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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Administrative Committee for the

TIR Convention, 1975

(Thirty-sixth session, 5 and 6 February 2004,
agenda item 4 (b) (iii))

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

Administration of the TIRExB

Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat

Note by the secretariat

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BACKGROUND

1. At the establishment of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat it was decided, that with a view to not unduly delay the start of activities the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat shall be financed (until such time as alternative sources of funding are obtained and initially for a period of two years) through a levy on each TIR Carnet distributed by the international organization as referred to in article 6 of the Convention (annex 8, article 13 in conjunction with annex 6, explanatory note 8.13.1-1 of the Convention).

2. The amount of the levy and the procedure for its collection is to be determined by the TIR Administrative Committee following consultations with the international organization.

3. In the period since the start of activities of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat the UNECE Transport Division has in preparation of each biennial UN budget period, proposed the inclusion of the TIR secretariat staff in the regular budget of the UNECE. This proposal has, so far, not been followed, in as far as the budget proposals from the UNECE has never included these posts, latest in the UNECE budget for the budget cycle 2004-2005.

4. The Administrative Committee, at its thirty-fifth session, has requested to be provided with full and correct information concerning the procedures for including the cost for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in the UNECE budget and subsequently in the overall UN budget. The Committee was informed orally by the secretariat of the procedures. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a document for the present session providing information of all relevant procedures to be taken by the UNECE and Contracting Parties to include cost for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in the UNECE budget for the next budget cycle (2006 and 2007). It also requested the secretariat to prepare, if appropriate according to the relevant procedures, the necessary resolutions or recommendation for its forthcoming session or the forthcoming session of the Working Party (WP.30) supporting the inclusion of TIRExB and TIR secretariat cost in the UNECE budget.

OVERVIEW OF UN BUDGET CYCLE

5. The Administrative Committee will find below a description of the preparation of the UN budget cycle and the actions that should be undertaken with a view to include the posts of the TIR secretariat in the regular UN budget for the budget cycle 2006-2007.

6. With a view to set-out the timing of possible actions, it should be noted that the preparation of the budget cycle 2006-2007 will start in the UNECE secretariat in autumn 2004.

7. As a first step in the process, the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) or the Administrative Committee (AC.2) should make a strong recommendation to have the posts of the TIR secretariat staff included in the regular budget with justification why the posts should be included.

8. It could be considered to request the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to take a similar action. However, according to the information received by the secretariat, it seems to be sufficient if the recommendation comes from WP.30 or AC.2.

9. On the basis of the recommendation, the UNECE Transport Division, should include in its budget proposal to the UNECE management the posts of the TIR secretariat with proper justification. As previously mentioned, this has been done in the preparation of the past budget cycles.

10. The UNECE secretariat will, on the basis of the budget proposals received from its various Divisions finalize a draft budget, under the guidelines of budget instructions and within the indicated budget ceiling issued by the UN headquarters. At this stage, the Group of Experts of resident missions in Geneva will be consulted on the Programme of Work of the UNECE. The finalized draft budget, with proper justification, will in turn be sent to the UN headquarters, Division of Program Planning. In previous budget cycles the UNECE draft budget, which has been sent to UN headquarters has not included the posts of the TIR secretariat due to of budget limitations that the UNECE is working under.

11. The UN Division of Program Planning and Budget will review the submissions of budgets from all UN bodies and agencies and will in turn submit the draft regular budget of the UN to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a committee of specialists acting in their personal capacity, which in turn will recommend the draft regular UN budget, based on a number of recommendations, to the so-called Fifth Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the UN for adoption. The Fifth Committee consists of delegates from UN member states.

12. From the Fifth Committee the budget finally will go to the UN General Assembly for adoption.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

13. The UN is under very strict budgetary restrictions. In the past couple of budget cycles, the UNECE Transport Division has managed to get one additional professional staff included in the regular budget of the UN.

14. It should be kept in mind that, if the TIR secretariat staff would be included in the regular UN budget, it could not be ensured that their post also in future will be dedicated to TIR questions. Staff under the regular budget can be moved to other areas of work with the result that the resources for TIR would be diminished.

15. It cannot be excluded that the budget of the UNECE will be dramatically reduced at one of the future budget cycles. Should this happen, and should the TIR secretariat staff be included in the regular UN budget, there would obviously be a risk of reduction of these posts as well.
