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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

(Thirty-first session, 25 and 26 October 2001,
agenda item 3 (a) (v))

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

Activities of the TIRExB

**Approved Customs offices for TIR operations:
Results of a survey among Contracting Parties**

Note by the TIR Secretary

1. The TIRExB, at its first session (26 March 1999), has decided to study possible ways and means for the establishment and maintenance of an international databank on approved Customs offices for accomplishing TIR operations (Customs offices of departure, Customs offices en route, Customs offices of destination) that would be available on-line for all interested parties, as prescribed by the Terms of Reference of the TIRExB.
2. The Board also took note that, in line with Article 45 of the Convention, publication of a list of the above Customs offices is an obligation of each Contracting Party. In this regard the TIR Secretary was requested to survey all Contracting Parties with a view to obtaining information on the availability of such lists and their delivery platforms (paper, database, web site, etc.).

3. Following this request, the TIR Secretary has distributed a questionnaire among Contracting Parties with which a TIR operation can be established. The detailed replies to the survey are given in the annex to this document and are summarized below.

4. 30 out of 49 Contracting Parties have replied to the questionnaire. Furthermore, information on 4 other countries has become available to the TIR Secretary from different sources, bringing the number of Contracting Parties covered to 34.

5. 17 countries (50 %) either have already put or are about to put lists of approved Customs offices on the Internet. 11 countries (32 %) keep their lists on paper only. Some Contracting Parties acknowledged that they had never published such lists.

6. Many countries, instead of replying to the questionnaire as such, have simply sent to the TIR Secretary corresponding lists on paper or on diskettes. This seems to indicate that these Contracting Parties are looking forward to assistance from the TIRExB and TIR secretariat in maintaining and publishing a respective international databank as, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall coordinate and foster the exchange of information between competent authorities of Contracting Parties, associations and international organizations.

7. Taking into consideration these survey results, the TIRExB proposes, as a first step, to establish a web page providing links to the relevant web sites of all those countries that are already maintaining listings of approved Customs offices. As a second step, the TIR secretariat will incorporate into this web page information on approved Customs offices available with the TIR secretariat (on paper or in electronic form) on the basis of a standard layout. This layout could contain, for example, the following data elements:

- (0) Name of a Customs office;
- (1) Code according to the national system of classification;
- (2) Type of the Customs office (e.g. departure and/or destination and/or en route);
- (3) Border (for Customs offices en route, e.g. Belarus/Poland);
- (4) Address including relevant road and/or corridor numbers, if any (E-45, etc.);
- (5) Telephone number, fax number and e-mail address;
- (6) Opening days and hours, public holidays (if any);
- (7) Other control facilities (veterinary, phytosanitary, etc.) and their opening hours;
- (8) Supplementary facilities;
- (9) Other comments.

8. Finally, the layout of the database as well as the procedure for its updating would need to be established. It should be noted in this context that transmission of any information on approved Customs offices is not stipulated in the Convention and thus would be optional for Contracting Parties. For this reason, it might be difficult to achieve strict conformity with any proposed data format.

9. The TIR Administrative Committee may wish to take a decision on the issue and give guidelines to the TIRExB and TIR Secretary with regard to the establishment and maintenance of an international databank on approved Customs offices for accomplishing TIR operations.

Annex

| Country | Reply received | Most advanced form in which a list of Customs offices is available | Comments |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Albania | yes | paper | |
| Austria | yes | website | in German |
| Azerbaijan | no | | |
| Belarus | no | file | |
| Belgium | yes | website | |
| Bulgaria | yes | file, website soon | |
| Croatia | yes | file, website soon | |
| Cyprus | yes | paper | only 3 offices |
| Czech Republic | yes | website | in Czech |
| Denmark | yes | file, website soon | |
| Estonia | yes | website | |
| Finland | no | | |
| France | yes | paper, file soon | |
| Georgia | no | | |
| Germany | yes | file | |
| Greece | yes | paper | |
| Hungary | yes | file, website soon | |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | no | | |
| Ireland | no | | |
| Israel | no | | |
| Italy | yes | file | |
| Jordan | no | | |
| Kazakhstan | no | file | |
| Kuwait | no | | |
| Kyrgyzstan | no | paper | |
| Latvia | yes | website | in Latvian |
| Lebanon | no | | |
| Lithuania | yes | website | |
| Luxembourg | no | | |
| Morocco | no | | |
| Netherlands | yes | website | |
| Norway | yes | website | in Norwegian |
| Poland | yes | file, website soon | |

| Country | Reply received | Most advanced form in which a list of Customs offices is available | Comments |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| Portugal | yes | paper | |
| Republic of Moldova | no | | |
| Romania | yes | paper | |
| Russian Federation | no | file | |
| Slovakia | yes | paper | |
| Slovenia | no | | |
| Spain | no | | |
| Sweden | yes | website | |
| Switzerland | yes | paper | |
| Syrian Arab Republic | yes | paper | |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | yes | paper, website soon | |
| Tunisia | no | | |
| Turkey | yes | file, website soon | |
| Ukraine | yes | website | access upon registration, website partially in Ukrainian |
| United Kingdom | yes | file | |
| Uzbekistan | yes | paper | |