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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

(One-hundred-and-tenth session, 14 – 17 June 2005,
agenda item 9)

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2005 to 2009

Note by the secretariat

A. BACKGROUND

1. The Working Party, at its one-hundred-and-ninth-session, considered document TRANS/WP.30/2005/8 and decided to make a number of changes to the Programme of Work 2005-2009 with a view to providing more targeted and result oriented output and to enhance the layout of the Programme of Work in line with the request of the Inland Transport Committee. The Working Party also decided to include a continuous review of all Conventions and Agreements under its responsibility as well as to review commitments contained in Resolutions and Recommendations contained in the Programme of Work. In this context, a full list of all Conventions and Agreements under the responsibility of the Working Party is contained in annex 4 to the report of the one-hundred-and-ninth session (TRANS/WP.30/218). The Working Party also decided to launch a process of annual country reporting on issues relevant to the Working Party, provided that resources are available for such activity at national level. The secretariat was requested to finalize the Programme of Work in line with the views expressed and the above-mentioned issues and to elaborate a standard for the country reports.

B. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2005-2009

2. The Working Party may wish to consider the draft Programme of Work contained in the annex, prepared by the secretariat. In particular, the Working Party may wish to take note of the proposed changes to the Programme of Work with a view to meeting the requirements of the Working Party for a more targeted and result-oriented work plan. In particular, the Working Party may wish to consider the following issues, which the secretariat has revised or included in the draft:

- Inclusion of a periodic review of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party;
- Annual exchange of information amongst delegations on national developments concerning border crossing facilitation.

3. As regards the first bullet point, the Working Party may wish to consider document TRANS/WP.30/2005/25, prepared by the secretariat containing Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party. The Working Party may wish to decide on a review procedure in this context.

C. ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION

4. The Working Party may wish to consider including in its Programme of Work an annual exchange of information on national developments concerning border crossing facilitation. The Working Party may wish to consider which elements should be included in such reports.

5. The Working Party may wish to consider including the following standard elements in the reports:

- (a) Developments, trends and planning:
 - New legislation, procedures and best practices which in particular impact UNECE and other international legal instruments on border crossing facilitation;
 - Traffic developments, developments in the use of various UNECE legal instruments (e.g. figures on the use of TIR, Temporary importation, Container Conventions etc.);
 - New border posts.

(b) Obstacles, difficulties and infringements:

- Examples of type cases or specific cases where problems have arisen which could be of interest to other countries;
- Issues that could negatively impact existing UNECE legal instruments or issues that could be potential areas of interest/work for UNECE;
- General figures concerning infringements of UNECE legal instruments.

6. It is proposed that the reports, in general, should not be of a length of more than 1-1½ normal page. The contribution by delegations should be transmitted to the secretariat before the deadline for document submission for the annual spring session, i.e. considering that the dates of the spring session, at present, are around the beginning of February each year, the contributions should be transmitted to the secretariat before mid-November each year.

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Annex

Programme of work for the years 2005-2009¹

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.10: CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT

Harmonization and simplification of requirements for border crossing procedures concerning modes of inland and intermodal transport [Priority: 1]

Description:

- (a) Preparation and implementation and, where appropriate, review and modification of international legal instruments.
- (b) Simplification *and harmonization* of administrative formalities, documents and procedures.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport will pursue the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

- (a) Review of relevant Conventions and Agreements on border crossing facilitation under the auspices of the Working Party in order to ensure their *relevance and implementation as well as* coherence with other international or sub-regional treaties and to keep them in line with modern transport and border control requirements. Priority: 1

Output expected in 2005:

Analysis of the application of the following UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation: TIR Convention 1975; Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) Road Vehicles; [Customs Convention Concerning Spare Parts Used for the Repair of EUROPE Wagons; and Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport].

¹ Text in *italic* characters indicates newly proposed text; text in square brackets ([...]) refers to text proposed for deletion.

Consideration of the need for negotiating two model container pool agreements providing guidance to the transport industry and the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the provisions of the "Customs Container Pool Convention" covering international rail and international maritime transport.

(b) *Periodic review of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to confirming their usefulness and implementation as well as possibly adopting modifications where deemed necessary* Priority: 2

Output expected in 2005:

Initial review of all Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Working Party with a view to deciding on which Resolutions and Recommendations to focus in the coming year.

(c) *Study of the possible extension of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation to other regions, particularly relating to legal and administrative aspects.*

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2004:

Preparation and organization of regional and/or national workshops, possibly in cooperation with UNESCAP and UNESCWA and other relevant UN and international organizations, on the implementation of relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation, in particular in Asia and the Middle East.

(d) *Study of Customs questions with a view to simplification of Customs formalities and documents in the field of transport, in particular taking account of the possibility of electronic data interchange solutions, including UN/EDIFACT messages.* Priority: 1

Output expected in 2005:

Analysis and revision of the provisions of both a strategic and technical nature of the TIR Convention, in particular the provisions relating to the guarantee system with a view to enhancing the functioning and efficiency for both the public and private partners in the TIR system;

[Analysis of the impact on the TIR regime of the New Customs Transit System (NCTS) to be applied in the countries of the Common Transit System (European Community, EFTA and Visegrad countries) and] *Coordination of work with the relevant bodies within the European Community on integration of the TIR system in the New Customs Transit System (NCTS)* [this subject].

Continuation of work on phase III of the TIR revision procedure, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and on provisions for a modernized EDI-based Customs administration and control system.

- (e) Study of specific legal and other measures to combat fiscal fraud resulting from simplified Customs and other border crossing procedures, such as the TIR regime, including periodic review of the status of implementation of resolution No. 220 (prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by drug smugglers). Setting-up of mechanisms and administrative procedures for the regular exchange of information with other Governmental and non-governmental organizations to combat such fraud.

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2005:

Preparation of adequate instruments and measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and concerned national and international organizations to prevent fraud.

Activities towards implementation of the Recommendation adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 20 October 1995 on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets.

Exchange of intelligence among Customs authorities of Contracting Parties to relevant UNECE Conventions on border crossing facilitation on abuses with a view to identifying measures to combat such occurrences.

- (f) Analysis of difficulties encountered relating to border crossing formalities with a view to devising administrative procedures eliminating such difficulties. The analysis will cover health, phytosanitary, veterinary and quality controls, application of standards, public safety controls, etc., including the promotion of the implementation and extension of the scope of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 1982 (Harmonization Convention).

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2005:

[Study of the possibilities to prepare and negotiate] *Finalization of* a new annex to the "Harmonization Convention" on road transport, including possibly an international lorry weight certificate, in close cooperation with the Working Party on Road Transport.

Study of concrete measures facilitating border crossing procedures for railway transport in cooperation with the Working Party on Rail Transport, possibly through the preparation of a new annex on rail border crossing facilitation.

[(g) Study to facilitate formalities for container pools in international transport and follow-up activities within the framework of the Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers Used in International Transport. Priority: 2

Output expected in 2004:

Preparation and negotiation of two model container pool agreements providing guidance to the transport industry and the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the provisions of the "Customs Container Pool Convention" covering international rail and international maritime transport.]

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

[(a) Revision of the TIR Convention, 1975 with a view to stabilizing the TIR Customs transit procedure. Priority: 1

Output expected in 2004:

Continuation of work on phase III of the TIR revision procedure, focusing on the revision of the TIR Carnet and on provisions for a modernized, possibly EDI-based Customs administration and control system.]

(b) Study to facilitate railway transit traffic on the basis of the CIM and the SMGS Consignment Notes, including the preparation of a new Customs transit regime allowing the use of the CIM and the SMGS consignment notes as a Customs document.

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2005:

Preparation of a draft Customs transit convention covering international rail transport in [all COTIF and] SMGS member States.

Study the full integration of a harmonized Customs transit regime covering all COTIF and SMGS member States.
