

**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the
International Convention on the Harmonization
of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982
(6 and 7 February 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 15.00 hours on Thursday, 6 February 2003 ^{*/}**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Attendance of observers
4. Status of the Convention

^{*/} For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://border.unece.org>). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, 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 Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

5. Proposals for amendments of the Convention

Consideration of a new Annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport

6. Proposals other than amendments to the Convention

(a) Facilitation of border crossing procedures in international road transport

(b) Measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention

7. Other business

(a) Date of next session

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

8. Adoption of the report

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Annex: Contracting Parties to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (21 October 1982)

* * *

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4 of the Convention, in line with the decisions taken by the Contracting Parties to the Convention at the fourth session of the Administrative Committee (18-20 October 2000) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8, para.27) and at the one-hundred-and-first session of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) (TRANS/WP.30/202, para.19), the Executive Secretary of the UNECE is convening this fifth session of the Administrative Committee in conjunction with the one-hundred-and-third session of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30).

The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) will hold its one hundred-and-third session from 4 to 7 February 2003, starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 4 February 2003 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. As the Working Party will consider in detail the proposal for a new Annex 8 to the Convention, representatives of all Contracting Parties to the Convention are strongly

recommended to participate also in this session of the Working Party. The agenda as well as other relevant documents for the session of the Working Party may be obtained directly from the UNECE secretariat or downloaded from the relevant UNECE Transport Division web site (see page 1).

QUORUM

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 6 of the Convention, “a quorum consisting of not less than one third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purposes of taking decisions.” As of 1 December 2002, the number of States, Contracting Parties to the Convention is 41.

TEXT OF THE CONVENTION

The complete text of the Convention is contained in document ECE/TRANS/55 (English, French and Russian) and may be obtained from the UNECE secretariat. It may also be accessed and downloaded from the relevant page of the UNECE Transport Division web site <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>.

* * *

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/9.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

The reports of the first to fourth sessions of the Administrative Committee, held since 1987, are contained in the following documents: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/4; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 5 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for its session.

3. ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may decide whether competent administrations of States which are

not Contracting Parties or representatives of international organizations which are not Contracting Parties, are invited to attend the session of the Administrative Committee as observers. In accordance with Annex 7, Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Convention, international organizations referred to above, which are competent for the subject dealt with in the Annexes of the Convention, shall have the right to participate as observers in the work of the Administrative Committee.

4. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/9.

The Administrative Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention. A list of Contracting Parties to the Convention is contained in the annex to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify this list.

Detailed information on the status of the Convention is available on the UNECE Transport Division web site: <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs>.

5. PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OF THE CONVENTION

Contracting Parties to the Convention have been invited by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE to submit proposals for amendments of the Convention. Such proposals will be circulated when received before the session.

Consideration of a new Annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for international road transport

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1; TRANS/WP.30/204; TRANS/WP.30/202; TRANS/WP.30/2002/19; TRANS/WP.30/200; TRANS/WP.30/198; TRANS/WP.30/2001/16; TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/194; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8; TRANS/WP.30/192; TRANS/WP.30/2000/16; TRANS/WP.30/2000/11.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall its consideration on this subject at its fourth session in October 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8). It may also wish to recall the detailed considerations made by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) at its sessions following the third session of the Administrative Committee in October 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/204, paras. 16-18; TRANS/WP.30/202, paras. 14-19; TRANS/WP.30/200, paras. 12-17; TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 20-24; TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 14-17; TRANS/WP.30/194, paras. 18-23; TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 10-13).

The Administrative Committee may also wish to recall that the objective of the new Annex 8 is to insert into the Convention complementing provisions to those already provided in

Annex 1 and to define, as a first step, the measures that need to be implemented in order to facilitate border crossing procedures for international road transport. Other border control provisions applying specifically to rail, inland water and possibly maritime and air transport might be included at a later stage. The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) had stressed in this context that the new Annex 8 should address in a comprehensive and consistent manner all major elements important for efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods, covering different types of cargoes, particularly perishable foodstuffs, road vehicles, drivers as well as border crossing procedures and infrastructures.

Considering this subject, the Administrative Committee may also wish to be informed about the latest activities of the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC) established in the framework of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) that had initially prepared the International Vehicle Weight Certificate for lorries that is also part of the new Annex 8 to the Convention.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the proposal for a new Annex to the Convention as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1. This document, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the UNECE Working Party WP.30, is largely based on document TRANS/WP.30/2001/16 that has already been considered by the Working Party at earlier sessions. Document TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/2003/1 takes account of these considerations and contains a number of new proposals for provisions for which in the past no consensus could be found in the Working Party. These proposals will be considered in detail by the UNECE Working Party WP.30 at its forthcoming session (4-7 February 2003) that will be held in conjunction with the present session of the Administrative Committee.

6. PROPOSALS OTHER THAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(a) Facilitation of border crossing procedures in international road transport

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed about progress made in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that had been prepared and signed by eleven Ministers of Transport of the States participating in the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI): Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Greece; Hungary; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Slovenia; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey.

This MoU on the facilitation of international road transport of goods stipulated *inter alia* that all Parties to the MoU should accede to the "Harmonization" Convention. It also established the SECI Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC), composed of representatives of the Parties to the MoU. The RRTC has prepared the concept and technical specifications of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate, part of the newly proposed Annex 8 to the Convention.

The next session of the RRTC hosted by Turkey will be held at Istanbul on 12 and 13 February 2003.

(b) Measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its consideration on possible measures to facilitate the world-wide implementation of the Convention in line with resolution No. 230 adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee on 4 February 1983 entitled "Technical assistance measures for the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods" (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8, paras. 25-26; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/6, paras. 22-25; TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/4, paras. 15-20).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 4, sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to decide on the date for its next session.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Administrative Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with Annex 7, Article 8 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report of its fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Annex

**CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER
CONTROLS OF GOODS
(21 October 1982)**

Armenia	Lithuania
Austria	Luxembourg
Azerbaijan	Netherlands
Belarus	Norway
Belgium	Poland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Portugal
Bulgaria	Romania
Croatia	Russian Federation
Cuba	Slovakia
Cyprus	Slovenia
Czech Republic	South Africa
Denmark	Spain
Estonia	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
France	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Georgia	United Kingdom
Germany	Uzbekistan
Greece	Yugoslavia
Hungary	
Ireland	European Community
Italy	
Kyrgyzstan	
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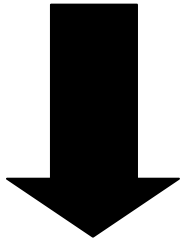
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