



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

##### 161st session

Geneva, 11 (p.m.), 12 (a.m.) and 14 (a.m.) October 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the 161st session\* \*\*

to be held virtually and in-person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, 2.30–4.30 p.m. on Tuesday 11 October 2022, continuing on Wednesday 12 October 2022 (10–12 a.m.) and on Friday 14 October 2022 (10 a.m.–1 p.m.), Room XXI, 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:  
  
Amendment proposals to 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).

Delegates are requested to register online at: [uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=NZS47G](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=NZS47G) 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/1000530/](http://indico.un.org/event/1000530/) 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).

- (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;
    - c. International TIR Data Bank.
  - (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.
- 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) World Customs Organization.
- 9. Other business:
  - (a) Dates of the next session;
  - (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.30/321

### 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 its past discussions of the topic, which were initiated at its 154th session (February 2020) (Please refer to ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308, paras. 6–9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/310, paras. 3 and 4, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/312, paras. 5–8, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/314, paras. 4–10, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/316, paras. 3–9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/318, paras. 5 and 6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/320, paras. 5–13) 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 previous session (June 2022), it took note that the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), at its seventy-fifth session (February 2022), had welcomed the progress achieved during 2021 by its Working Parties in implementing the ITC Strategy until 2030. In the context of this activity, the Working Party noted that the secretariat had transmitted to the ITC the findings at its 158th (October 2021) and 159th (February 2022) sessions, stating that the Working Party considered its contribution to this exercise finalized (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/320, para. 9).

#### 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 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. Detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>1</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.

<sup>1</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

**(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 about the outcome of the second session of the Technical Implementation Body (TIB), which took place on 30 August –2 September 2022 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/4), as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

*c. International TIR Data Bank*

The Working Party will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/4

**(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.

**(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.

In this context, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, the secretariat had invited countries to provide information on their national technical authorities in charge of performing technical checks, required under the TIR Convention, to issue or renew certificates of approval and to conduct technical checks and/or to nominate experts that could be invited to engage in technical workshops on the application of Annexes 2 and 7 of the Convention for interested parties of current and prospective contracting parties (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/320, para. 25). Delegations are invited to provide the secretariat with any information they have in this regard.

#### **4. 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it had mandated the secretariat to start with first preparations for the launch of the 2023 survey on the application of Annex 8 of the Harmonization Convention by reissuing document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/8, with the list of questions approved at its 122nd session (June 2009). The Working Party requested delegations to provide the secretariat with the names of dedicated focal points who should coordinate national replies.

Regarding the survey, the Working Party may wish to take note that the Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, at its eleventh session (June 2019), established that, so far, the surveys only constituted a limited source of comparable data on progress in the application of Annex 8. Therefore, the Committee requested the secretariat for the next survey (to be conducted in 2023) to establish a list of dedicated focal points who should coordinate national replies. The Committee also agreed that the results of future surveys would no longer be anonymous, in order to be in a better position to assess and, where possible, act on them, on a country-by-country basis (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/22, para. 19).

The Working Party is invited to review document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/8 and provide guidance to the secretariat with regard to the substance of the survey as well as the prospective date of its launch and the intended addressees.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall the 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. The Secretary of SC.2 expects to prepare a summary document for discussion at the forthcoming session of SC.2 (November 2022) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/320, para. 31).

##### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/8, Informal document SC.2 No. 3 (2021)

#### **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 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). The Working Party further may wish to recall that, on 26 September 2019, Chad had become signatory to the Convention.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

## **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 that the status and the number of contracting parties to the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles has not changed and that the Conventions have eighty and twenty-six contracting parties, respectively. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>4</sup>

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its 157th session (June 2021), it considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2021/5, containing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECE and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme / Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA) on the revitalization and digitalization of relevant United Nations inland transport conventions and, in particular, the development of an eCPD (Carnet de Passage en Douane) system. On the understanding that no financial implications were involved on either side, the Working Party endorsed the MoU and invited parties to engage in its implementation. The Working Party mandated the secretariat to submit the MoU to the Executive Commission (EXCOM) of ECE for information. The Working Party requested parties to regularly report on progress made. The Working Party may also wish to recall that ECE and FIA signed the MoU on 20 October 2021.

Under this agenda item, the Working Party will be briefed about any latest development in this issue. Delegations are also invited to raise, under this agenda item, any issue in the application of the Conventions, as far as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

## **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.

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).

Under this agenda item, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session, the Chair raised the issue of the latest developments in the field of inland water transport on the use of digital documents. The Working Party requested the secretariat to get in touch with the Secretary of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) for more information and, possibly, a presentation at one of its future sessions (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/320, para. 44). The secretariat will report on further developments in this issue, if any.

## **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.

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

**(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) 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.

**9. Other business**

**(a) Dates of the next session**

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 162nd session on 7, 8 and 10 (a.m.) February 2023, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing 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 list of adopted decisions will be attached to the final report.

**10. Adoption of the report**

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 161st session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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