

Distr.: General
1 June 2023

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

163rd session

Geneva, 8 and 9 (a.m.) June 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe bodies and other**

United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party

European Union suggestions for alignment of the WP.30 ToR with the text of the ToR of ITC

Transmitted by the European Union

Under this agenda item specifically in relation to item *Alignment of the work of the Working Party with the Inland Transport Committee strategy* the European Union would like to discuss the substance, it is European Union suggestions concerning new ToR of WP.30 currently discussed in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/1. Proposed changes are in track change mode.

EU's ~~S~~ suggestions for alignment of the WP.30 ToR with the text of the ToR of ITC⁷

1. The ~~Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport~~ **Global Forum on customs questions affecting transport facilitation of transport and border crossings** (hereinafter referred to as WP.30), **will** ~~act~~ acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter ECE) and subject to the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (hereinafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of ECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5) ~~and ITC (E/RES/2022/2 and ECE/TRANS/316/Add.2)~~ and consistent with the legal instruments listed in Appendix:

(a) Initiate and pursue actions aimed at **promoting** the harmonization, **improvement** and simplification of **technical and operational** regulations, **standards**, rules and documentation for border crossing procedures for the various modes of inland transport **and multimodal connections**, with particular focus, where possible, on contributing to the advancement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1.) and related Sustainable Development Goals; (ToR ITC (d))

(b) Analyse difficulties encountered at border crossings with a view to devising administrative procedures, **operational processes, customs infrastructure design and physical and electronic documentation, to facilitate** eliminating such difficulties; (ToR ITC (e))

(c) Administer and monitor the implementation of the conventions, ~~and~~ agreements **and other international legally binding instruments** on **customs and transport** ~~and~~ border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the WP.30 (Appendix); (ToR ITC (h))

(d) Review the above legal instruments to ensure their relevance as well as their coherence with other international or subregional treaties concerned with customs and border crossing facilitation issues and to keep them in line with modern transport and border control requirements ~~and, where appropriate, elaborate new international legally binding instruments in the field of border crossing facilitation.~~ **and, where appropriate, elaborate new international legally binding instruments, tools and recommendations in the field of facilitation of international transport and border crossing;** (ToR ITC (h))

(e) Consider and ~~endorse~~ **adopt** amendment proposals to the legal instruments listed in Appendix and, where appropriate, submit them to the relevant Administrative Committees (see point (n) below) for consideration and formal adoption;

(f) Consider and adopt recommendations, resolutions, comments and examples of **best good** practices with regard to the implementation of these legal instruments ~~and~~ **facilitation measures to address operational, infrastructure and resources challenges** and, where appropriate, submit them to the relevant Administrative Committees (see point (o) below) ~~or ITC~~ for consideration and formal approval **or ITC for endorsement;**

(g) Study customs **and control** questions with a view to streamlining customs and other administrative procedures and documentation in the field of **the facilitation of border crossing and** transport, in particular by promoting ~~electronic data interchange solutions~~ **new technologies and innovations, including a platform for digitalization;** (ToR ITC (i))

(h) Study specific legal and other measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified customs and other border crossing procedures and foster the exchange of intelligence among the competent authorities of contracting parties to the relevant legal instruments on border crossing facilitation on abuses with a view to identifying measures to combat such occurrences;

(i) Promote the possible extension of the agreements and conventions from Appendix to other regions and encourages the accession of new countries to **them by organizing seminars and workshops as well as advocacy campaigns** ~~these;~~

⁷ New text is in **bold underlined**, whereas deletions are in ~~strikethrough~~.

(j) Encourage wider public and private participation in its activities by fostering cooperation and collaboration with countries, the European Commission, World Customs Organization, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with transport and border crossing facilitation and the other United Nations regional commissions and other organizations or bodies of the United Nations system with a view, among other things, to discussing and resolving problems relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the provisions of the relevant legal instruments;

(k) Create a working environment that facilitates fulfilment by the contracting parties of the obligations set forth in the legal instruments listed in Appendix, and an exchange of views on the interpretation of these instruments or the resolution of problems connected with their enforcement;

(l) Ensure openness and transparency during its meetings;

(m) Support training and capacity-building activities aimed at the proper implementation of the above legal instruments; (ToR ITC (k))

(n) Ensure close cooperation with and support for the activities of the Administrative Committees for the TIR Convention (AC.2), for the Harmonization Convention (AC.3), for the Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport (AC.4) and for the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB);

(o) Collaborate closely with other subsidiary bodies of ITC to **address horizontal issues relevant to the facilitation of international transport customs issues and other border crossing matters of international transport, with other relevant UNECE working parties and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations; in particular with the World Customs Organization (WCO), particularly the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) and any other relevant ECE bodies on matters of common interest relating to customs and other control questions affecting transport and other inter-governmental and non-governmental international organizations; partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO) is of particular importance for the work of WP.30;** (ToR ITC (m))

(p) Draw up and implement a programme of work relating to its activities and reports on its accomplishment to ITC.

2. These Terms of Reference do not modify the provisions of the relevant legal instruments.