



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
16 March 2015

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

#### Sixty-first session

Geneva, 11 June 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-first session<sup>1, 2</sup>

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 11 June 2015, Salle V

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975.
3. Revision of the Convention:

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<sup>1</sup> 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 UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: [wp.30@unece.org](mailto:wp.30@unece.org)). Documents may also be downloaded from the UNECE Border Crossing Facilitation website [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://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).

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as well as a complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, is available on the UNECE website: [www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs). Delegates are requested to register online at: [www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration/](http://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration/) or to complete the registration form available from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division [www.unece.org/meetings/practical\\_information/confpart.pdf](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical_information/confpart.pdf) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest one week prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail ([wp.30@unece.org](mailto:wp.30@unece.org)). 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 UNECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

- (a) Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board;
  - (b) Amendment to the Convention with regard to the maximum level of guarantee per TIR Carnet;
  - (c) Proposals for a recommendation to Annex 3;
  - (d) Amendment proposals to the Convention: Vehicles with sliding sheets;
  - (e) Amendment proposals to the Convention: Audit requirements for an authorized international organization;
  - (f) Proposals transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation;
  - (g) Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure;
4. 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 2015–2016;
    - (iii) Survey on customs claims;
    - (iv) Monitoring the prices of TIR Carnets;
    - (v) International databases and electronic tools of the TIR secretariat;
    - (vi) 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 2014;
    - (ii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat.
5. Comments endorsed by the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport and the TIR Executive Board.
6. Best practices.
7. Other business:
- (a) Report of the third meeting of an informal group of countries discussing in detail the various aspects of an increased number and a wider geographical representation of membership of TIR Executive Board.
  - (b) Date of next session;
  - (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents.
8. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/124). 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 purposes of taking decisions". The number of States which are Contracting Parties to the Convention is sixty-eight.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/124

### 2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

The Committee may wish to recall that the proposals to amend Annex 1, Annex 6 as well as Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 3 (vi) of the Convention entered into force on 1 January 2015 for all Contracting Parties (C.N.426.2014.TREATIES-XI.A.16). The Committee will also be informed about any further changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of Contracting Parties, if any. More detailed information on these issues as well as on various Depository Notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Revision of the Convention

#### (a) Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board

At its fifty-eighth session, the Committee considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/5, transmitting, inter alia, proposals by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB): (a) to amend Article 42 bis with an Explanatory Note to clarify the meaning of the term "immediately" in the text of the Article, together with guidelines for communicating and introducing new control measures; (b) to amend the first comment to Annex 4 on the approval certificate so that it would not only allow for the use of A3 format, but also A4, under the condition that the pages would be secured by means of stamps on every page or secure bindings. The Committee decided to continue discussing the proposals in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/5 and, to that end, requested the secretariat to prepare a revised document for consideration at its next session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/119, para. 18).

Due to a lack of time, the Committee could not discuss the proposals at its fifty-ninth and sixtieth session. Therefore, the Committee is, once more, invited to consider and, possibly, adopt the proposals in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/5/Rev.1.

Furthermore, the Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/11, transmitting a proposal by TIRExB to introduce a new Explanatory Note and accompanying comment to Article 49 of the Convention, so as to widen the scope of greater facilities that Contracting Parties may grant to transport operators.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/5/Rev.1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/11

**(b) Amendment to the Convention with regard to the maximum level of guarantee per TIR Carnet**

The Committee may wish to recall its considerations at its fifty-fifth session (February 2013) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/113, para. 32). Due to a lack of time, the issue could not be discussed during previous meetings. The Committee decided to revert to this matter at the present session.

**(c) Proposals for a recommendation to Annex 3**

At its fifty-sixth session (October 2013), the Committee welcomed a revised document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/12/Rev.1 on an improved and logically structured code system to report defects in the certificate of approval. The Committee took note that the Turkish Customs administration had forwarded, to the secretariat, a set of photos of defects which can be used to illustrate the code system. Delegations were invited to liaise with their national technical experts in order to assess the validity and completeness of the proposed code system. The delegation of Belarus expressed concerns on the added value of codes which refer to “other issues not mentioned”. In view of the absence of the Russian and French translations of the document, the Committee decided to postpone discussion of this issue (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/115, para. 46). Following the session, the secretariat, with assistance of the Turkish Customs, made some improvements in the list of defects and issued a revised document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/12/Rev.2 which the Committee was invited to consider. So far, due to a lack of time, the Committee has not had an opportunity to revert to this matter.

The Committee is invited to continue its consideration of the amendment proposals to Annex 3 on the basis of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/2/Rev.2.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/12/Rev.2

**(d) Amendment proposals to the Convention: Vehicles with sliding sheets**

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/6, transmitted by the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), containing amendment proposals for a new design of a vehicle and container to the TIR Convention. The proposals have been prepared by the secretariat, in close collaboration with the International Association of the Body and Trailer Building Industry (CLCCR), as well as the Government of Germany.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/6

**(e) Amendment proposals to the Convention: Audit requirements for an authorized international organization**

The Committee is invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/12, transmitted by the Working Party and containing the checklist of all documents submitted by the International Road Transport Union to fulfil its obligations under Annex 9, Part III. The Committee may wish to note that the Working Party will transmit, in due course, amendment proposals on the possible new provisions (o), (p) and (q) to Annex 9, Part III of the Convention.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/12

**(f) Proposals transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation**

The Government of the Russian Federation has submitted proposals to amend various provisions of the body of the Convention as well as of Annex 9. The proposals are in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/14, prepared by the secretariat for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session. Due to a lack of time, the Committee has yet to discuss these proposals. At its sixtieth session, the Committee was of the view that some of these amendment proposals are in substance closely related to questions currently under discussion by TIRExB and that its expert opinion would substantively assist Contracting Parties in their deliberations. Thus, the Committee decided to mandate TIRExB to consider these proposals (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/123, para. 24). At the same time, the Committee is invited to discuss these proposals in more detail.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/14

**(g) Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure**

The Committee may wish to be informed about the latest developments in the computerization of the TIR procedure and related projects.

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its fifty-eighth session, it had considered the draft joint statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/6, prepared by the secretariat for endorsement by Contracting Parties. Although not principally opposed, the Committee could not reach consensus regarding certain parts of the statement and requested the secretariat to prepare a new draft for endorsement at the October 2014 session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/119, paras. 20–25). Further to this request, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/6/Rev.1 for consideration and, possibly, endorsement by the Committee. Due to a lack of time, the Committee could not consider this issue at previous sessions. Therefore, the Committee is invited to consider and, possibly, endorse the joint statement at the present session.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/6/Rev.1

**4. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board****(a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board****(i) Report by the Chair of 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. 14–15), the secretariat has reproduced the report of the TIRExB at its fifty-ninth (June 2014), sixtieth (September 2014) and sixty-first (December 2014) sessions (respectively documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/2 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/13) for information and endorsement by the Committee. More information about the recent activities of TIRExB as well as about various considerations and decisions taken on its sixty-second (February 2015) and sixty-third (April 2015) sessions will be provided orally by the Chair of TIRExB.

Furthermore, the Committee may wish to take note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/14 containing an overview of the main accomplishments of TIRExB during its 2013–2014 term of office.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/2,  
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/13, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/14

**(ii) Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2015–2016**

In line with the established practice, the Committee is invited to approve the programme of work of TIRExB for 2015–2016 and provide guidance on future activities and priorities of work of TIRExB. The Committee may wish to note that, because the new composition of the Board is scheduled to meet on 8–9 April 2015, the programme of work will only be available in English for the June session of the Committee, as Informal Document No. 6 (2015).

**Documentation**

Informal Document No. 6 (2015)

**(iii) Survey on customs claims**

Pursuant to its mandate to supervise, inter alia, the operation of the guarantee system (Annex 8, Article 10, paragraph (a)), TIRExB, at regular intervals, conducts a survey on the status of customs claims in all TIR Contracting Parties. As part of its activities for the 2013–2014 term of office, TIRExB launched the survey for the years 2009–2012. The consolidated results of the survey are in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/3, for consideration by the Committee. The Committee may wish to recall that, due to a lack of time, it did not consider this item at its previous session. The Committee may wish to revert to this issue at its current session, and, in particular, to provide guidance to TIRExB on the non-response to the survey by various major TIR Contracting Parties, despite repeated requests, thus negatively impacting the relevance of the survey as a supervisory tool for TIRExB.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/3

**(iv) Monitoring the prices of TIR Carnets**

The Committee, at its fifty-ninth session, welcomed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/10, transmitted by TIRExB on the pricing of each type of TIR Carnet issued by national associations. In the spirit of transparency, the Committee supported the publication of this information on the TIR website. Furthermore, the Committee was of the view that the function of TIRExB to monitor the price of TIR Carnets should go beyond the dissemination of these data. However, the Committee was not in a position to agree on the need for the publication of an analysis or on any specific methodology that would allow TIRExB to analyse the price information of TIR Carnets in detail. Consequently, the Committee requested Contracting Parties to send suggestions to the secretariat not later than by 15 November 2014.

Upon the request of the Committee (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/121, para. 16), the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/4, containing an assessment by the secretariat and, possibly, the suggestions received from Contracting Parties on the need for an analysis or a specific methodology for TIRExB to analyse the price information of TIR Carnets in detail. The Committee may wish to recall that this item was not discussed

at its sixtieth session, due to a lack of time. The Committee may wish to resume its discussions on this item at its current session.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/4

#### **(v) International databases and electronic tools of the TIR secretariat**

The Committee will be informed about the status of transmitting data to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) as well as about the progress made in implementing ITDB online+ and other IT projects managed by the TIR secretariat.

#### **(vi) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars**

The Committee will be informed about 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 2014**

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. The Committee may wish to note that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations have formally finalized the accounts for 2014. The Committee is invited to formally approve the status report on the accounts for 2014 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/15.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/15

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

The Committee may wish to recall that the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2015 were approved by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/121, para. 21). The Committee will be informed about the transfer of the required funds for the year 2015 by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to the TIR Trust Fund. At its fifty-ninth session, the Committee also approved the amount per TIR Carnet (US\$ 0.60, see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/121, para. 22). This amount is to be expressed in Swiss francs following the transfer of the funds according to the prevailing US dollar–Swiss franc exchange rate on the day of the transfer. The Committee may wish to take note of the amount per TIR Carnet in Swiss francs.

In addition, 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 2), according to which

"...

(8) The IRU maintains a separate account detailing the number of TIR Carnets distributed and the related amounts received;

(9) The IRU auditor produces an audit certificate providing an opinion of the above-mentioned account for the year in question showing the amount transferred and the total amount actually invoiced (15 January);

(10) The difference between the two amounts will need to be adjusted a posteriori;

(11) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if there is an excess (i.e. more was received than initially transferred), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, will be informed and the IRU shall transfer the excess to the UNECE named bank account before 15 March. This amount will be reflected in the UNECE TIR account to be taken into account for the next budget year;

(12) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if there is a deficit (i.e. less was received than initially transferred), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, and on the proposal of the IRU, shall approve the appropriate action, which shall be either:

(a) a recalculation of the amount per TIR Carnet referred to in Annex 8, Article 13.1, or

(b) the deficit will be recorded in the IRU account referred to above and shall, on the basis of a proposal from the IRU as endorsed by the Administrative Committee, be subsequently adjusted."

In view of the above, the Administrative Committee will be informed of the audit certificate for the year 2014 and to approve the appropriate action according to items 11 or 12 of the above procedure.

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its fifty-ninth session, it provisionally approved the request by the secretariat to allow, exceptionally, for the transfer by IRU of additional funds to the TIR Trust Fund to cover the costs of hiring an IT expert as well as purchasing infrastructure under the joint UNECE/IRU eTIR Pilot Project, subject to the confirmation of the exact amount of the transfer (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/121, para. 23).

The Committee will be informed of the exact amount of the transfer and is invited to confirm its approval of the exceptional transfer of funds.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89

### **5. Comments endorsed by the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport and the TIR Executive Board**

The Committee will be informed about a new comment to Article 23 of the Convention, elaborating other options than escorts to ensure the safe journey of transported goods, prepared by TIRExB. The Committee may wish to endorse the new comment and request the secretariat to include it in the next revised edition of the TIR Handbook.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/16

### **6. Best practices**

#### **Use of subcontractors**

At its fifty-sixth session (October 2013), the Committee considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2013/13 which provides an overview of all considerations by TIRExB and the Committee on the issue of subcontractors since 2005, as well as proposing two alternative comments on the issue: one prepared by the secretariat and the other one drafted by the Republic of Belarus. Various delegations expressed their concerns about the concept of subcontractor in the TIR Convention in general and the liability of the TIR Carnet holder in particular, as well as the application of Article 38 in case a subcontractor is



involved. They were also interested to know more about the role of the guarantee chain in accepting liability for TIR Carnets used by subcontractors. In particular, the question was raised if a national association would assume liability for a TIR Carnet issued to one of its holders, but used by a subcontractor from another country. Due to lack of time, the Committee has not been able to continue its discussions on this issue. The Committee is invited to revert to its discussion on the issue.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2013/13

### **7. Other business**

(a) **Report of the third meeting of an informal group of countries discussing in detail the various aspects of an increased number and a wider geographical representation of membership of the TIR Executive Board**

The Committee may wish to be informed by the Chair of the informal group about the results of its third and fourth meetings. These were informal and took place during the sessions of WP.30 and prior to the sessions of the Committee in February and June 2015, respectively.

(b) **Date of next session**

The UNECE secretariat has made the necessary arrangements to hold the sixty-second session of the Committee on 8 October 2015. The Committee may wish to confirm this date.

(c) **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.

### **8. Adoption of the report**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Committee will adopt the report of its sixtieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE 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.