

Distr.: General  
1 February 2019

English only

---

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975**

#### **Sixty-ninth session**

Geneva, 7 February 2019

Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda

#### **Revision of the Convention**

#### **Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board**

### **Granting IRU access to the ITDB**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **I. Description of the situation**

1. At the sixty-eighth session of AC.2 (October 2018), the International Road Transport Union (IRU) submitted Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2018) No. 7 where delays on TIR transports due to incorrect or missing data on the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) were reported.

#### **II. Mandate**

2. At the sixty-eighth session of AC.2, IRU, stating that incidents had occurred due to data verification by some contracting parties from the ITDB, requested to be granted access to the ITDB so that it could also contribute to its proper application.

3. Further to the mandate from the Committee, the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB), at its seventy-ninth session (December 2018), considered the practical aspects of granting IRU access to the ITDB. The secretariat informed the Board that in parallel with the authorization of transporters according to Annex 9, Part II of the Convention, the access to the Holders Module of the ITDB had been granted only to competent authorities and associations. It was added that the access was granted under specific features assigned to each role such as associations' having writing permission and having access to only their own data. Therefore, the secretariat requested guidance from the Board on the features of the new profile to be developed for the international organization.

4. The Board members stated that in order to be able to decide about the issue, it was necessary to clarify which information, for which purposes and under which rights could be accessed by IRU. The Board was of the view that, when assessing the scope of access, it should be taken into account that the international organization was not part of the authorization process as stipulated by Annex 9, Part II. Additionally, the Board concluded

that any granting of access should be accompanied with a responsibility to take steps to contribute to establishing the accuracy of the data in the ITDB. The Board also pointed out that, when considering provisions of Annex 9, Part II, such contribution should be made via communication between the international organization and the national associations, and not between the international organization and competent authorities. The IRU representative stated that it would accept any responsibility only on the condition that a web service connection allowing automatic queries was set between the systems of IRU and the ITDB, and not by granting an account to IRU for access to the ITDB application. The Board, noting this remark, concluded that the technical aspects of the issue needed to be clarified by the Committee before taking further steps. The Board requested the secretariat to submit the issue to the Committee with a supporting document that elaborates various options.

5. When further considering Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2018) No. 7, the Board noted that the problems raised by IRU were caused by the fact that not all contracting parties respect their obligation under Annex 9, Part II for the submission of the Model Authorization Form (MAF) and annual lists to TIRExB. The secretariat informed the Board that forty-five countries had access to the ITDB either to enter or check data, that fifty-three out of sixty-two operational countries had data in the ITDB, although some needed to be updated, and that the remaining countries were mostly newly operational or not active users of the TIR system. The secretariat also stated that following the seminar held in June 2018 to raise awareness about the ITDB, some contracting parties started entering or updating data directly in the ITDB. The Board welcomed the statistical information by the secretariat and the progress achieved following the awareness-raising activities.

6. The Board concluded that, as part of the computerization of the TIR system, the ITDB should be kept as a reliable database with data-entry by the contracting parties, hence not relying on external sources of information. The Board, considering the start of eTIR operations in the near future, emphasized the importance of keeping the ITDB up-to-date and invited contracting parties to put every effort to that end even before the entry-into force of the amendment proposals drafted by TIRExB.

### **III. Possible technical solutions**

7. The ITDB was created based on the mandate from the TIRExB Terms of Reference, Article 8 (adopted by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session on 26- 27 February 1998). To fulfil this mandate, the following three distinct roles were created when developing the ITDB Holders Module:

8. The role of customs authorities:

- (a) Can see the data of all holders;
- (b) Can edit the holders from their country;
- (c) Can exclude foreign holders;
- (d) Can withdraw holders from their country;
- (e) Can approve/reject proposals from the association;
- (f) Receive notifications for new proposals, and exclusions of national holders excluded in other territories.

9. The role of national associations:

- (a) Can see the data of its own holders;
- (a) Can make proposals for new holders or update information on existing holders;

(c) Can make proposals for new withdrawals or update existing withdrawals (to rehabilitate a holder);

(d) Receives notifications for approved/rejected proposals, exclusions, withdrawals or end of activity status for any of its holders.

10. The role of the TIR secretariat:

(a) As administrator of the ITDB, it can perform all actions on behalf of customs authorities.

11. A role for the international organization was not created in the ITDB before, as the roles were created in line with the authorization process, as defined in Annex 9, Part II. As may be seen from above roles, a new role needs to be created to avail IRU access to the ITDB to see the data of all TIR holders.

### A. ITDB-IRU Data bases comparison

12. A comparison between databases was already proposed at the seventieth session of TIRExB, before the launch of the new ITDB, when the TIR secretariat proposed to make a comparison between the ITDB and the IRU databases, in order to assess divergences (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/9, para. 16). This proposal is still valid, and it could update the ITDB data base in an efficient and quick way. Furthermore, such a comparison between the ITDB and data bases of national customs authorities is already established practice.

13. The updating process according to this solution is described in the figure below.

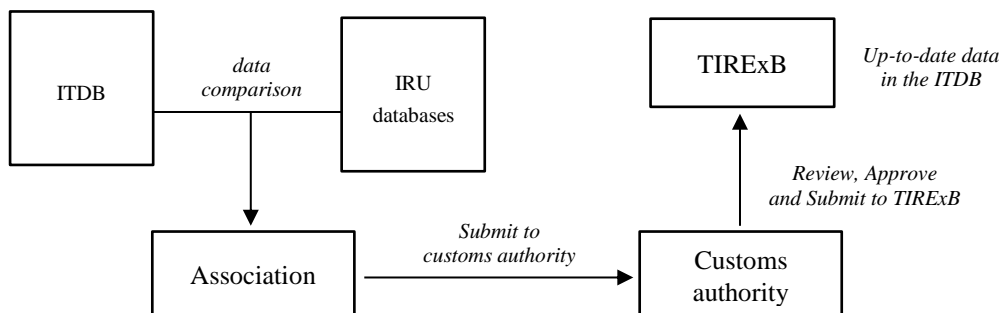


Figure 1.

14. The advantage of such a solution is that all the records of the ITDB will be corrected immediately after having performed the comparison once. Then the information for all current holders will be up-to-date. It is worthy to recall the TIRExB conclusion that any contribution to updating the data in the ITDB should be made via communication between the international organization and the national associations, and not between the international organization and competent authorities. Additionally, the Board concluded that the ITDB should not rely on external sources of information and invited contracting parties to put every effort to keep the ITDB up-to-date, even before the entry-into force of the amendment proposals drafted by TIRExB. Thus, following this solution for updating all records, it will be the responsibility of each contracting party to keep the ITDB up-to-date in the future.

## **B. ITDB Web Application access (manual check)**

15. In the event of a blockage of an operator, the international organization will be able to login into the ITDB and check if the holder's information is correct.

16. For this purpose, a new role in the ITDB must be created for the international organization, with the following specifications, taking into account Annex 9, Part II of the Convention and the conclusions of TIRExB:

- (a) Read-only access;
- (b) Can see the data of all holders.

17. When a divergence between the data is found, the international organization should inform the relevant association to take the appropriate action to correct the data.

## **C. ITDB Web Service connection (automated check)**

18. A third option could be to connect the international organization to the ITDB via a web service. This solution would have the advantage that the international organization be able to automatically check the database to identify inaccurate records.

19. However, the web service connection has the following restrictions:

(a) The ITDB Web Service was created in line with the eTIR Reference Model to avail contracting parties to check the status of a TIR Carnet holder during a TIR transport (implementation of I3 and I4 messages). Thus, the data provided in the I4 message contains only the information about the status of the holder (current status, active exclusions and active withdrawals). The I4 message does not contain the contact information (phone, fax, email address, contact person). Therefore, via the web service only some parts of the data in the ITDB could be reviewed.

(b) There are some security concerns on how the international organization might use the web service connection. In the event that a massive check of the holders takes place, there is the risk that it might saturate the connection of the server and bring the system down, which could be considered as an IT attack. Therefore, some additional security measures should be put in place.

(c) In connection with points (a) and (b), this option will require the secretariat to develop a new web service that eliminates above concerns, which means, the service will not be immediately available, and the secretariat will need to allocate resources.

20. This solution provides an automatic check of the database but not an automatic correction. The correction should take place through the process described in Figure 1, and the conclusions of TIRExB referred to in paragraph 14 need to be taken into account.

## **IV. Considerations by the Committee**

21. The Committee is invited to provide guidance on the way forward.

---