## Main border crossing facilitation conventions

Artur Bouten
UNECE Sustainable Transport Division





#### On some major routes:

- 57 % of transport time is lost at border crossings
- 38 % of transport costs are due to unofficial levies
  - •Long waiting times at borders result in major <u>human</u> <u>suffering</u> for drivers blocked in queues for hours/days
  - harmful impact on the <u>environment</u>
- •Border waiting times also <u>cost billions</u> annually => increasing the cost of goods for the end consumer, not to mention lost business opportunities.

#### Border crossing facilitation is:

- •Key to international trade, exports and imports
- Essential for growth and competiveness
- •A driver of regional integration





## Efficient crossing borders requires:

- Appropriate and resilient infrastructure
- Reliable and harmonized international legal framework
- Harmonized or at least aligned procedures (e.g. customs)
- International cooperation and exchange of best practices

## Overview



- Harmonization Convention, 1982;
- CMR Convention, 1956 and eCMR Protocol, 2008
- ADR Convention, 1957;
- ATP Convention, 1970;
- Container Convention, 1972;
- Temporary Importation Convention for Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) vehicles.

## **Harmonization Convention, 1982**



- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods
- 58 Contracting Parties
- Latest accessions: Iran,
   Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
- Expressed interest to join: Pakistan





To facilitate cross border transport of goods through nationally coordinated, internationally harmonized, shorter, reduced formalities and controls of goods at borders

#### It covers:

- All goods moved across borders (exported, imported or in transit)
- All control services
- All modes of transport
- Specific provisions for certain transport modes and goods
- Also addresses certain issues with regard to vehicles and drivers



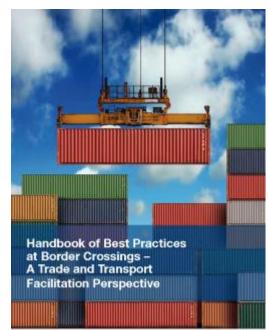
## General principles vs. detailed provisions

- Framework providing for a high degree of flexibility in organizing national and international cooperation
- No universal 'one size fits all' solution
- Examples of best practices are essential
- Integrated operational annexes on various aspects, such as harmonization of customs controls, medico-sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary or medico-sanitary controls, road transport and rail transport



#### Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings

- Reference material and more than 120 best practice examples at border crossings.
- It covers available legal instruments, inter-agency and international co-operation, balancing security and facilitation measures, processing of freight, risk management, design of border crossing points, use of ICT technologies, human resource management and benchmarking.
- Available at:http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publicati ons/OSCE-UNECE\_Handbook.pdf







# Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (1956) and the Additional Protocol to CMR concerning the electronic consignment note (2008)

## **Objectives**

 To facilitate international road transport..... through a commonly agreed transport contract, including contract document and liabilities.

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/cmr\_e.pdf http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/e-CMRe.pdf





## 1956 CMR: 55 CPs





## 1956 CMR

## **Benefits**

- Fair competition between carriers
- Lower international road transport costs, including insurance costs





## 1956 CMR

## **Key Provisions**

- Defines contract conditions
  - The contract document: the Consignment Note
  - The conclusion and performance of the contract of carriage
- Fixes carrier's liability limit in case of total or partial loss of goods or delay, 8,33 SDR per kilo
- Sets the framework for claims and actions

Photo credit: IRU





## 2008 e-CMR

## **Objective**

The 2008 Additional Protocol to the CMR (e-CMR) is the legal instrument which seeks to "modernize" the current system of paper consignment notes to electronic format.





## 2008 e-CMR: 17 CPs



#### **ADR**

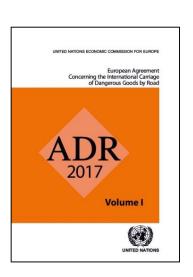


#### **AGREEMENT:**

- Done on 30 September 1957
- Entered into force on 29 January 1968

#### **ANNEXES A AND B:**

- Regularly amended since 1968
- Now amended every two years on the basis of UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Harmonized with other modal regulations (sea, air, rail, inland waterways)
- Latest edition in force since 1 January 2017



## ADR





**49 Contracting Parties** 

#### **Structure**



#### **Annex A**

- 1. General
- 2. Classification
- 3. List of Dangerous Goods
- 4. Use of packaging/Gas receptacles/Tanks
- 5. Consignment procedures (Labelling, Marking, Documents)
- 6. Construction, testing and approval of packaging/tanks
- 7. Transport operations

#### **Annex B**

- 8. Requirements for vehicle crews, equipment, operation and documentation
- 9. Requirements concerning the construction and approval of vehicles

## ADR = Safety + Security + Facilitation

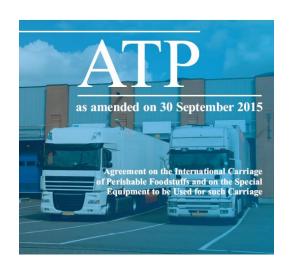


- Allows carriers of one country to carry dangerous goods from this country through and to any other Contracting Party. No additional requirements imposed by transit or destination countries;
- Mutual recognition of certificates:
  - Packaging certificates
  - Vehicle certificates
  - Tank certificates
  - Driver training certificates





## ATP Agreement



The Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage was adopted in 1970.

**Objectives**: Improve conditions of preservation of quality of perishable foodstuffs during carriage, particularly in international trade and promote the expansion of trade in perishable foodstuffs.

**Unwritten objectives**: Protecting food safety and preventing threats to human health from unsafe food.

## 50 Contracting Parties





## **ATP Agreement**

- The ATP is open to all UN Member States.
- Expressions of interest from as far afield as Japan, South Korea and China.





## ATP for international transport

- ATP applies if the point at which the goods are loaded and unloaded are in two different States and the point at which they are unloaded is situated in the territory of a Contracting Party.
- ATP applies even if the State where the goods are loaded is not a Contracting Party.
- For example for a refrigerated consignment shipped from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan, ATP would apply even though Turkmenistan is not a Contracting Party.



## ATP for international transport

This means that if Turkmenistan would join the ATP, countries exporting perishable foodstuffs to Turkmenistan would be expected to apply the high standards of the ATP.





## ATP Agreement

## **Use of ATP for domestic transport**



For example France, Italy and Slovakia

Most recently the Russian Federation where ATP is used for domestic road transport from April 2013.



## Thank you

Artur Bouten UNECE Sustainable Transport Division

> 8-14, Avenue de la Paix CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2433

Fax: +41 22 917 0614

Email: artur.bouten@un.org