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Item 4 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

**Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
(TIR Convention, 1975):**

Revision of the Convention – Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

Transmitted by the Government of Ukraine*

The Secretariat reproduces below a document transmitted by the Government of Ukraine containing recommendations on computerization of the TIR procedure.

* The present document contains the text submitted to the Secretariat reproduced without any changes.

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Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Computerization of the TIR procedure is the objective outcome of the general trends towards automation of the maximum number of processes and mechanisms in the framework of economic globalization and the development of world trade. It should be emphasized that computerization should make it possible:

- To achieve maximum efficiency in the transmission, processing, analysis and storage of information;
- To ensure a reliable level of protection of confidential information and to prevent disclosure of such information to any unauthorized party, thus facilitating efficient exchange between all stakeholders towards the optimization and acceleration of the processes;
- To further secure the TIR System.

The above objectives are relevant to the international transport of goods.

Over recent years, IRU, in cooperation with the customs authorities of some of the Contracting Parties, has initiated and ensured the practical implementation of software products and applications that have made it possible to reach a significant level of computerization in certain aspects of the TIR procedure.

It should be noted that IRU and its member associations have pursued the development and practical implementation of these applications on their own initiative and using their own financial resources.

Meanwhile, these initiatives and practical steps towards computerization of the TIR procedure are in fact steps towards implementation of the general e-TIR concept.

The use of such software products has been proved effective by their practical application in the daily work of the customs authorities of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention. They also allow customs authorities to computerize some parts of their procedures, as is the case, for example, in Ukraine.

Furthermore, some Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, in cooperation with IRU, are considering conducting local pilot projects at national or international level on the issuance and use of e-TIR Carnets for the international transport of goods.

It should be noted that discussion is continuing as to the most appropriate legal basis for the use of e-TIR Carnets (i.e. amendments to the existing TIR Convention or the development of a separate protocol). These initiatives may come to fruition in the medium term.

Considering the above and taking account of the need to develop, as far as is possible, a common approach for the Contracting Parties, the Ukrainian delegation has proposed that appropriate recommendations on computerization of the TIR procedure be prepared in the short term by AC.2.

Recommendation

Potential elements of automation and computerization of the TIR procedure

Recommendation adopted by the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

The Administrative Committee,

Recognizing the need to develop and ensure a common approach on the part of the Contracting Parties and IRU to the introduction of the most realistic, convenient and effective computerized solution in the interests of the TIR system;

Emphasizing that the computerized solution to be agreed should:

- Provide maximum protection and safeguard the computerized systems already developed by customs authorities, IRU and its national associations;
- Make as much use as possible of current best practice in order to minimize changes to existing processes as far as possible and to ensure their prompt introduction at minimum cost to all partners;
- Be simple and easy to implement for all present and future TIR Contracting Parties who so wish;

Taking into account the urgent need to provide a legal framework for the computerization of the TIR procedure;

Recommends that, in the framework of developing the e-TIR concept, the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and IRU, under the supervision of WP.30, do the following within 24 months:

- Firstly, analyse the processes that still need to be computerized and/or interconnected;
 - Secondly, identify a pilot corridor to be used to test the new computerized system and introduce such a corridor in practice in willing Contracting Parties;
 - Thirdly, publish guidelines and technical documentation that will enable all Contracting Parties who so wish to implement and adopt the computerized solution;
 - Finally, take all necessary steps to determine the modifications required to the TIR Convention or to adopt a separate protocol for that purpose as the highest priority.
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