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**Economic Commission for Europe****Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Sixty-fourth session**

Geneva, 12–13 October 2016

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Comments submitted to the Committee for adoption****Comments submitted to the Committee for adoption****Note by the secretariat****I. Background and mandate**

1. The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it considered the proposal for a new comment to Article 23 of the Convention, recommending customs authorities to consider the use of modern facilities before prescribing escorts. The Committee was of the view that the proposed comment should take due account of additional elements (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/129, para. 40), and therefore referred the issue back to TIRExB for further assessment and elaboration. In line with this request, TIRExB has transmitted a revised comment for the consideration of the Committee. AC.2 is invited to resume its discussions on the basis of a new proposal/document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2016/21, transmitted by TIRExB.

**II. Considerations by TIRExB**

2. At its sixty-seventh session, the Board considered a proposal for a new comment specifically aimed at promoting the use of tracking systems as an alternative to escorts. The Board further took note that, considering that the purpose of introducing the use of tracking systems is to provide an alternative for the prescription of customs escort, the forthcoming raise in the recommended guarantee amount to 100,000 euros does, as such, not have any influence on its application, other than there will be less situations where customs will prescribe customs escort or, alternatively, agree that it be replaced by the use of a tracking system. The majority of the Board supported the new comment. Two Board members, however, were of the view that the current text of the comment does not prevent the use of tracking systems or e-seals and that the new comment would broaden the scope of Article 23. Therefore, they were of the view that the new comment was not necessary. In conclusion, the Board requested the secretariat to transmit the new comment, together with

the remarks made, to AC.2 for consideration (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2016/13, para. 15).

### **III. Amended proposal by TIRExB for a comment to Article 23**

*“Use of tracking systems*

*Prior to prescribing customs escort, customs authorities are recommended to consider alternative technologies which can secure TIR operations, such as tracking systems or e-seals.”*

### **V. Considerations by the Committee**

3. The Committee is invited to consider the assessment by TIRExB, as well as its amended proposal for a new comment to Article 23 of the Convention.

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