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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

(6 and 7 February 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on 6 February 2003 ^{*/}**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

^{*/} For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://border.unece.org>). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

4. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)
 - (a) Activities of the TIRExB
 - (i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB
 - (ii) Access and use of the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)
 - (iii) Joint TIR secretariat/IRU Taskforce on SafeTIR
 - (iv) New web page on the UNECE TIR web site on Customs offices approved for TIR operations
 - (b) Administration of the TIRExB
 - (i) Approval (in principle) of the final accounts for the year 2002
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5. Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets
 - (a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2003
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6. Authorization for the organization and functioning of the guarantee system
7. Functions and roles of the TIRExB, the TIR secretariat and the IRU
8. Revision of the Convention
 - (a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process
 - (b) Implementation of Phase II of the TIR revision process
 - (c) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process
9. Other proposals for amendments to the Convention
 - (a) Draft amendments on a control system for TIR Carnets
 - (b) Draft amendments on the inclusion and attribution of voting rights to Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO)
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10. Application of the Convention
 - (a) Comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)
 - (b) Comments adopted by the TIR Executive Board
11. International Directory of TIR Focal Points

12. TIR Handbook
13. TIR web site
14. Other business
 - (a) Date of next session
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents
15. Adoption of the report

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Annex 1: Comments for inclusion into the TIR Handbook, adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) for endorsement by the TIR Administrative Committee

Annex 2: Comment for inclusion into the TIR Handbook, adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) for endorsement by the TIR Administrative Committee

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) will hold its one hundred-and-third session, in conjunction with the present session of the Administrative Committee, from 4 to 7 February 2003, starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 4 February 2003 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The UNECE Working Party will consider a large number of issues in relation to the revision of the TIR Convention and its application. Therefore, representatives of all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975, are strongly recommended to participate also in the sessions of the UNECE Working Party. The agenda as well as other relevant documents for the session of the UNECE Working Party may be obtained directly from the UNECE secretariat or downloaded from the relevant UNECE Transport Division web site (see page 1).

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It is recalled that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention, "a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purposes of taking decisions." As of 1 December 2002 the number of States, Contracting Parties to the Convention is sixty-three.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 3 of the Convention and in line with established practice, the Administrative Committee may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

3. STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67.

The Administrative Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975. A 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 is contained in annex 1 to the report of the Administrative Committee at its thirty-third session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67). Contracting Parties may wish to verify these listings.

Detailed information on the status and the functioning of the Convention, including all relevant Depositary Notifications as well as the complete and permanently updated text of the Convention is available on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

4. ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/1.

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14-15), the UNECE secretariat has reproduced the report of the TIRExB at its fourteenth session held in June 2002 for information and endorsement by the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/1).

Further information on recent activities of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as well as on the considerations and decisions taken at the fifteenth (October 2002) and sixteenth (February 2003) sessions of the TIRExB will be provided by the Chairman of the TIRExB during the session. All adopted reports of the TIRExB are available at and can be downloaded from the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider these reports and the supplementary information and provide guidance on future activities and priorities of work of the TIRExB.

(ii) Access and use of the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13.

The International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) contains at present around 33,000 persons/companies authorized by national Customs authorities to utilize the TIR procedure. It contains also information on persons excluded from the TIR procedure in accordance with Article 38 of the Convention. At present, only so-called “contact information” is released to facilitate inquiry procedures by Customs authorities. The requested data are provided within 24 hours on the basis of a standard request form and only to Customs TIR Focal Points furnishing their personal user code.

To increase security as well as efficiency in the capture, transmission and processing of relevant data by national associations, Customs authorities and the TIR secretariat, a new electronic version of a data entry mask on CD-ROM has been released by the TIR Secretary and has been transmitted to all TIR Focal Points in June 2002.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider a report by the TIR Secretary on the electronic security and encryption procedures planned to be applied for on-line access to the ITDB (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/2).

(iii) Joint TIR secretariat/IRU Taskforce on SafeTIR

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed of the work undertaken by the joint TIR secretariat/IRU Taskforce to further improve the functioning of the so-called electronic SAFETIR system operated by the IRU on the basis of Article 42 bis of the Convention and the Recommendation of the Administrative Committee of 20 October 1995.

(iv) New web page on the UNECE TIR web site on Customs offices approved for TIR operations

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/12.

The Administrative Committee will be informed about a new site on the UNECE web site providing detailed information on Customs offices authorized to accomplish TIR operations (<http://tir.unece.org>).

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval (in principle) of the final accounts for the year 2002

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/4.

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

In order to provide full transparency about the functioning and financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, the UNECE secretariat has provided the Administrative Committee, at its thirty-third session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 24-26), with an overview of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 30 June 2002 together with an estimate on the expenses foreseen for the remainder of 2002 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/4).

The UNECE secretariat endeavours to transmit an advance report (Informal Document) on the final accounts of the TIRExB for 2002 to the present session of the Administrative Committee for approval in principle. As the competent Finance Services of the United Nations will most likely not be able to formally finalize the accounts for 2002 by the time the Administrative Committee meets in February 2003, the report on the complete and final accounts will be transmitted, as in the past, to the session of the Administrative Committee in October 2003 for formal approval.

In this context, the Administrative Committee may wish to note that the accounts of the TIR Trust Fund are exclusively subject to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the Financial Regulations, Rules and Directives of the United Nations and are audited according to the schedule set by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

(ii) Budget and cost plan for the year 2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/5.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that the budget and cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2003 has been approved by the Administrative Committee at its thirty-third session on the basis of a proposal made by the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, para. 28; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/5).

The required funds for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2003 are expected to be transmitted by the IRU to the TIR Trust Fund before the end of November 2002.

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

Documentation: TRANS/2002/16; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at earlier sessions, it had decided to continue the initial funding arrangements for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention and to make efforts to have the costs for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat included into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of the next United Nations budget cycle (2004-2005) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, paras. 41 and 42; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 36; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, paras. 23-25).

The Administrative Committee will be informed by the secretariat of the procedures to be followed and measures to be taken by Contracting Parties to allow for inclusion of these costs into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of 2004.

(iv) Election of members of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.66; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51 and Corr.1.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the term of office of each member of the TIRExB shall be two years. Since the present members of the TIRExB had been elected at its spring session in 2001, the Administrative Committee must, at its forthcoming session in spring 2003, proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of the TIRExB.

The Administrative Committee, at its thirty-third session, confirmed that the criteria for the nomination of candidates for the election of TIRExB members at its forthcoming spring 2003 session would be the same as for the previous election in 2001. It also confirmed that the procedure for the election of candidates for the TIRExB would be the same as for the election in 2001 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paras. 25 and 26). The Administrative Committee therefore authorized the UNECE secretariat to solicit candidates in November 2002, to close the list of candidates on 8 January 2003 and to issue thereafter the official list of candidates for distribution to all Contracting Parties as described in TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/66 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 31-33).

In accordance with the approved election procedure and on the basis of the list of nominated candidates that will be circulated by the secretariat to all Contracting Parties to the Convention immediately following 8 January 2003, the Administrative Committee may wish to proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of the TIRExB in accordance with established practice.

5. AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS

(a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/3; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3.

Following the conclusion of the required Amendment to the Agreement between the IRU and the UNECE as mandated by the Administrative Committee at its thirty-third session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 45 and 46) and upon the fulfilment of the relevant conditions by end of November 2002 (see agenda item 4 (b) (ii) above), the IRU is authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2003.

The Administrative Committee may wish to endorse this Amendment to the UNECE-IRU Agreement as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/3. The full text of the underlying UNECE-IRU Agreement covering the period 2001-2005, as endorsed by the Administrative Committee at its thirtieth session, is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, para. 34).

(b) Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2004

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53.

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention, the TIRExB shall supervise the centralized printing and distribution to the associations of TIR Carnets which may be performed by an agreed international organization as referred to in Article 6 of the Convention.

The Administrative Committee, at its twenty-sixth session, decided that, at its annual spring session, it will authorize international organizations to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the following year in accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention under the condition that:

- the concerned international organization declares in writing its acceptance of this authorization within 30 days following the decision of the Administrative Committee;
- on the basis of the relevant decisions of the Administrative Committee at its annual autumn session (adoption of the budget for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, etc.), the required transfer of funds, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention, will have been effected by the authorized international organization by 15 November each year for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat during the following year (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 20).

In this context, the Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-eighth session (24 and 25 February 2000), it had authorized the IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for a period of five years as of the year 2001 and to finance, as long as its expenses were not covered by the Regular Budget of the United Nations, the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 29). In a communication received from the Secretary-General of the IRU dated 22 March 2000, the IRU declared its acceptance of the authorization by the Administrative Committee for a period of five years (2001-2005).

In view of the above, the Administrative Committee may wish to confirm its authorization given to the IRU at its twenty-eighth session to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the year 2004 and until the year 2005.

6. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE GUARANTEE SYSTEM

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/66; TRANS/WP.30/2002/18.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 bis of the Convention entering into force on 12 May 2002, an international organization, as referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Convention, shall be authorized by the Administrative Committee to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international guarantee system provided it accepts this responsibility.

At its thirty-third session, the Administrative Committee agreed with the reasons put forward and the proposals on this subject made by the secretariat in the provisional agenda (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/66) and decided to follow the same procedure as adopted for the authorization to print and distribute TIR Carnets, the TIR Carnet being the basis for an international

Customs document and, at the same time, proof of the required guarantee coverage. Therefore, and in view of the fact that detailed criteria and procedures for authorization might still need to be established by the Administrative Committee and also taking account of the outcome of the work referred to under item 7 of this agenda, the Administrative Committee authorized the IRU, on a temporary basis, to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international TIR guarantee system as of 1 January 2003 until and including the year 2005, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 bis of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 41 and 42).

On this understanding, the representative of the IRU informed the Administrative Committee that his organization accepted this authorization and emphasized the need for the Administrative Committee to issue clear guidance to the TIRExB, the TIR secretariat and the IRU to ensure that the IRU could fulfil its responsibilities in full (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 40 and 42).

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/9; TRANS/WP.30/R.179.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its thirty-third session, it had taken note of a document transmitted by the IRU on the sustainability of the TIR procedure (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/9). It had welcomed the initiative taken by the Chairman of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) to convene a restricted group of “friends of the Chairman” with a view to analysing the present problems of the TIR system and to reviewing the functions, roles and responsibilities of the TIRExB, the TIR secretariat and the international organization (i.e. the IRU) as stipulated in the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, para. 47).

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed of the results of these informal considerations.

8. REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

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

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5.

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its exchange of views about possible difficulties that may arise in the application of the provisions that have come into force under Phase I of the TIR revision process, particularly with regard to controlled access to the TIR procedure in accordance with Annex 9, Part II of the Convention (ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1).

The Administrative Committee may wish to reiterate that Contracting Parties are expected to fully comply with the provisions of the Convention, also with regard to the transmission to the TIRExB, within the stipulated time frames, of the following information (refer also to document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5):

International guarantee system

- (a) A certified copy of the written agreement or any other legal instrument between the competent authorities (Customs) and the national association as well as any modifications thereto (Deadline: as soon as possible);
- (b) A certified copy of the insurance or financial guarantee contract as well as any modifications thereto (Deadline: as soon as possible);
- (c) A copy of the (annually to be renewed) insurance certificate (Deadline: as soon as possible).

Controlled access to the TIR procedure

- (a) The particulars of each person authorized by the competent authorities to use TIR Carnets or whose authorization has been withdrawn (Deadline: within one week);
- (b) A complete and updated list of all persons authorized by the competent authorities to use TIR Carnets or whose authorization has been withdrawn (Deadline: as per 31 December each year and as soon as possible);
- (c) The particulars of each person excluded from the operation of the Convention in accordance with Article 38 (Deadline: within one week).

National control measures

The details of any national control measures planned to be undertaken by the competent national authorities in accordance with Article 42 bis (Deadline: as soon as possible).

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2002/18; ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.21.

The Administrative Committee may wish to have an exchange of views about possible difficulties that may have arisen in the application of the new provisions that have come into force under Phase II of the TIR revision process (ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.21).

The objective of these amendments as well as their implementation has been considered at the seventh session of the TIR Contact Group in Athens (22 and 23 April 2002). The report of the session is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2002/18. The secretariat is monitoring the implementation of the new provisions of the Convention at the national level and will inform the Administrative Committee accordingly.

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/204.

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed about progress made in the preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process within the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) (TRANS/WP.30/204, paras. 28-38) and its ad hoc group of experts on the computerization of the TIR procedure (TRANS/WP.30/2002/11).

The Administrative Committee may wish to provide guidance on the approach and working methods to be taken in order to arrive at tangible solutions in due course.

9. OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2003/5; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/37.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider the possibility of including into the Convention provisions on a control system for TIR Carnets based on the Recommendation adopted by the Administrative Committee on 20 October 1995 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/37, annex 4).

The Administrative Committee, at its thirty-third session, recognizing that the quantity, quality and timeliness of data provided by many Contracting Parties to the so-called “SafeTIR” system administered by the IRU were apparently not yet sufficient to allow for an effective control and risk management by the national associations and the IRU, invited the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) to consider ways and means of improving the performance of the SafeTIR system, and in particular the insertion of relevant provisions into the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 53-56).

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed of the considerations made in WP.30 based on amendment proposals transmitted by Latvia (TRANS/WP.30/2003/5).

(b) Draft amendments on the inclusion and attribution of voting rights to Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/8; TRANS/WP.30/200; TRANS/WP.30/198; TRANS/WP.30/2001/15; TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/8.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its thirty-third session, it had continued its consideration of amendment proposals, prepared by the European Community (EC),

aiming at the introduction of the concept of Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO) into the Convention and to attribute voting rights to such organizations (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/8; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 59 and 60). These proposals had been discussed already earlier in the Working Party (WP.30); TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 50-54; TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 45-47).

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its considerations on this subject with a view to arriving at a consensus on the adoption of amendment proposals to Article 52, paragraph 3 and Annex 8, Article 5 of the Convention.

(c) Inclusion of place and number of seals in the certificate of approval

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/4; TRANS/WP.30/204.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider a draft Explanatory Note to Article 2, paragraph 1 (b) (Annex 6 to the Convention) as well as comments thereto and to Annex 4 to the Convention which would make the insertion of place and number of seals in the certificate of approval of a road vehicle mandatory, in case more than one seal is required for Customs secure sealing of a load compartment.

Such a proposal has already been considered by the UNECE Working Party WP.30 (TRANS/WP.30/204, paras. 64 and 65) and is expected to be finalized by the Working Party at its forthcoming session in February 2003 on the basis of document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/4.

(d) Other amendment proposals

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its thirty-third and thirty-first sessions, it had adopted amendments to Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.38.1 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 57 and 58) and to Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, paras. 59-61).

Following the possible adoption of further amendment proposals at its present session, the secretariat will transmit these proposals to the Legal Office of the United Nations for necessary depositary action.

To date the UNECE secretariat has not received any other proposals for amendments to the Convention. Any amendment that may be submitted in due time before the session will be circulated.

10. APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider any issues or problems that have arisen in the application of the Convention and may decide on activities to resolve them.

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/204.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider comments that have been prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) at its one-hundred-and-third session. These comments relate to

- Article 47, paragraph 1 of the Convention referring to trade facilitation and Customs control (TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 49) and to
- Annex 5 of the Convention referring to the model of a TIR plate (TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 53).

These comments for inclusion into the TIR Handbook are set out in annex 1 to this agenda for endorsement by the Administrative Committee.

(b) Comment adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider a comment that has been adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its fifteenth session (17, 18 and 21 October 2002). This comment relates to the filling in of voucher No. 2 in the TIR Carnet by the Customs authorities.

This comment for inclusion into the TIR Handbook is set out in annex 2 to this agenda for endorsement by the Administrative Committee.

11. INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF TIR FOCAL POINTS

In accordance with resolution No. 49, the secretariat has established and maintains an international directory of TIR focal points that could be addressed in case of inquiries in relation to the TIR procedure. The directory contains names and addresses of persons as well as other useful information on Customs administrations and national associations dealing with the TIR procedure. The distribution of the directory is restricted to Customs authorities, national associations and the TIR Department of the IRU.

A new hard-cover version of the directory will be available at the session and may be obtained as of mid-February 2003 from the secretariat. The permanently updated directory of TIR

Focal Points may be consulted on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>). The required password for access to these restricted web pages may be obtained from the secretariat.

12. TIR HANDBOOK

The Administrative Committee may wish to note that the complete text of the TIR Handbook is available on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>). By the end of January 2003, updated versions in the Chinese, English, French, German, Italian and Russian languages are expected to be available.

The TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and the TIR Administrative Committee. A limited number of hard-copy versions of the TIR Handbook may be obtained free of charge from the secretariat.

13. TIR WEB SITE

The TIR secretariat, with the support of the UNECE secretariat, maintains a TIR web site which provides up-to-date information on the administration and application of the TIR Convention site (<http://tir.unece.org>). The site contains in particular the complete text of the TIR Handbook in various language versions and the latest information on national and international control measures introduced by Customs authorities as well as detailed information on all TIR Focal Points who may be contacted regarding questions on the application of the Convention at the national level. The site also contains all documents and reports issued in connection with the sessions of the Administrative Committee and the UNECE Working Party WP.30 and its group of experts. These documents may be viewed and downloaded (PDF format) in English, French and Russian.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

The UNECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the forthcoming autumn session of the Administrative Committee on 16 and 17 October 2003. As this date coincides with the date of the ITU Telecom World exhibition in Geneva, it may be extremely difficult for delegates to find accommodation. Therefore, the secretariat is endeavouring to find alternative dates for the sessions of the Administrative Committee and the UNECE Working Party WP.30 that will be communicated as soon as possible.

The Administrative Committee may wish to confirm the date of its next session.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Administrative Committee may wish to decide on whether there should be any restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the TIR Convention, 1975, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report on its thirty-fourth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available for adoption in all working languages at the end of the session.

Annex 1

Comments for inclusion into the TIR Handbook, adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) for endorsement by the TIR Administrative Committee

Comment to Article 47, paragraph 1

Replace the existing comment to Article 47, paragraph 1, with a new comment to read as follows:

“Trade facilitation and Customs controls

The TIR Convention is a Customs Convention aimed at the Customs transit regime. The objective of Article 47 is to allow for the application of additional restrictions and controls based on national regulations other than Customs regulations. Therefore it should not be used to justify supplementary Customs requirements.

Where Article 47, paragraph 1 becomes applicable, such restrictions and controls will usually lead to delays and extra costs for transport businesses. In recognition of this, such restrictions and controls shall be kept to a minimum and be limited to the cases where the circumstances or the real risks justify them.

{TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 58; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, para. ...}”

Comment to Annex 5

Replace the existing comment to Annex 5 with a new comment to read as follows:

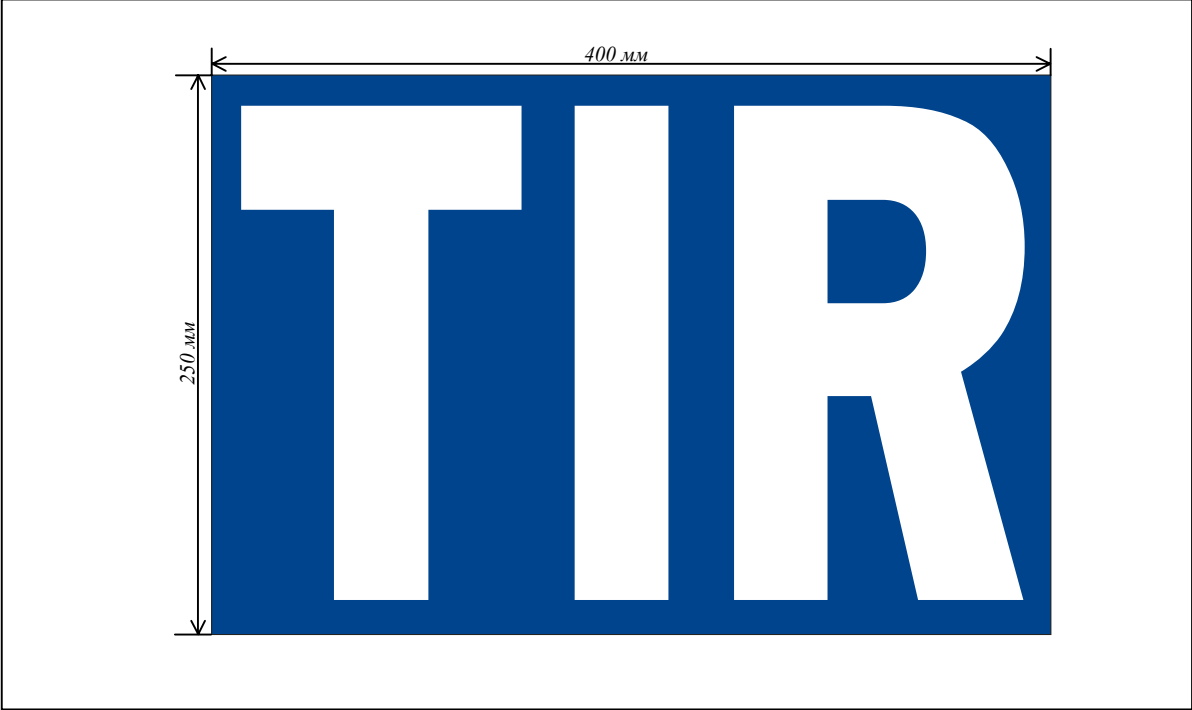
“The model of a TIR plate in conformity with Annex 5 is shown below.

White capital letters on blue ground (RAL 5017)

(Characters: 200 mm high; stroke width: at least 20 mm)

An electronic file (encapsulated postscript format – EPS) containing the TIR plate in conformity with Annex 5, as shown above, is available on the TIR web site

(<http://tir.unece.org>) or can be obtained by contacting the TIR Secretary.



{TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 62; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, para. ...}

Annex 2

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

Comment to Annex 1

Add the following comment to Annex 1 to the Convention:

“Filling-in of box 26 of voucher No. 2 and item 3 on the counterfoil No. 2 of the TIR Carnet

*It is recommended that only Customs offices of destination and not Customs offices of exit (en route)
fill-in the above-mentioned boxes upon unloading.*

{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, para. ...}”



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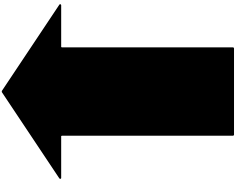
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