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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS
AND ON THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR SUCH CARRIAGE (ATP)**

HANDBOOK

Foreword*

Transmitted by the Government of Spain

Proposal

It is proposed to modify the Foreword to the ATP Handbook as follows. Text to be deleted is struck through; new text appears in bold:

* The present document is submitted in accordance with the Programme of Work for 2008-2012 of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS/2008/11, Item 2.11 (f)) which calls for the "Elaboration of an ATP Handbook".

Foreword

1. The ATP Handbook comprises the Agreement itself and its Annexes with comments added where appropriate for clarification or additional explanation of the text.
2. Comments contained in the ATP Handbook are **recommendations** ~~not legally binding for Contracting Parties of the ATP.~~ They are, however, important for the interpretation, harmonization and application of the Agreement as they reflect the opinion of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
3. Comments are placed with the provisions of the Agreement to which they refer.
4. Comments ~~do not modify the provisions of the Agreement or of its Annexes but~~ merely make their contents, meaning and scope more precise.
5. Comments provide a means of applying the provisions of the Agreement and of its Annexes so as to take into account the development of technology and **global economic** requirements. ~~They may also describe certain recommended practices.~~

Justification

Done in consultation with the Association of Spanish Manufacturers, this proposal is intended to help apply the ATP Handbook with greater discernment.
