Turkmenistan has acceded to the Convention, in 2016, becoming the fifty-eighth contracting party to the Convention. More detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on various depositary notifications is available on the ECE website.²

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

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to be informed about the first, provisional results (if any) of a survey on the application of Annex 9 of the Harmonization Convention (contained in Informal document SC.2 No. 3 (2021), conducted by the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) with a deadline of 31 March 2022. WP.30 delegations interested to receive a copy of the survey for reply, had been requested to contact the secretariat by email (See ECE/TRANS/WP.30/318, paragraphs 21 and 22).

Documentation

Informal document SC.2 No. 3 (2021)

6. 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 being undertaken at the level of the Ministry of Transport in order to facilitate signing the Convention in New York (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, para. 32).³

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

7. 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 that the status and the number of contracting parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial

² www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

³ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

(1956) Road Vehicles has not changed and that the Conventions have 80 and 26 contracting parties, respectively. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.⁴

(b) High-level workshop on the functioning of the 1954 and 1956 temporary importation conventions and their digitalization (Thursday, 9 June 2022)

Part of this session of WP.30 will be reserved for a high-level workshop, dedicated to the functioning of the 1954 and 1956 temporary importation conventions and their digitalization, in particular, but not limited to, the efforts undertaken jointly by ECE and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2021 to develop an eCPD system. The agenda of the workshop will be circulated separately, as Informal document WP.30 (2022) No. 3.

Documentation

Informal document WP.30 (2022) No. 3

8. 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.

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).

9. 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.

⁴ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

10. Other business

(a) Dates of the next sessions

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 161st session on 11 (p.m.), 12 (a.m.) and 14 (a.m.) October 2022 and the 162nd session on 7, 8 and 10 (a.m.) February 2023, 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 recall that no decisions were taken at its 159th session.

11. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 160th session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
