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Economic Commission for Europe**Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Seventy-first session**

Geneva, 16–17 October 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-first session*.*.*.*.***

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 16 and finishing around 6 p.m. on Thursday 17 October 2019, Room XII

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975.
3. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:
 - (a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board:
 - (i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board;
 - (ii) Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2019–2020;
 - (iii) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat;

* 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 official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html. During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** The full text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as well as a complete list of contracting parties to the TIR Convention, are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs.

Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=PtKrEW at the latest one week prior to the session. Prior to the session, delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

*** Please note that, exceptionally, the meeting will be convened over two days, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 October 2017.



- (iv) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars.
- (b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat:
 - (i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2018;
 - (ii) Interim financial statement for the year 2019;
 - (iii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat;
 - (iv) Budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2020.
- 4. Revision of the Convention:
 - (a) Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure – Annex 11 to the Convention;
 - (b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party;
 - (c) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board;
 - (d) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption;
 - (e) Recommendation to Annex 3 on a code system to report defect remarks in the certificate of approval.
- 5. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system.
- 6. Authorization for concluding an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union.
- 7. Best practices.
- 8. Other business:
 - (a) The International Road Transport Union external audit report and related matters;
 - (b) Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat;
 - (c) Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union and its Contribution Agreement;
 - (d) Date of next session;
 - (e) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (f) List of decisions.
- 9. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/144). The Committee will be informed that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, "a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the States which are contracting parties is required for the purpose of taking decisions". The number of States which are contracting parties to the convention is seventy-five.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/144

2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

The Committee will be informed about changes in the status of the convention and in the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Committee may wish to be informed that, with the recent accession of Oman, the TIR Convention now has seventy-six contracting parties. More detailed information on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

3. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board

(a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board

(i) *Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board*

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision of the Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), the secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its seventy-ninth (December 2018), eightieth (February 2019) and eighty-first (April 2019) sessions, for information and endorsement by the Committee (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/11; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/12 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/13). More information about the recent activities of TIRExB as well as about various considerations and decisions taken at its eighty-second (June 2019) and eighty-third (October 2019) sessions will be provided orally by the Chair of TIRExB.

Under this agenda item, the Committee may also wish to take note of the prices of TIR Carnets for the years 2012 to 2018, as communicated to TIRExB per the requirements of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 3 (vi) of the TIR Convention, and the analysis of the 2018 prices, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/14.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/11, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/12,
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/13, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/14

(ii) *Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2019–2020*

In line with the established practice, the Committee will be invited to approve the programme of work of TIRExB for 2019–2020 in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/15 and provide guidance on future activities and priorities of the work of TIRExB.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/15

(iii) *International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat*

The Committee will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, if any.

(iv) *National and regional TIR workshops and seminars*

The Committee will be informed about TIR workshops and seminars conducted and/or planned.

(b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat

(i) *Status report on the accounts for the year 2018*

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Committee.

¹ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

The Committee may wish to note that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations have formally finalized the accounts for 2018. The Committee will be invited to formally approve the status report on the accounts for 2018 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/16.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/16

(ii) *Interim financial statement for the year 2019*

In line with standing practice, the Committee may wish to take note of the provisional interim financial statement for 2019 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/17.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/17

(iii) *Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat*

The Committee may wish to recall that the audit certificate for the year 2018 recorded a deficit (i.e. less was received than initially transferred) of SwF 95,282.01, and that the Committee had decided to accept the proposal by IRU that the 2018 deficit be recorded in its accounts while underlining that the decision on the recording of the deficits in the IRU accounts for subsequent adjustment was taken on the basis of the explicit proposal from IRU, and that, under no circumstances, it could lead to any responsibility for the Committee or the ECE secretariat. Additionally, further to a request from the Russian Federation for access to the audit certificate, the secretariat stated that it would consult with relevant United Nations services to provide the audit certificate to contracting parties.

The Committee may wish to take note of the audit certificate of 2018, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/18.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/18

(iv) *Budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2020*

The Committee may wish to recall the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89, para. 38 and Annex II) and, in particular, the following steps:

(a) The ECE secretariat prepares a document comprised of the budget proposal established by TIRExB for approval by the Committee (September);

(b) The ECE secretariat informs IRU of the budget proposal and the net amount to be transferred and requests IRU to provide an operational forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in the forthcoming year (September);

(c) IRU provides the Committee with its forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in the forthcoming year and its internal calculation concerning the amount per TIR Carnet (September-October);

(d) The Committee approves the budget and the net amount to be transferred by IRU, and takes note of the forecast established by IRU. The Committee also approves the amount per TIR Carnet, calculated by the secretariat on the basis of the forecast provided by IRU (September-October);

(e) IRU transfers the net amount approved by the Committee to the ECE named bank account (mid-November).

The Committee will be informed about the activities of the ECE secretariat and IRU under items (a) – (c). Under item (d), the Committee will be invited to approve the budget and cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2020 as well as the net amount to be transferred by IRU (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/19). The Committee may also wish to be informed by IRU about the forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it

expects to distribute in 2020 and of its internal calculation concerning the amount per TIR Carnet (Informal Document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 12). The Committee may wish to approve the amount per TIR Carnet, which will be expressed in Swiss francs following the transfer of the above net amount to the ECE named bank according to the prevailing United States dollar - Swiss franc exchange rate on the day of the transfer.

Documentation

ECE/TRAN/WP.30/AC.2/2019/19, Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 12

4. Revision of the Convention

(a) Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure Annex 11 of the Convention

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it did not have time to go through all amendment proposals of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/9. The Committee asked the secretariat to prepare document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/9/Rev.1, based on the discussions held during the session with the request to disseminate it by electronic mail to all contracting parties for their consideration and comments at their earliest convenience but no later than 1 August 2019. The Committee requested the secretariat to consolidate all comments received and submit them as a formal document for consideration at its next session with the prospect of finalizing the text of the amendments to the body of the Convention and Annex 11 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/143, paras. 26 and 27).

Further to these instructions, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/20, with consolidated comments from delegations as well as document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/9/Rev.2, containing a further revision of the amendment proposals, taking into account, as far as possible, the comments submitted by delegations or the international organization.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/9/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/9/Rev.2,
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/20

(b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party

The Committee may wish to be informed that the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its 151st session (February 2019) adopted a comment to Article 1 (o) on the use of subcontractors by consensus and requested the secretariat to transmit the adopted comment to the Committee for endorsement (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/302, para. 24).

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/21 and endorse the new comment to Article 1 (o) of the Convention.

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), it considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/5, containing proposals to amend Article 49 of the convention with a new Explanatory Note as transmitted by the Working Party. Various delegations reiterated their support for the amendment proposals, whereas the delegation of the Russian Federation raised its concern with regard to the controls to be performed by the customs office of departure. The delegation of Azerbaijan supported, in principle, the proposal and was of the view that the second sentence should be reformulated in a less stringent way, to allow contracting parties more flexibility when imposing national conditions and requirements. In the absence of consensus, the Committee decided to revert to the issue at its October 2019 session, with a view to either adopt or reject the proposal entirely (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, paragraph 42).

The Committee is invited to revisit document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/5.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/5, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/21

(c) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), it continued its consideration of proposals to introduce the mandatory submission of data to the ITDB, drafted by TIRExB, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/12. Various delegations expressed their support and readiness to accept the amendment proposals. The delegation of Uzbekistan invited the Committee to consider the amendment proposals submitted by IRU as well. In that context, the Committee recalled the findings of TIRExB at its seventy-ninth session as elaborated by the Chair of TIRExB in her oral report. Due to a lack of time, the Committee decided reverting to the issue at its October 2019 session and recommended IRU to revisit the TIRExB assessment before deciding whether or not to submit its proposals in an official document, if it wishes them to be considered by the Committee. The Committee also took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 2 by the secretariat on granting IRU access to the ITDB. The Committee decided, provisionally, to adopt options A (ITDB-IRU databases comparison) and C (ITDB Web Service connection), on the understanding that the Committee would be provided with a full report of the progress achieved, highlighting, if required, any unwanted exposure of the data contained in the ITDB (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, paras. 44 and 45).

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/12 by the secretariat, document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/22 by the Government of Uzbekistan and document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/23 by IRU on the ITDB.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/12, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/22 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/23

(d) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption

The Committee may wish to recall that, so far, it has accepted proposals to amend Article 6, paragraph 1, Explanatory Note 0.6.2 and Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1, adjusting the existing wording to include the term “customs authorities or other competent authorities”, as well as proposals to amend Article 18 and to add a new Explanatory Note 0.18.3. The secretariat was requested to prepare a new document, listing all accepted amendment proposals so that the Committee, at its previous session could proceed with their formal adoption and consecutive transmission to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation among all TIR contracting parties (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 52).

At its previous session, due to a lack of time, the Committee decided to revert to this issue at its October 2019 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/143, para. 28).

Further to this request, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6/Rev.1 for formal adoption by the Committee. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the secretariat has tentatively amended the document, which now includes, in annex II, proposals to amend Article 20 and Explanatory Note 0.8.3 and, in annex III, proposals to amend the comment to Explanatory Note 0.8.3..

The Committee is invited to consider and formally adopt the accepted amendment proposals.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6/Rev.1

(e) Recommendation to Annex 3 on a code system to report defect remarks in the certificate of approval

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), due to a lack of time, it decided to revert to the issue of reviewing the recommendation at its October 2019 session. In the meantime, the Committee, once more invited delegations to conduct national consultations so as they could share their experiences with the Committee, in order

for it to make a balanced decision on how to further pursue the issue. (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, paragraph 47).

The Committee is invited to consider the issue at hand.

5. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), it authorized IRU to organize the functioning of an international guarantee system and to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the period 2020–2022 inclusive, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6.2. bis, Annex 8, Article 10 (b) and Explanatory Notes 0.6.2. bis-2 and 8.10 (b).

6. Authorization for concluding an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), it agreed to provide the secretariat a preliminary mandate to conclude the new agreement with a view to continue financing the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2020, subject to official confirmation at its October 2019 session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, paragraph 38).

The secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24 containing the draft ECE/IRU agreement for the period 2020-2022 inclusive, for consideration of the Committee and confirmation of the mandate to conclude the agreement.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24

7. Best practices

Due to a lack of time at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), the Committee decided to revert to document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/13, containing an updated version of the example agreement, at its current session.

The Committee is invited to consider and endorse the document and request the secretariat to include the updated example agreement between competent national authorities and the authorized national association in the next version of the TIR Handbook.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/13

8. Other business

(a) The International Road Transport Union external audit report and related matters

Due to a lack of time at its sixty-ninth session (February 2019), the Committee decided to revert to the issue at its current session.

The Committee is invited to resume its considerations of the issue at hand.

(b) Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat

Under this agenda item, the Committee will be informed by the secretariat about the follow-up to the decision of AC.2 at its sixty-fourth session to request the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), to carry out an audit of the accounts of TIRExB and the

TIR secretariat. In particular, the Committee may wish to consider the report by OIOS in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/25.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/25

(c) Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union and its Contribution Agreement

At the request of TIRExB, the Committee is invited to take note of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in computerizing the TIR procedure, signed by ECE and IRU on 6 October 2017 and its Contribution Agreement, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/26.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/26

(d) Date of next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the seventy-second session of the Committee on 6 February 2020. The Committee may wish to confirm this date.

(e) Restriction on the distribution of documents

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

(f) List of decisions

Following a decision by the Committee, a list of decisions will be attached to the final report.

9. Adoption of the report

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the convention, the Committee will adopt the report of its seventy-first session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the end of the session for adoption in all working languages.
