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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****166th session**

Geneva, 5 (p.m.), 6 and 7 (a.m.) June 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation****of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)****Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on the digitalization of the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) conventions****Note by the secretariat****I. Background and mandate**

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme / Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the revitalization and digitalization of the two Conventions and, in particular, the development of an eCPD (Carnet de Passage en Douane) system.
2. Following a request from customs authorities the secretariat with the assistance of the FIA secretariat started organizing sessions of an informal ad hoc group of experts to discuss all related to the digitalization of the two conventions issues.
3. The experts that had attended the meeting of the informal ad hoc group of experts among other issues, requested transforming the ad hoc informal group of experts on digitalization of CPDs to a formal group of experts, ensuring sessions with interpretation and translated documentation in the three ECE official languages. Against this background, the Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its 166<sup>th</sup> session that includes the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of such a formal group of experts, for consideration and possible adoption by the Working Party.

**II. Work Objectives of the Expert Group****A. Terms of Reference**

4. The Group of Experts on the digitalization of the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) conventions is established in



line with the policies of the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and subject to the general supervision of the WP.30 and the ITC, to provide a specialized and dedicated international platform with the objective of developing the eCPD legal and technical framework.

5. The Group of Experts will, in the process of developing the eCPD legal and technical framework, discuss and agree on the appropriate way to amend the Conventions (i.e new provisions, new Annex or new Protocol) and prepare the draft amendment to the Conventions.

6. The Group of Experts shall prepare the draft amendment by carrying out the below activities:

(a) Undertake a study of the temporary importation Conventions with a view towards concretely identifying and analysing the provisions which may be affected by the introduction of eCPDs.

(b) Carefully examine the issues pertaining to the administration of the future eCPD system, including, but not limited to, international data protection requirements and confidentiality requirements, as well as legal aspects of financing and draft the relevant legal provisions accordingly.

(c) Provide legal provisions on the role and functions of the temporary importation Conventions intergovernmental bodies including WP.30 under the eCPD legal framework.

(d) Identify and analyse the most efficient and legally acceptable method for incorporating the functional and technical specifications of the future eCPD system into the legal framework, as well as design an expedient amendment procedure.

7. In the process of its deliberations and work, the Expert Group may:

- request and collect from competent national authorities all the relevant information to assist the Expert Group in describing and assessing the situation.
- conduct surveys of prevailing national legislation and/or legal arrangements that may be of relevance to its work.
- develop and maintain a network of contacts, including key stakeholders such as governments, customs authorities, academia and the transport industry, with a view to exchanging information that may be of use for its work.

8. The Group of Experts shall carry out its work based on existing resources of the secretariat, as well as on, potentially, additional financial and in kind voluntary support provided by the participating countries and other international organizations, bodies and stakeholders.

9. The Group of Experts shall base its considerations on:

(a) The principles of other initiatives to digitalize transport and customs conventions such as the CMR, TIR and ATA.

(b) The functional and technical specifications of the systems of the above-mentioned initiatives.

(c) The guidance of WP.30.

10. The Group of Experts may, in the course of its work, identify additional elements or areas in the design of the eCPD legal and technical framework that merit attention, and in such case, these additional elements shall be brought to the attention of WP.30.

## **B. Method of Work**

11. The Group of Experts shall be established and function in accordance with ECE Guidelines for teams of specialists approved by the Executive Committee of ECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). At its first meeting, the Group of Experts will adopt a

workplan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

12. The Group of Experts could envisage to meet twice in 2025 and at least twice in 2026 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva or elsewhere depending on the support provided by the participating countries and other parties including finalisation of host country agreements, before concluding its activities with the transmission of a set of proposals in the form of a working document to WP.30 at its 170<sup>th</sup> session in October 2026. This working document shall contain concrete proposals for an appropriate legal and technical framework for eCPD, to be discussed and approved by the Working Party – contracting parties to the temporary importation Conventions. The Group of Experts shall also regularly report on its progress to WP.30, in order to ensure that the final product is as much as possible in line with the expectations of the Working Party and meets a high level of consensus and approval.

13. Preparation of documents (at least 4 per session), translation of documents in English, French and Russian shall be provided by ECE, as supported by the competent United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) services. Simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French and Russian shall be provided by ECE, as supported by the competent UNOG services, for the sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Each session should be two to three days in length but may be extended if circumstances require and resources allow. Hybrid sessions could be envisaged only if UNOG rules and regulations permit at the time of request and extra budgetary resources are available.

14. Participation in the Group of Experts is open to Contracting Parties to the temporary importation Conventions and to ECE member States, but also to all United Nations member countries and experts that would wish to contribute to the work. Concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

### **C. Secretariat**

15. ECE shall provide secretariat services for the Group of Experts and shall ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders.

## **III. Considerations by the Global Forum**

16. The Global Forum is invited to consider and, possibly, adopt the proposed Terms of Reference of the envisaged Expert Group.

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