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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport
of Perishable Foodstuffs
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PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE FACILITATION OF CROSS-BORDER
MOVEMENT FOR ATP VEHICLES CARRYING PERISHABLE GOODS

Transmitted by Transfrigoroute International

Justification of the proposal

Transfrigoroute International has, on several occasions, pointed out the serious losses suffered by transport companies due to abnormally long waiting times at certain borders.

In 1997, Transfrigoroute International published a set of instructions and set up support centres at borders in Eastern Europe.

At the meeting in 1997 of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11), it was decided to propose an annex to the "International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods", with a view to facilitating movement across certain borders between countries which are party to this agreement.

Transfrigoroute International is therefore putting the following draft annex before the WP.11 Working Party.

DRAFT ANNEX TO THE "INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION
OF FRONTIER CONTROLS OF GOODS", CONCERNING THE FACILITATION OF
PASSAGE OF ATP VEHICLES CARRYING PERISHABLE GOODS

Article 1

Principles

1. Given that the transit time available for the marketing and distribution of perishable foodstuffs is limited, any delay in the transportation of these foodstuffs can compromise their commercial qualities, and especially their safety and hygiene.
2. Given that refrigeration equipment must remain functioning during transportation, noise and other types of environmental pollution result whenever vehicles are subjected to abnormally long waiting times or held for long periods without proper reason.
3. Pursuant to these principles, waiting times at borders for ATP-approved temperature-controlled vehicles should be as short as possible.

Article 2

Reduction in waiting times

1. Traffic authorities must take all measures available to minimize waiting times for ATP-approved vehicles carrying perishable goods, from the moment of arrival at the border post through to the various legal, administrative, customs and public health checks.
2. Authorities responsible for regulatory checks on perishable goods must carry out their function in such a way as to reduce delays.
3. Refrigeration equipment must be kept functioning during the whole time spent at the border crossing, except where it absolutely has to be shut down due to the nature of the checks being carried out (e.g. where the vehicle has to be opened up for inspection).

Article 3

Cooperation

1. The authorities must cooperate with their counterparts in other countries which are party to this agreement, in order to speed up the passage of perishable goods subjected to public health inspections, in particular through the exchange of information.
2. When a shipment of perishable goods is stopped at the border by a public health authority, this authority must make sure to inform the corresponding body in the country of export and make known the reasons behind the interception as well as any measures taken regarding the goods.