

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Istanbul Convention and the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the ATA Convention met from 20 to 22 April 2015. On that occasion, the Administrative Committee:

### I. Opening of the Meeting

- Noted the Director of Compliance and Facilitation's opening remarks, in particular his concern that the Administrative Committee always faced an issue with respect to the quorum, despite the fact that temporary admission procedures were extremely important for trade facilitation, Customs-Business Partnership and the global supply chain.

(The Participants)

- Took note that the Istanbul Convention now had 67 Contracting Parties and that the presence of 23 Contracting Parties would constitute a quorum.
- Took note that the number of Contracting Parties to the ATA Convention was 63 and that the presence of 32 Contracting Parties would constitute a quorum.
- Noted the following participants:
  - (1) Contracting Parties to the Istanbul Convention:  
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Lithuania, Madagascar, Netherlands, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine.
  - (2) Contracting Parties to the ATA Convention:  
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United States.
  - (3) Observers:  
Armenia, Burkina Faso, Congo (Republic of the), Vietnam, BIC, ICC/WCF, IBAC, AIT/FIA, FIATA, UNECE, UN-OCHA, IFRC.
- Noted that the quorum for the ATA Convention had not been achieved, while the quorum for the Istanbul Convention had been achieved during the session.

### II. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

- Elected Mr. Matome Mathole, Customs Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Brussels, as Chairperson of the meeting and Mrs. Özlem Soysanli, Customs Counsellor, Embassy of Turkey in Brussels, as Vice-Chairperson.

### III. Adoption of the Agenda

- Adopted the draft Agenda, subject to the amendments proposed by Members.

- Noted that the Committee would first discuss items prepared for information purposes before discussing other items requiring decision.
- Held a brainstorming session on possible ways to solve the quorum issue, such as amendment of the Terms of Reference for the Administrative Committee of the Istanbul Convention and holding a meeting during the WCO Permanent Technical Committee sessions.
- Asked the Secretariat to communicate with Members to obtain further input on this issue, by means of a technical paper on current quorum regulations.

#### **IV. Intersessional Developments**

- Took note of the presentation by the Secretariat on intersessional developments, including two new Contracting Parties to the Istanbul Convention, namely Qatar and Indonesia.

#### **V. Accession to the Istanbul Convention**

- Took note of the presentation by Indonesia on accession to the Istanbul Convention. The Committee appreciated the presentation and welcomed Indonesia's accession.
- Concluded that the Secretariat would develop a model instrument and a model notification of reservations. The Committee asked the Secretariat to publish information on reservations in the revised Istanbul Convention Handbook, as well as on the WCO Web site.

#### **VI. eATA Project**

- Took note of the presentation given by the European Union (EU) on the draft eATA Utility Block. The Committee noted participants' comments on the draft eATA GNC Utility Block, including the challenges facing some issuing associations that may not yet have the capability to accept electronic applications for eATA Carnets.
- Accepted the draft eATA GNC Utility Block subject to amendments which may be proposed by the eATA working group. Therefore, the Committee agreed that the eATA working group would be convened for further development of the draft eATA Utility Block.
- Encouraged participants to join the proof of concept phase. The Committee asked the Secretariat to send a letter to all Contracting Parties to the Istanbul Convention, inviting them to enter this phase and confirm their commitment in writing. The Committee recommended that a copy of this letter be sent to Contracting Parties to the ATA Convention for information.
- Noted the explanation provided by Turkey on the proposal to amend the ATA Convention. The Committee noted comments by several Contracting Parties to the ATA Convention, in which they stated that they might not agree to the proposal despite supporting the general concept of electronic ATA Carnets.

- Concluded that the proposal should be discussed at a meeting, to be held in conjunction with the autumn sessions of the Permanent Technical Committee meeting.

## **VII. TIR Convention**

- Took note of the presentation by UNECE on the TIR Convention and the eTIR project, including pilot projects, financial arrangements and the merits of a centralized system.

## **VIII. WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)**

- Noted the Secretariat's explanation of the progress made in terms of supporting implementation of the TFA through the Mercator Programme.
- Took note of the Secretariat's explanation on the TFA requirements relating to temporary admission of goods. The Committee further noted the Secretariat's explanation of the Standards and Guidelines of Specific Annex G to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) and of the ATA system, based on the Istanbul Convention.
- Concluded that the RKC and the Istanbul Convention were compatible with the TFA and that the WCO would promote the Istanbul Convention as a tool to support effective implementation of the TFA.

## **IX. Carnets issued in 2014**

- Took note of the presentation by the ICC/WCF on the number of Carnets issued in 2014, the new countries having joined the chain (Bahrain and Indonesia), the goods covered by ATA Carnets and the claims handled during the year.
- Took note of the presentation by AIT/FIA on the operation of the CPD system, advantages of the use of CPD Carnets, the number of CPD Carnets issued in 2014 and the latest developments concerning the CPD system, such as new security measures to prevent the falsification of Carnets.

## **X. Customs-Business Partnership – Cooperation between national associations and Customs administrations**

- Confirmed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

## **XI. Annex A, Appendix II to the Istanbul Convention (CPD Carnet)**

- Took note of the explanation by UNECE and FIA/AIT on an amendment to the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles relating to Carnets used for CPD operations.
- Took note of the discussions and proposals by participants concerning an amendment to Appendix II to Annex A regarding the use of languages other than English or French on CPD Carnets.
- Concluded that the amendment to the Istanbul Convention in this regard would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **XII. Annex C to the Istanbul Convention (means of transport)**

- Took note of the brief background information and action required, as presented by the Secretariat, in response to the request by the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) regarding the interpretation of the terms “private use” and “commercial use”.
- Took note of the presentation given by IBAC with regard to its discussions with the EU on the issue of the interpretation of the terms “private use” and “commercial use”. After some deliberations, it was agreed that Members and IBAC would work with the Secretariat, especially on the commentaries of the relevant definitions, as part of the Istanbul Handbook review process. Members were encouraged to submit proposals for the review, including amendments to the Convention itself.

## **XIII. Annex B9 to the Istanbul Convention (relief consignments)**

### **(Interpretation of Article 32 of the Istanbul Convention)**

- Agreed to an interpretation of Article 32 of the Istanbul Convention whereby any new Contracting Party as well as existing Contracting Parties needed to comply with the same deadline for objections to the recommended amendment.

### **(Proposal to amend the Istanbul Convention)**

- Noted the proposal and the presentation made by Turkey to amend Annex B9 to the Istanbul Convention (relief consignments), as described in Doc. PA0098.
- Took note of the presentations given by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) regarding the changes and updates to be considered as part of this proposal and based on national experiences, feedback and needs expressed during the joint WCO/OCHA/IFRC seminars and by actors in the humanitarian field.
- Noted the minor changes made by the Secretariat to the proposal.
- Confirmed the need to update Annex B.9 to the Istanbul Convention. Given the number of clarifications sought concerning the proposal and the need for further consultation, and taking into account the explanations and the invitation to jointly improve the draft made by Turkey, the Committee decided that this item would be discussed at the next meeting.
- Agreed that participants would communicate in writing with the Secretariat to facilitate discussions on this matter.

## **XIV. Revision of the Istanbul Handbook**

- Noted the Secretariat’s explanation of the background to the creation of the Virtual Group for the revision of the Istanbul Handbook and concerns that the Virtual Group had not held active discussions.

- Noted participants' comments that the submission of inputs on the revised Istanbul Handbook would take time.

