



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/75
29 December 2004

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
TIR CONVENTION, 1975 ON ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

(14 and 15 October 2004)

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
– Attendance	1-4
– Adoption of the agenda	5 and 6
– Status of the TIR Convention, 1975	7-10
– Activities and Administration of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)	11-34
– Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2005	35 and 36
– Authorization for the organization and functioning of the TIR guarantee system in the year 2005	37 and 38
– Authorization for the conclusion of an Agreement between the UNECE and the IRU	39-42
– Functions and Roles of the TIRExB, the TIR secretariat and the IRU	43-45
– Revision of the Convention	46-48
– Other proposals for Amendments to the Convention	49-58
– Application of the Convention	59-61
– TIR Handbook	62-64
– UNECE Border Crossing Facilitation and TIR Web Site	65
– Other business	66 and 67
– Adoption of the Report	68

* * *

REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Committee held its thirty-seventh session from 14 to 15 October 2004 in Geneva.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Jordan; Lithuania; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Russian Federation; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States of America. Representatives of the European Community (EC) were also present.
3. The following non-governmental organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).
4. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 1.

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74/Corr.1;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69/Corr.2.

5. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda as prepared by the UNECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74 and Corr.1).
6. The Administrative Committee noted that document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69/Corr.2 was not available in all languages. The Committee decided to deal with the issue reflected in the corrigendum at its next session.

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/74, point 2.

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/75.

7. The Administrative Committee was informed of the situation concerning the geographical scope and the number of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. It noted that the Convention has 65 Contracting Parties and that, according to information provided by the IRU, TIR operations can be established in 55 of these Contracting Parties.

8. The Administrative Committee took note that, with Depositary Notification C.N. 648.2004.TREATIES.1, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has informed that the amendment to Article 26, para. 1 of the Convention, as adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee at its thirty-first session in October 2001, has come into force on 19 September 2004.

9. The Administrative Committee was informed that the list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, of countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established and of national associations issuing TIR Carnets and providing guarantee coverage, had been updated with the assistance of the IRU. The list is contained in Annex 1 to the present report.

10. Detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on the various Depositary Notifications is available on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIREXB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/74, point 3.

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/14; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/15; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/16; Informal document 4 (2004).

11. The Chairman of the TIRExB reported on the recent activities of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as well as on the outcome of the twenty-third (June 2004) and twenty-fourth (October 2004) sessions of the TIRExB.

12. The Administrative Committee endorsed the reports of the twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the TIRExB (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/14; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/15; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/16). The Administrative Committee

considered the recommendations on effective communications between national competent authorities and national guaranteeing associations, which was annexed to the report of the twentieth session. The Committee endorsed this with some minor modifications as a best practice as contained in the annex to that report.

13. The Administrative Committee mandated the TIRExB to consider the questions submitted by the Working Party concerning amendment proposals of a technical nature and to report back to the Working Party with its findings.

14. Further information on recent activities of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as well as on the considerations and decisions taken at the twenty-third (June 2004) (Informal document No. 4 (2004) and twenty-fourth (October 2004) sessions of the TIRExB was provided by the Chairman of the TIRExB during the session.

15. The Chairman of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) reported on the recent activities of the Working Party.

(ii) **Identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder and access to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/17; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13; Informal document No. 5 (2004).

16. The Administrative Committee welcomed Informal document No. 5 (2004), prepared by the secretariat, containing an overview of the status of the ITDB and the countries transmitting data for the ITDB. The Administrative Committee urged all Contracting Parties to respect the requirements for data transmission to the TIR secretariat for authorized persons to the TIR system in line with the provisions set out in Annex 9, Part II, paras. 4 and 5 of the Convention. The Committee underlined that the ITDB is a value-added tool for the proper functioning and the sustainability of the Convention. The Committee requested the secretariat to address those Contracting Parties not yet respecting the requirements for data transmission, if necessary at the level of Director General of Customs, with a view to ensuring the proper data transmission as well as to addressing those Contracting Parties not yet transmitting data in electronic form with a view to ensuring efficient and timely transmission of data in electronic form.

17. The Administrative Committee welcomed a presentation by the secretariat of the ITDBOnline functionalities. The Committee decided to mandate the secretariat to launch the ITDBOnline application for access by TIR Customs Focal points. Inquiries to the ITDB can continue to take place via traditional communication means such as fax or mail.

18. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to prepare an official document for its next session on the technical solutions as well as the pros and cons concerning (a) opening

up the access to the ITDB to Customs officials other than the TIR Customs Focal Points and (b) providing additional information contained in the ITDB, such as information on exclusions and withdrawals compared to the contact information which the TIR secretariat is mandated to provide at present.

19. Finally, the Administrative Committee welcomed a presentation on document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/17, prepared by the secretariat, containing a description of ITDBOnline+, concerning the development of an application which would make it possible for Customs authorities to make online updates of data on TIR Carnet Holders in the ITDB. The Administrative Committee mandated the secretariat to launch the detailed analysis and pilot project for this project and to report back to the Committee on the result of the study.

(iii) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars

20. The Administrative Committee took note that the UNECE TIR secretariat, together with the IRU, will hold a TIR Seminar, sponsored by the World Bank, on the accession to and functioning of the TIR Convention to authorities and industry of Pakistan. The Seminar has been scheduled, tentatively, to take place in November/December 2004. The secretariat also accepted an invitation to make a presentation on the TIR system during a Seminar on Road Transport Facilitation in the Central Asian region organized in Almaty (Kazakhstan) in late October 2004. Finally, the Administrative Committee took note that the regional TIR Seminar in Urumqi (China) for China and Central Asian countries, planned together with UNESCAP, which had been scheduled to take place in autumn 2004 now, tentatively, has been postponed to summer/early autumn 2005.

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval of the final accounts for the year 2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/9.

21. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its spring session, the final accounts for the year 2003 were not yet available and decided to approve the accounts at the present session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/73, para. 20).

22. The Administrative Committee formally approved the final accounts of the TIRExB for the year 2003 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/9.

(ii) **Budget of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2004**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/12.

23. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB should submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

24. The Administrative Committee took note of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 30 July 2004, as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/12. In this context, the Administrative Committee welcomed the overview provided by the secretariat of the actual spending of US\$ 476.579 as per 10 October 2004. The Administrative Committee requested that the actual spending would be included in the financial reporting in the future. Furthermore, the secretariat was requested to include, in its future reporting, a specification for the reserves that have been included in the TIRExB budget in case of early termination of the contract according to paragraph 8.1 of the Agreement between UNECE and the IRU.

25. The Administrative Committee decided to approve the complete and final accounts for 2004 at its spring session in February 2005, if available.

(iii) **Budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2005**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/13.

26. The Administrative Committee took note of the budget proposal and cost plan providing for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in the year 2005 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/13). It was informed that the budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2005 did not differ in substantive terms from the approved budget and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2004. The slight increase in the budget proposal is a consequence of an increase in standard salary costs. The number of regular Customs and administrative professionals as well as General Service staff constituting the TIR secretariat, together with the TIR Secretary whose costs are borne by the Regular Budget of the UNECE, remain unchanged. As a consequence of the lower projected exchange rate of the US dollar compared to the Swiss franc, in which most expenditures occur, less funds are projected to be moved forward from 2004 to 2005, which will result in an increase in the funds to be transferred by the IRU for the budget period 2005. In this context, the secretariat confirmed, at the request of the observer, that all outstanding interest income from previous years would be brought forward to the year 2005 and that the interest income of US\$ 79,407 would be taken into account when calculating the levy for 2006.

27. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee approved the budget proposal and cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB for the year 2005 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/13 prepared by the TIR Secretary and adopted by the TIRExB at its twenty-fourth session on 7 and 8 October 2004. Based on the number of 1.9 million TIR Carnets estimated to be distributed by the international organization in the year 2005, this would represent a levy on each TIR Carnet of US\$ 0.46.

28. The procedure for the transfer of funds from the IRU to the UNECE, as a result of the adoption of the budget for the TIRExB for 2005, will be concluded through an exchange of letters between the UNECE and the IRU after the present session.

(iv) Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/18.

29. The Administrative Committee welcomed the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the UNECE to include the cost of the TIR secretariat in the regular budget of the UNECE for the budget cycle 2006-2007 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/18). The representative of the European Community, in particular, expressed appreciation of the efforts of the Executive Secretary in relation to this question.

30. The Administrative Committee urged all Contracting Parties to actively support the inclusion of the TIR secretariat staff in the regular budget in all the relevant fora in the UN in Geneva, in particular in the Group of Experts of resident missions in Geneva and the Fifth Committee in New York. The Administrative Committee agreed that if this initiative failed in respect of the 2006-2007 budget cycle, it should nevertheless continue to seek the inclusion of the TIR secretariat staff in the regular budget for future budget cycles.

(v) Election of members for the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/11.

31. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the term of office of each member of the TIRExB should be two years. Since the present members of the TIRExB had been elected at its spring session in 2003, the Administrative Committee must, at its forthcoming session in spring 2005, proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of the TIRExB.

32. The Administrative Committee confirmed that the criteria for nomination of candidates and election of members to the TIRExB would be based on the comment adopted on 26 June 1998 to the Rules of Procedure of the TIRExB on “representation”, with the exception of paragraph (c) as its provisions relate only to the initial election of Board members and are thus no

longer appropriate (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, annex and Corr.1) and the procedure for the election of members of the TIRExB adopted on 26 February 2000 by the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, paras. 31 and 34).

33. The Administrative Committee, therefore, authorized the UNECE secretariat to solicit candidates in November 2004, to close the list of candidates on 16 December 2004 and to issue thereafter the official list of candidates for distribution to all Contracting Parties according to the procedure described in the provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74.

34. The Administrative Committee took note of the request by the TIRExB to withdraw, for the time being, the proposal contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/11 concerning the establishment of a concept of replacement members for the TIRExB and introducing a procedure for by-elections. The reason for the withdrawal was based on comments received by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which questioned the amendment proposal. The TIRExB had, therefore, decided to study the issue in further detail.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS IN THE YEAR 2005

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 4.

35. The Administrative Committee considered the authorization to print and distribute TIR Carnets that had been granted by the IRU in 2003 as a result of the approval of the Agreement between UNECE and the IRU (TRANS/WP/30/2003/14).

36. The Administrative Committee confirmed the authorization for 2005 as long as the conditions set by the Administrative Committee, as referred to in the provisional agenda, were fulfilled.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE TIR GUARANTEE SYSTEM IN THE YEAR 2005

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 5.

37. The Administrative Committee considered the authorization for the organization and functioning of the TIR guarantee system that had been granted by the IRU in 2003 as a result of the approval of the Agreement between UNECE and the IRU (TRANS/WP/30/2003/14).

38. The Administrative Committee confirmed the authorization for 2005 as long as the conditions set by the Administrative Committee as referred to in the provisional agenda were fulfilled.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNECE AND THE IRU

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 6.

39. The Administrative Committee recalled that the present Agreement between UNECE and the IRU, as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/14 runs until the end of 2005. The Agreement stipulates that it shall be amended or renewed in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Committee at any of its meetings, but in any case not later than at its first meeting in the year 2005.

40. The Administrative Committee recalled that the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport had embarked on a revision process that could lead to amendments to substantive provisions of the Convention which could have an impact on the Agreement between the UNECE and the IRU. Bearing this in mind, the Committee was of the view that it was premature to substantially amend the Agreement and that it would be preferable instead to prolong the Agreement.

41. The Administrative Committee, therefore, mandated the secretariat to start discussions with the IRU for the elaboration of a new draft Agreement prolonging the present Agreement. In this context, the Administrative Committee was of the view that the prolongation could be provided for a new period of 5 years provided that provisions are included in the Agreement that stipulate that the Agreement shall be amended and renewed during the 5-year period, notwithstanding paragraph 12 of the present Agreement, if phase III of the TIR revision process is concluded with an outcome that would have an impact on any of the parties to the Agreement or any of the parties mentioned in the Agreement.

42. The Administrative Committee took note of the appreciation expressed by the IRU for the authorizations granted and for initiating the process of prolonging the present Agreement between the UNECE and the IRU. The IRU noted that the Annexes to the Agreement should also be re-negotiated in case the financing of the TIRExB is taken over by the regular budget of the UNECE.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLES OF THE TIREXB, THE TIR SECRETARIAT AND THE IRU

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 7.

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/19.

43. The Administrative Committee considered document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/19, prepared by the secretariat, containing a proposal for a new paragraph 2**bis** to the Terms of Reference of the TIRExB.

44. Some Contracting Parties were of the view that the proposed amendment was superfluous and that it would only add confusion concerning the competences of various competent bodies. Therefore, the Contracting Parties in question did not support the proposal.

45. The Administrative Committee decided to defer further discussion to its next session.

REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/74, point 8.

(a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process

46. The Administrative Committee reiterated that it was essential, for the proper application of the Convention, that Contracting Parties transmitted information about the implementation of the Convention and amendments thereto to the secretariat.

(b) Implementation of Phase II of the TIR revision process

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 8 (b).

47. The Administrative Committee was informed by the secretariat of its efforts to monitor the implementation of the amendments under Phase II of the TIR revision process at the national level that had come into force on 12 May 2002.

(c) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

48. The Administrative Committee took note of information provided by the secretariat concerning the status of the TIR computerization project. Details concerning the status are contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2004/31. The next session of the Informal ad hoc Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure, which is mandated by the Working Party to undertake the preparatory work of the computerization process, will take place on 26-27 October 2004 in Geneva.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(a) Draft amendments on a control system for TIR Carnets

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/6; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/10.

49. The Administrative Committee considered document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/6, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Working Party, containing draft amendments on the introduction of a control system for TIR Carnets.

50. The Committee was informed by the European Committee that it supported the amendment proposal.

51. The Committee was informed by Turkey that consultations and discussions were still going on at a national level with the necessary bodies and associations and that Turkey, therefore, could not adopt the amendment at the present session. The Turkish delegation will be in a position to decide on the proposal at the forthcoming session of the Administrative Committee.

52. The Administrative Committee decided to defer the issue to its next session.

53. The IRU deeply deplored that further postponement of this important issue was necessary.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(b) Other amendment proposals

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/10.

54. The Administrative Committee decided to follow the decision taken by the Working Party at its one-hundred-and-eighth session and adopted the proposal concerning the use of fibre-optic cables, with the following changes compared to the proposal as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/10:

Part B, paragraph 8, second subparagraph to read as follows:

“Ropes in accordance with paragraph 9 (a) or (d) of these Regulations may have a transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic.”

Part B, paragraph 10, first line to read as follows:

“Each type of rope shall be in one piece and shall have a hard metal end-piece at each end.”

Part B, paragraph 10, third line to read as follows:

“The fastener of each metal end piece ... (rest of text remains unchanged).”

Part B, to add an additional phrase at the end, stipulating:

55. Replace Annex 7, Part I, Article 4, paragraph 9, the first two paragraphs by the same text as for Annex 2, Article 3, paragraph 9. Replace Annex 7, Part I, Article 4, para. 10 by the same text as for Annex 2, Article 3, paragraph 10.

56. The Administrative Committee decided, in accordance with the provisions of Article 60 of the Convention that the proposal should come into force on 1 October 2005, unless by 1 July 2005 one-fifth or five of the States which are Contracting Parties, whichever number is less, would have notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of their objection to the amendment.

57. The full text of the amendment is contained in Annex 2 to this report.

58. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to also submit Explanatory Note 0.1. (b) to Article 1 (b) of the Convention, which it had adopted at its thirty-fifth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/71, paragraph 68 and Annex 2), to the UN Legal Office. Thus, this Explanatory Note would also come into force on 1 October 2005, unless, by 1 July 2005, five of the States which are Contracting Parties would have notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of their objection to the amendment.

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 10.

(a) **Comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)**

59. No comments had been transmitted for adoption by the Administrative Committee.

(b) **Comments adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/20.

60. The Administrative Committee considered document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2004/20, prepared by the secretariat, containing a revised text of a comment to Article 19.

61. The Administrative Committee adopted a revised version of the comment as contained in Annex 3 to the report.

TIR HANDBOOK

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 11.

62. The TIR Handbook contains the text of the Convention and its annexes, including the amendments to the Convention, at present including the amendments adopted under Phase II of the TIR revision process, as well as all relevant comments adopted by the Working Party, the Administrative Committee and the TIRExB.

63. The Working Party took note that the last edition of the TIR Handbook in English, French and Russian can be viewed and downloaded from the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>). Hard copy versions of the TIR Handbook are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian and Russian. A limited number of the Handbook may be obtained free of charge from the secretariat.

64. Updated versions of the TIR Handbook with the latest amendments to the Convention in English, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as German, are planned for January 2005. The secretariat plans to update the TIR Handbook in the English, French and Russian language versions in 2005. Versions in Arabic and Chinese will follow as soon as possible thereafter.

UNECE BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION AND TIR WEB SITE

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 12.

65. The web site address is: <http://tir.unece.org>. In addition to numerous language versions of the TIR Handbook, the TIR web site provides up-to-date information on the administration and application of the TIR Convention. It contains the latest information on legal interpretations of the TIR Convention, on Depositary Notifications and national and international control measures introduced by Customs authorities, the TIR Administrative Committee and the TIRExB. Furthermore, the TIR web site provides detailed information on all TIR Focal Points who may be contacted regarding questions on the application of the Convention at the national level. The UNECE Border Crossing Facilitation web site (<http://border.unece.org>) also contains all documents and reports issued in connection with the sessions of the Administrative Committee and the UNECE Working Party (WP.30). These documents may be viewed and downloaded (PDF format) in English, French and Russian.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 13.

(a) **Date of next session**

66. The Administrative Committee decided to hold its next session on 3 and 4 February 2005. The deadline for submission of official documentation is 15 November 2004.

(b) **Restriction on the distribution of documents**

67. The Administrative Committee decided that the register on Customs seals and stamps should be restricted.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Mandate and background: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/74, point 14.

68. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirty-seventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Annex 1

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established *</u>	<u>National associations **</u>
Afghanistan	-	-
Albania	Albania	ANALTIR
Algeria	-	-
Armenia	Armenia	AIRCA
Austria	Austria	AISÖ
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	ABADA
Belarus	Belarus	BAIRC
Belgium	Belgium	FEBETRA
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-
Bulgaria	Bulgaria	AEBTRI
Canada	-	-
Chile	-	-
Croatia	Croatia	TRANSPORTKOMERC
Cyprus	Cyprus	TDA
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	CESMAD BOHEMIA
Denmark	Denmark	DTL
Estonia	Estonia	ERAA
Finland	Finland	SKAL
France	France	AFTRI
Georgia	Georgia	GIRCA
Germany	Germany	BGL - AIST
Greece	Greece	OFAE
Hungary	Hungary	ATRH
Indonesia	-	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	ICCIM
Ireland	Ireland	IRHA
Israel	Israel	IRTB
Italy	Italy	UICCIAA
Jordan	Jordan	RACJ
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	KAZATO
Kuwait	Kuwait	KATC
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan	KYRGYZ AIA
Latvia	Latvia	LA

* Based on information provided by the IRU.

** For details, refer to the International Directory of TIR Focal Points administered by the UNECE secretariat (<http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/focal/tirfocalpoints.htm>). The access to the web site is restricted and only open for TIR Focal Points.

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975 (CONT'D)

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established *</u>	<u>National associations **</u>
Lebanon	Lebanon	CCIAB
Lithuania	Lithuania	LINAVA
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	FEBETRA
Malta	Malta	ATTO
Mongolia	Mongolia	NARTAM
Morocco	Morocco	AMTRI
Netherlands	Netherlands	SCT/TLN - KNV - EVO/SIEV
Norway	Norway	NLF
Poland	Poland	ZMPD
Portugal	Portugal	ANTRAM
Republic of Korea	-	-
Republic of Moldova	Republic of Moldova	AITA
Romania	Romania	UNTRR
Russian Federation	Russian Federation	ASMAP
Serbia and Montenegro	Serbia and Montenegro	CCIS-ATT
Slovakia	Slovakia	CESMAD SLOVAKIA
Slovenia	Slovenia	GIZ INTERTRANSPORT
Spain	Spain	ASTIC
Sweden	Sweden	SA
Switzerland	Switzerland	ASTAG
Syrian Arab Republic	Syrian Arab Republic	SNC ICC
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	ABBAT
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	AMERIT
Tunisia	Tunisia	CCIT
Turkey	Turkey	UCCET
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	THADA
Ukraine	Ukraine	AIRCU
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	RHA - FTA
United States of America	-	-
Uruguay	-	-
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	AIRCUZ
European Community		

* Based on information provided by the IRU.

** For details, refer to the International Directory of TIR Focal Points administered by the UNECE secretariat (<http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/focal/tirfocalpoints.htm>). The access to the web site is restricted and only open for TIR Focal Points.

Annex 2**AMENDMENT PROPOSALS TO THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975**

Adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 15 October 2004

Replace the first two paragraphs of Annex 2, Article 3, paragraph 9 by the following text:

- “9 The following fastenings shall be used;
- (a) steel wire ropes of at least 3 mm diameter; or
 - (b) ropes of hemp of sisal of at least 8 mm diameter encased in a transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic; or
 - (c) ropes consisting of batches of fibre-optic lines inside a spirally wound steel housing encased in transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic; or**
 - (d) ropes comprising a textile cord surrounded by at least four strands consisting solely of steel wire and completely covering the core, under the condition that the ropes (without taking into account the transparent sheath, if any) are not less than 3 mm in diameter.**

Ropes in accordance with paragraph 9 (a) or (d) of this Article may have a transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic.”

Delete Explanatory Note to Article 3, paragraph 9 (Textile cored steel fastening ropes)

Replace Annex 2, Article 3, paragraph 10 by the following text:

“10 Each type of rope shall be in one piece and shall have a hard metal end-piece at each end. Each metal end-piece shall allow the introduction of the thread or strap of the Customs seal. The fastener of each metal end-piece of ropes in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 9 (a), (b) and (d) of this Article shall include a hollow rivet passing through the rope so as to allow the introduction of the thread or strap of the Customs seal. The rope shall remain visible on either side of the hollow rivet so that it is possible to ensure that the rope is in one piece (see sketch No. 5 appended to these Regulations).”

Replace the first two paragraphs of Annex 7, Part I, Article 4, paragraph 9 by the following text:

- “9 The following fastenings shall be used;

- (a) steel wire ropes of at least 3 mm diameter; or
- (b) ropes of hemp of sisal of at least 8 mm diameter encased in a transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic; or
- (c) **ropes consisting of batches of fibre-optic lines inside a spirally wound steel housing encased in transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic; or**
- (d) **ropes comprising a textile cord surrounded by at least four strands consisting solely of steel wire and completely covering the core, under the condition that the ropes (without taking into account the transparent sheath, if any) are not less than 3 mm in diameter.**

Ropes in accordance with paragraph 9 (a) or (d) of this Article may have a transparent sheath of unstretchable plastic.”

Replace Annex 7, Part I, Article 4, paragraph 10 by the following text:

“10 Each type of rope shall be in one piece and shall have a hard metal end-piece at each end. Each metal end-piece shall allow the introduction of the thread or strap of the Customs seal. The fastener of each metal end-piece of ropes in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 9 (a), (b) and (d) of this Article shall include a hollow rivet passing through the rope so as to allow the introduction of the thread or strap of the Customs seal. The rope shall remain visible on either side of the hollow rivet so that it is possible to ensure that the rope is in one piece (see sketch No. 5 appended to these Regulations).”

Annex 3

Comment for inclusion into the TIR Handbook,
adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) for endorsement by the
TIR Administrative Committee

Add a new comment to Article 19 to read as follows:

"Falsification of the start of a TIR transport by using false Customs stamps and seals with a view to avoiding strict controls at the Customs office of departure, fraudsters may attempt to falsify the acceptance of a genuine TIR Carnet at the Customs office of departure by using false Customs stamps and seals. Such malpractices are very dangerous as, according to the provisions of the TIR Convention, the Customs authorities of countries in transit and of countries of destination normally rely on the checks carried out at the Customs office of departure. Therefore, the Customs office(s) of exit, located in the country(ies) of departure, play(s) a crucial role in exposing such fraudulent activities and should check the authenticity of the Customs seals and stamps and, if possible, to verify that the particulars in the goods manifest of the TIR Carnet tally with those in the accompanying documents (e.g., goods export declaration, CMR consignment note, etc.) which are normally checked by the Customs office of departure in line with Explanatory Note 0.19. If necessary, the said Customs office(s) of exit should carry out other Customs checks required in connection with a TIR operation in the country(ies) of departure."
