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Economic Commission for Europe

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

Technical Implementation Body

Sixth session

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Item 5 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda

eTIR conceptual, functional and technical documentation

Version 4.4

Extension of the usage of the accompanying document

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction and mandate

1. At its ninety-eighth session (October 2023), the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) welcomed an informal document transmitted by the Government of Türkiye, on a possible new Explanatory Note to Annex 11 introducing the usage of the eTIR accompanying document(s) en route or at destination in countries that have not yet interconnected with the eTIR international system.

2. While TIRExB expressed general support for the idea, which would bring further benefits to countries which have not interconnected their system to the eTIR international system, it also recalled that the functional, procedural and potential legal changes that this would imply might need to be further analysed before the new explanatory note can be submitted to AC.2.

3. At its ninety-ninth session (December 2023), TIRExB indicated that the proposed Explanatory Note could benefit from a few improvements, which will be transmitted to the secretariat for a revision of the document. TIRExB remained positive toward the idea underlying the Explanatory Note but also stressed that before it would be submitted to AC.2 and, possibly, included in the TIR Convention, the following issues would have to be addressed:

- The placement of the explanatory note within Annex 11 will require considerations on the nature of this new procedure. The current suggestion to have it as an Explanatory Note

to Article 10 paragraph 2 assumes it will be considered as a fallback procedure, thus considering the lack of interconnection will be considered as a technical issue.

- Possible need for multiple copies of the accompanying document allowing the customs authorities not interconnected to keep one copy of the accompanying document.
- How to resolve possible complications for customs officers in countries not yet interconnected using this procedure, including, but not limited to, the need to stamp the accompanying document(s), verification of its authenticity and manual comparison with any advance data received electronically.
- Any validation mechanism for the accompanying document needs to be secure and will require the implementation of an authentication mechanism for customs officers as well as, possibly, the management of users (either internationally or at national level by means of dedicated “superusers”).
- Clarification on whether additional loading in countries not yet interconnected should be allowed or not.
- Whether a reservation box needs to be included on the accompanying document.
- A clear procedure regarding this new usage of the accompanying document should be included in the eTIR specifications. To that end, the Board suggested that TIB should be involved in preparing the required amendment which would clarify all the conceptual, functional and technical details that would allow to put in practice this new provision.

II. Considerations by TIB

4. TIB might wish to consider the idea presented above and, possibly, instruct the secretariat to present a concrete description of the procedure and the required amendment to the eTIR specification, at one of its next sessions.
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