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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

162nd session

Geneva, 7, 8 and 10 (a.m.) February 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the 162nd session* **

to be held in person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. on Tuesday 7 February 2023, continuing as joint WP.30/AC.2 workshop on Wednesday 8 February 2023 (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–6 p.m.) and finishing on Friday 10 February 2023 (10 a.m.–1 p.m.), Room XXII.

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=eW5vzJ 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/1002042/ 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 Villa Les Feuillantines (13, 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;
 - 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.
- 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) Issues in the application of the Conventions.
- 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) World Customs Organization.
- 10. Workshop
- 11. Other business:
 - (a) Dates of the next session;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
- 12. 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.30/323

2. Election of officers

In accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures and established practice, the Working Party (WP.30) should elect a Chair and, possibly, a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2023. Governments are strongly encouraged to nominate candidates for either post in order to facilitate the 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 be reminded that, at its previous session (October 2022), it recalled the new Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) (E/2022/L.4) (see ECE/TRANS/316) and, in particular, that ITC now adopts the so-called hybrid approach for membership, meaning that non-ECE member States can participate as full members in segments of ITC sessions that deal with legal instruments to which they are contracting parties and remain in a consultative capacity in other parts (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/320, para. 10). The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at the current session, a document comparing the new ITC ToR with the existing ToR of the Working Party, in order to assess whether any adjustment seemed appropriate (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/322, para. 6).

Further to this request, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/1, which contains, in Annex I, the revised ToR of ITC, in Annex II the current ToR of WP.30 and, in Annex III, proposals of their alignment with the revised ToR of ITC, for consideration and, possibly, adoption by the Working Party.

Against the background of the, possibly, revised ToR of the Working Party, the secretariat considered it appropriate to also prepare a document, describing a possible plan of actions – strategy, to be decided by WP.30, in order to better serve the ITC Strategy and its objectives. Thus, the Working Party is invited to consider and, possibly, approve document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/2.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/2

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. 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 about the outcome of the third session of the Technical Implementation Body (TIB), which took place on 19–20 December 2022 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/6), 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/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 the International Road Transport Union (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.

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

(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 delegation of the European Union proposed to conduct a short survey on various aspects related to the issuance and renewal of certificates of approval and provided a list with some possible questions. From its side, IRU supported the proposal and expressed its willingness to contribute by providing some additional questions that were of specific interest to the private sector (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/322, para. 19).

Further to a request from the Working Party, the secretariat, in close collaboration with the delegation of the European Union and IRU, prepared a draft survey, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/3, for consideration and, possibly, adoption. The Working Party may wish to confirm that the survey should be sent to customs TIR focal points and may wish to provide guidance about the deadline for reply.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/3

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 recall that, at its previous session, it reviewed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2009/8 and mandated the secretariat to circulate the survey in the spring of 2023, among the regular delegates from governments (and, in the absence thereof, TIR focal points) as addressees (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/322, para. 26).

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 Working Party is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/10 by the secretariat of SC.2 and containing the responses to the survey, together with the findings of SC.2 at its seventy-sixth session (November 2022) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/322, para. 27).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/10

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

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

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.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 (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.⁴

(b) Issues in the application of the Conventions

Under this agenda item, the Working Party will be briefed about any latest development in the context of 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, if any.

Against this background, the Working Party may wish to recall that, at its previous session (October 2022), it was informed that the team had started preparing the concepts of the future system, which would be submitted for consideration by the Working Party at one of its future sessions (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/322, para. 30). Further to this, the team has prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/4, for consideration by the Working Party.

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.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/4

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).

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

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

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) 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.

10. Workshop

On 8 February 2023, the secretariat will organize, under the auspices of the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention (AC.2), and in close collaboration with WP.30, a workshop dedicated to training new contracting parties and interested countries in correctly applying the provisions of the TIR Convention. Delegates from Governments and the private sector are invited to participate in and even contribute to the workshop. Details will be communicated at a later stage. The agenda of the workshop will be circulated as document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/5-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/2.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/5-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/2

11. Other business

(a) Dates of the next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the 163rd session on 7–9 (a.m.) June 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.

12. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its 162nd session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.