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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

Ad hoc Expert Group on Phase III of the TIR Revision

(30 and 31 August 2004)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva<sup>\*/</sup>  
starting at 10.00 hours on Monday, 30 August 2004**

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<sup>\*/</sup> New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet Web site of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail ([Poul.Hansen@unece.org](mailto:Poul.Hansen@unece.org)). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 74030).

1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/WP.30/2004/24
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  3. Background and mandate
  4. Categorization of amendment proposals  
TRANS/WP.30/2003/11  
TRANS/WP.30/2003/22  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/11  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/14  
TRANS/WP.30/210  
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Informal document No. 3 (2003)  
Informal document No. 2 (2004)
  5. Preliminary evaluation of amendment proposals TRANS/WP.30/2004/25
  6. TIR Contact Group
  7. UNECE/IRU contract TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/14
  8. Other matters
- Date of next session

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## **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 prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/2004/24).

## **2. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON**

In accordance with the commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Ad hoc Expert Group should elect a Chairperson for its sessions in 2004.

## **3. BACKGROUND AND MANDATE**

At its one hundred-and-seventh meeting (15-18 June 2004), the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport, after an in-depth discussion, mandated the secretariat to convene an Ad hoc Expert Group with a view to dealing with the other amendment proposals that had been transmitted by Contracting Parties as well as, possibly, other proposals for amendments of the Convention, in particular in relation to the guarantee system. The Working Party was of the view that the Ad hoc Expert Group should be established with an open-ended mandate and should be open to participation by all Contracting Parties and relevant organizations. As a first priority, it should consider the amendment proposals before it with a view to separating these into (a) questions of a more technical nature, which the Working Party or the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) could deal with and (b) questions of a more strategic nature, which the Ad hoc Expert Group should consider how best to deal with. In this context, it was proposed that it could be considered to launch a strategic review of the future of the Convention through a meeting of a TIR Contact Group, as it had been done in connection with Phase I of the TIR revision process. Contracting Parties were invited to inform the secretariat whether they were interested in hosting such a TIR Contact Group meeting. The topics to be dealt with by the TIR Contact Group could be decided by the Ad hoc Expert Group. The Working Party decided to convene the Ad hoc Expert Group on 30 and 31 August 2004 in Geneva as proposed by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/214, para. 42).

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to take into account its mandate.

#### 4. CATEGORIZATION OF AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

As requested by the Working Party, the Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to consider the categorization of the amendment proposals into (a) questions of a more technical nature, which the Working Party or the TIR Executive Board could deal with and (b) questions of a more strategic nature, which the Ad hoc Expert Group should consider how best to deal with.

Based on the submissions by Contracting Parties, the secretariat has identified the outstanding amendment proposals as listed below.

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to consider the categorization of the amendment proposals as well as decide which competent body should consider the proposals in further detail:

- Article 4: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);
- Title Chapter II: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);  
Informal document 2 (2004) (Proposal by the Russian Federation);
- Article 6.2. bis: TRANS/WP.30/2003/11 (Proposal by the Russian Federation);  
TRANS/WP.30/2003/22 (Proposal by the Chairman of WP.30);  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/11 (Comments by the Russian Federation);  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);  
TRANS/WP.30/214 (various alternative proposals);  
TRANS/WP.30/210 (Questions by the European Community and the IRU)
- Article 8.5:  
(and 31) TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);
- Article 8.7: TRANS/WP.30/2003/22 (Proposal by the Chairman of WP.30);  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);
- Article 11: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);  
TRANS/WP.30/2004/11 (Comments by the Russian Federation);  
TRANS/WP.30/2003/11 (Proposal by the Russian Federation);  
TRANS/WP.30/210 (Questions by the European Community and the IRU)
- Article 28: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);
- Article 40: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);
- Article 41: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);

- Article 42 bis: TRANS/WP.30/2004/14 (Proposal by the European Community);
- Annex 8 and Article 13 TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/4 (Proposal by the secretariat);  
Informal document 3 (2003) (Proposal by Turkey);

Furthermore, the Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to consider other amendment proposals, which may have been submitted for its consideration by Contracting Parties or other interested parties.

Within the context of its work, the Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to take note of various other proposals for amendment of the TIR Convention, which are currently under consideration by the Working Party and/or the TIR Administrative Committee:

- Preparation of Phase III of the TIR Revision process:
  - Revision of the TIR Carnet, including the insertion of additional data elements (ID number, HS code, value of goods, etc);
  - Increase in the number of places for loading and unloading under Customs seal;
  - Use of new technologies in TIR operations, also with a view to reducing the delay in notification of non-discharge;
- Inclusion and attribution of voting rights to Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO);
- Amendment proposals relating to technical provisions;
- CITES.

## **5. PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF AMENDMENT PROPOSALS**

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to undertake a preliminary evaluation of each of the amendment proposals which it has grouped under point 3 of the agenda with a view to providing guidance to the competent bodies, which possibly could consider the proposals in detail. In this context, the Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to consider document TRANS/WP.30/2004/25, prepared by the secretariat, containing observations concerning each of the provisions of the Convention to which amendments have been proposed.

## **6. TIR CONTACT GROUP**

The Working Party, at its one-hundred-and-seventh session, considered that a strategic review of the future of the Convention could be launched through a meeting of a TIR Contact Group, as it had been done in connection with Phase I of the TIR revision process.

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to consider this possibility and to be informed if any Contracting Parties would be ready to organize such a meeting as well as to decide on the possible dates.

## **7. UNECE/IRU CONTRACT**

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to recall that a revised Agreement between the UNECE and the IRU was signed in 2003. The Agreement will continue until and including 2005. The Agreement stipulates that the particulars concerning the annual TIRExB funding should be adjusted through an exchange of letters between the UNECE and the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/14). Furthermore, the Agreement also stipulates that it shall be amended or renewed according to a decision of the TIR Administrative Committee to be taken not later than its first meeting in 2005.

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to be informed about the budget amendment process for 2005 as well as any proposals for the renewal or amendment of the Agreement beyond 2005.

## **8. OTHER MATTERS**

The Ad hoc Expert Group may wish to consider any other matters of interest.

The Ad hoc Expert Group may also wish to consider the date of a possible next meeting.

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