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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 30-31 Mai 2013

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Reference Model of the TIR procedure:

Contributions of the network of eTIR focal points

Summary of the activities of the network of eTIR focal points

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. At its 124th session in February 2010, the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30) supported the secretariat's call to organize activities of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1 or Expert Group) at long distance, by means of a network of focal points for eTIR (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/248, para. 22). At its 125th session, it stressed the importance for every Contracting Party to nominate a focal point for the eTIR project and to inform the secretariat accordingly (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/250, para. 19). This document presents the status of the network of eTIR focal points and summarizes its activities since the twenty-first session of the GE.1.

II. Members of the network of eTIR focal points

2. The following thirty-one Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention have nominated at least one eTIR focal point: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan. The e-mail

addresses of the focal points are available on the eTIR website (www.unece.org/trans/bcf/etir/focals.html).

III. Information received from the network of eTIR focal points

3. Since the twenty-first session of the Expert Group, eTIR focal points have not communicated to the secretariat any issue or input to be brought to the attention of GE.1.

IV. Queries to the network of eTIR focal points

4. At its 21st session, GE.1 requested the secretariat to consult with / inform the network of eTIR focal points on the following issues.

a. Cost Benefit Analysis of the eTIR system

5. On 18 December 2012, the secretariat sent to eTIR focal points the email reproduced in Annex A, asking them if they had any comments on Informal document No. 12 Rev.1 (2012), the revised final version of the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the eTIR Project, and asking the if they wish to participate in the drafting of a summary of the consultants' CBA, in combination with an assessment of the limitations of the analysis.

6. eTIR focal points had no comments on Informal document No. 12 Rev.1 (2012) and did not propose to contribute to the summary document. Consequently, the secretariat prepared and published the summary in Informal document GE.1 No.2 (2013) on 25 January 2013, as requested by the Expert Group.

b. International declaration mechanisms

7. On 7 March 2013, the secretariat sent to eTIR focal points the email reproduced in Annex B, asking if they had any comments on Informal document GE.1 No. 10 (2012)/Rev.1, containing the revised version of the proposal to introduce international declaration mechanisms in the eTIR project.

8. eTIR focal points had no comments on the document. Consequently, the secretariat introduced the proposed modification in version 4 of the eTIR Reference Model, as requested by the Expert Group.

c. Comparison of E9 message with national requirements

9. On 8 March 2013, the secretariat sent to eTIR focal points the email reproduced in Annex C, asking them to compare the E9 message with their national requirement (i.e. the national message allowing holders to send the TIR Carnet data electronically).

10. eTIR focal points from the countries listed in table 1 replied to the secretariat request. The answers received have been used to prepare Informal document GE.1 No.5 (2013).

Table 1
Countries replying to NeTIRFP Q.6 (8 March 2013)

Countries

Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia

V. Further considerations

11. GE.1 may wish to take into account the outcomes of the consultations with the network of eTIR focal points as presented in this document.

Annexes

A. Email sent on 18 December 2012 to eTIR focal points

Subject: Cost Benefit Analysis of the eTIR system

Dear eTIR focal points,

At its twenty-first session, GE.1 considered Informal document No. 12 (2012), containing the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the eTIR Project. GE.1 took note that, apart from a few mistakes in the calculations and a lack of textual consistency, the CBA was final. It also agreed on the methodology used by the consultants, but felt that some costs, e.g. training, and indirect benefits were missing from the calculations. Finally, GE.1 was of the view that, contrary to the consultants' conclusions and recommendations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) solutions should be preferred to a privately managed Platform as a Service (PaaS). It also was of the view that having Customs data stored in a data centre, not subject to specific national legislation, seems preferable.

At the request of GE.1, please find below the link to Informal document No. 12 Rev.1 (2012), in which the secretariat made all the requested corrections and editing, in collaboration with the consultants.

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/adhoc/conc_tech/documents/id12-12r1e.pdf

For your information, at the request of GE.1, the secretariat is also currently preparing a new document for the next session of GE.1, containing a summary of the consultants' CBA, in combination with an assessment by the secretariat of the limitations of the analysis, i.e. the missing costs and benefits, as well as recommendations. Would you like to contribute to the first draft of that document, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Furthermore, please also note that the report of the 21st session is available in English on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/wp30/documents/ECE-TRANS-WP30-2013-05e.pdf>) and will also be published in French and Russian before the next WP.30.

Finally, allow me to wish you all a very happy holiday season and all the best for 2013!

Best regards,

André

cc: participants to the 20th and 21st sessions of the GE.1

B. Email sent on 7 March 2013 to eTIR focal points

Subject: NeTIRFP Q.5 International declaration mechanisms

Dear eTIR focal points,

At its 21st session, the Expert Group welcomed the new proposal to introduce international declaration mechanisms in the eTIR project, as presented in Informal document GE.1 No. 10 (2012). Recalling a key principle of the eTIR project, i.e. that the eTIR international systems avoids the multiplicity of direct Customs to Customs connections, the Expert Group requested removing the direct secure system to system connections between

Customs administrations from the Customs international declaration mechanisms option. Consequently, the secretariat was requested to revise Informal document GE.1 No. 10 (2012) and circulate it to eTIR Focal Points before introducing the changes into version 4 of the eTIR Reference Model.

As a consequence, please find attached Informal document GE.1 No. 10 (2012)/Rev.1 for your consideration. Please provide the secretariat with your comments on the document, if any, before 15 April 2013.

Would you have questions on the document please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Kind regards,

André

(See attached file: id12-10rev1.pdf)

cc: participants to the 21st session of the GE.1

C. Email sent on 8 March 2013 to eTIR focal points

Subject: NeTIRFP Q.6 Comparison of E9 message with national requirements

Dear eTIR focal points,

At its 21st session, the Expert Group noted that in their current efforts to computerise the national/regional management of TIR operations, various countries are requesting the electronic submission of TIR Carnet data. Unfortunately, and possibly due to lack of international coordination, the data requested by different countries are not the same, thus complicating the data submission by TIR Carnet holders and possibly endangering the future acceptance by all TIR Contracting Parties of standard declaration messages, i.e. the E9 message. Therefore, the Expert Group requested the secretariat to ask eTIR Focal Points to compare the data contained in message E9 with their national data requirements for the TIR procedure.

Therefore, if your country allows/requests TIR Carnet holders to submit TIR Carnet data electronically, you are kindly invited to undertake the comparison of the E9 message with your national requirement (i.e. the national message allowing holders to send the TIR Carnet data electronically).

To facilitate the comparison, please find attached an Excel file containing all data elements in the new E9 message (aligned with WCO Data Model v.3.3). Columns A to I contain information about each of the data elements (e.g. cardinality, format, code list,...). Please indicate in Column J (Usage), for each data element, if it is present in the electronic message used your country. Please indicate the character "R" when the data element is required, "O" when it is optional, "D" when it is dependent/conditional to a rule and "-" (dash) when it is not part of your message. Please insert your remarks (e.g. indicating different format or cardinality, rules,) in column K (Remarks). Furthermore, would you require additional data element that are not part of the E9 message, please fill in as much information as possible about those data elements in the "additional data elements" tab of the Excel file.

On the basis of the contributions send before 30 April 2013, the secretariat will prepare a summary document for the 22nd session of the GE.1.

I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm that the 22nd session of the GE.1 will take place in Geneva on 30 and 31 May 2013.

Would you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Kind regards,

André

(See attached file: E9 comparison.xlsx)

cc: participants to the 21st session of the GE.1
