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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

#### Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 12–13 October 2016

Item 5 (g) of the provisional agenda

#### Revision of the Convention:

**Proposals to increase the membership and widen  
the geographical scope of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)**

### **Proposals to increase the membership and widen the geographical scope of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)**

**Submitted by Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its previous session, the Committee took note of the information provided by the delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) on its intention to submit proposals to amend the TIR Convention so as to increase the number of members of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) as well as to apply, to the composition of the Board, new criteria of geographical representation which would combine the principles of equitable geographical distribution among various regions and the degree of participation of countries in the TIR Convention. Various delegations expressed support for this initiative; however, the Committee was of the general view that this proposal would have to be examined carefully before reaching any decision. As such, the Committee decided to consider the written proposals that would be submitted by Iran (Islamic Republic of) under this agenda item at the current session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/129, para. 39).

#### **II. The proposal by Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

2. A well balanced structure of TIRExB will even further promote the TIR Convention, 1975 and will result in increased economic well-being and higher employment in the road transport sector that is supposed to be more environment-friendly, cost-effective, faster, more flexible and a provider of other transport modes.

3. The presence, in the TIRExB, of members from other related parts of the globe, in particular from the countries members of the Economic Cooperation Organization

(henceforth ECO region), will result in a stronger sense of belonging and encourage more engagement among the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

4. A major task that TIRExB has been entrusted with is resolving disputes among parties to the TIR Convention. The dispute settlement process could also be better fulfilled, if a non-European Contracting Party would be represented in TIRExB. Presence and active participation of non-European members in the activities of TIRExB in terms of its mandate, will further enhance the better implementation and monitoring of the provisions of the Convention.

5. The European Union (EU) is also represented in TIRExB; in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 1 of TIR Convention the Board [...] is financed through an amount per TIR Carnet distributed. This gives rise to the fact that, cumulatively, almost 26 percent of the TIR Carnets that are issued annually belong to the ECO region, while this important partner region, is yet to be represented in the Board.

6. Major decisions may be taken by TIRExB, however, better decisions could be taken, if its composition would be more balanced and expanded, taking into account new developments. Since a majority of the Administrative Committee members are Europeans, the European candidates are more likely to be elected as members of TIRExB.

7. Given the above reasoning and due to the recent developments in trade and transport, the I.R.IRAN Customs Administration (IRICA) is of the view that TIRExB requires expansion and modification accordingly.

8. In accordance with Article 59 of TIR Convention, IRICA has submitted a proposal on wider geographical representation of membership of TIRExB. This topic has long been on the agenda and various comments on it have been put forward by members of the Committee. However, the discussions have always been postponed without any concrete decision. In the final document of the last session, this topic was conditioned on submission of a new proposal by interested members.

9. The mandate of TIRExB is to enhance international cooperation among customs authorities in the application of the TIR Convention, to oversee the operation of the international guarantee and insurance system as well as to coordinate and foster exchange of intelligence among Customs and other Governmental authorities. Therefore, we believe that the number of members of TIRExB can increase from 9 to 15 with a new composition as follows:

- (i) 3 Representatives from EU, Eurasian and ECO countries.
- (ii) 5 Representatives from the top 5 countries in terms of use of TIR Carnets.
- (iii) 7 Representatives could be elected from among other candidates.

10. Nevertheless, in case of future possible increase of the number of TIR Contracting Parties from the American or African continents, one representative from each could be added to the number of TIRExB members.

11. In addition, we would like to propose some changes in the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of TIRExB as follows:

(i) Article 4, the last line to read as “if necessary, any other organization and customs authorities may attend the session of the Board as observer at their own expense”.

(ii) Representation section, paragraph 5, to read as: “the members of TIRExB may be elected for two terms of office and cannot be re-elected for a third consecutive term”.

### **III. Considerations by the Committee**

12. The Committee is invited to consider the proposals submitted by Iran (Islamic Republic of).

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