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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 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of**

**Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)**

**Issues in the application of the Conventions**

**Transmitted by the Government of Australia**

## **eCPD – Proposal for a Customs Informal Working Group**

1. The digitalization of the Carnet de Passages en Douane (the 'eCPD system') will modernise the facilitation of private and commercial vehicles that are temporarily imported across global borders. The eCPD system is expected to make a significant contribution towards improved efficiency, speed and transparency of cross-border movements of vehicles worldwide. Importantly, the eCPD system will also reduce administrative burdens on Customs authorities, make border-crossing operations more secure and support global mobility.
2. In recognising the important role that the eCPD system will have for customs administrations worldwide, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in close consultation with the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Australia, propose to establish an informal working group (Customs Informal Working Group) for the digitisation of the Carnet de Passages en Douane, under the auspices of the *Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport* (WP30).

### **Proposed mandate**

3. The proposed Customs Informal Working Group shall receive a mandate to provide advice and expertise to the UNECE, FIA and WP30 regarding the design, implementation and evaluation of the eCPD system.
4. Contracting Parties shall be encouraged to share subject matter expertise, national experiences and advice on matters that will:
  - assist the development of a fit-for-purpose eCPD system to enhance trade facilitation for drivers, and improve risk management outcomes for customs administrations, and
  - once developed, support the orderly, timely and smooth global transition of the Contracting Parties to the eCPD system for drivers, customs and industry.

### **Proposed structure**

5. The proposed Customs Informal Working Group will bring together the UNECE, FIA and customs administration experts to inform the design, implementation and evaluation of the eCPD system. The Customs Informal Working Group will operate on an agile and flexible basis, according to the following principles:

### **Membership**

6. The Customs Informal Working Group should be established under UNECE WP30, and comprising of representatives of the following bodies:
  - UNECE
  - FIA, and
  - Interested customs administrations experts from Contracting Parties of the *Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles* (1954), *Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles* (1956) and Annex C of the *Convention on Temporary Admission* (Istanbul Convention).
7. Contracting Parties shall be invited to nominate a customs expert on carnets and/or temporary importation to participate in the Customs Informal Working Group. Participation in the Informal Working Group shall be on a voluntary basis.

Meeting arrangements

8. The Customs Informal Working Group will meet at least twice a year, as determined by the UNECE. The Customs Informal Working Group will also meet on a virtual basis, to encourage wide participation amongst interested Contracting Parties.

Decision-making

9. In recognition of the informal and flexible nature of the Customs Informal Working Group, decisions of the Customs Informal Working Group (including recommendations to WP30) shall be made on a consensus basis.

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10. The Customs Informal Working Group should provide a report to WP30 to summarise the high-level discussions and outcomes reached amongst the UNECE, FIA and participating Contracting Parties. The Customs Informal Working Group may also make recommendations to WP30.

11. WP30 may task the Customs Informal Working Group on matters that will support the development, or implementation of, the eCPD system.

Administrative matters

12. The Customs Informal Working Group may determine other administrative arrangements to support their work, by consensus.

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