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Administrative Committee for the
TIR Convention, 1975

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
TIR CONVENTION, 1975
ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
(24-25 February 2000)**

ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Committee held its twenty-eighth session at Geneva on 24 and 25 February 2000. Representatives of the following Contracting Parties attended the session: Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Latvia; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; European Community (EC).
2. The following international organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).
3. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to annex 8, article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/56).
5. The Committee reiterated that, in accordance with annex 8, Article 1 of the Convention, competent administrations of States referred to in Article 52, paragraph 1 of the Convention which were not Contracting Parties to the Convention or representatives of international organizations could participate as observers in its sessions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. In accordance with annex 8, article 3 of the Convention and in line with established practice, the Administrative Committee re-elected Mr. M. Amelio (Italy) as Chairman and Mr. I. Parts (Estonia) as Vice-Chairman.

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/54; UN/ECE document on the status of United Nations conventions.

7. The Administrative Committee was informed that the Convention had currently 64 Contracting Parties, including the European Economic Community.
8. The Administrative Committee took note of the annex to the provisional agenda providing a complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention and a list of countries with which TIR transit operations could be established (see annex 1 to this report).
9. With regard to Contracting Parties who fail to comply with the obligations laid down in Annex 9 of the TIR Convention concerning the deposit of a certified copy of the insurance or financial guarantee contract(s), the Administrative Committee took note that the Convention does not provide for any sanctions in such a case and, therefore, invited the TIR Executive Board to inform the Administrative Committee about the results of its efforts to gain more information from those Contracting Parties.
10. The complete text of the amendments to the Convention that entered into force on 17 February 1999 (Phase I of the TIR revision process) is contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1.
11. The Administrative Committee also took note of a document prepared by the UN/ECE

secretariat providing information on the acceptance of international conventions and agreements that have been prepared and are administered under the auspices of the UN/ECE.

12. Detailed information on the status and the functioning of the Convention, including the complete and permanently updated text of the Convention, is also available on the TIR web site in Czech, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/1 and Corr. 1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/3; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55; Document on Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the TIRExB.

13. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and the decision of the Administrative Committee that the TIRExB should report on its activities at each of its sessions and that, at least, the reports of the sessions of the TIRExB should be made available to all Contracting Parties (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), the UN/ECE secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIRExB at its first three sessions held in 1999 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/1). In addition, the Administrative Committee was informed by the Chairman of the TIRExB about further activities of the TIRExB, in particular as it relates to the settlement of claims against the previous insurance pool.

14. The Administrative Committee approved the reports, including a corrigendum to the report of the third session, and the activities of the TIRExB and stressed that particular attention should be given to the training of Customs officials in the Contracting Parties that had only recently acceded to the Convention.

(b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

(i) Approval of the final accounts for the year 1999

Documentation: Informal document No. 1 (2000); TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/5; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

15. 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. Furthermore, the agreement concluded between the IRU and the UN/ECE for the year 1999 on the transfer of funds to the TIR Trust Fund, established by the UN/ECE in accordance with a decision of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, paras. 30 and 31), provides for the submission of an annual report to the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/2).

16. The Administrative Committee also recalled that the Administrative Committee had been informed, at its twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 17 and 18), about the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 31 July 1999 together with an outlook on expenditures foreseen for the remainder of 1999 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/5).

17. The Administrative Committee took note of an informal document prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat providing figures of the final accounts for 1999 prepared by the competent Finance Services of the United Nations (Informal Document No. 1 (2000)).

18. The Administrative Committee decided to approve the final accounts for 1999 in principle and authorized the TIRExB to decide, upon proposal of the TIR Secretary, on modifications to the detailed budget line allocations within the approved budget of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat should this become necessary for the efficient operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat. Such modifications would need to be endorsed by the Administrative Committee during approval of the final accounts.

19. In this context, the Administrative Committee took 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 will be audited according to the schedule set by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

(ii) Budget and cost plan for the year 2000

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/6; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

20. The Administrative Committee recalled that the budget and the cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2000 has been approved at its twenty-seventh session on the basis of a proposal made by the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/6; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 19-22).

21. The Administrative Committee was informed by the UN/ECE secretariat that the balance of the required funds for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2000 in the order of US\$ 500,000 have been transmitted by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to the TIR Trust Fund on 12 November 1999.

22. On the basis of 2.1 Million TIR Carnets, as forecasted by the IRU to be used in the year 2000, the amount of the levy per TIR Carnet is estimated to be US\$ 0.24.

(iii) Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2001

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

23. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 1 and Annex 6, Explanatory Note 8.13.1-1 of the Convention, following an initial period of two years, the Contracting Parties to the Convention envisage the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat to be financed through the Regular Budget of the United Nations. This does not preclude a prolongation of the initial funding arrangements should financing from the United Nations or alternative sources not be forthcoming.

24. The Administrative Committee also recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, it was informed by the UN/ECE secretariat that the above provisions would provide for an inclusion of the operating cost of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat into the Regular Budget of the UN/ECE for the biennium 2001-2002. The Administrative Committee had also been informed about the internal procedures required to allow for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat to be financed through the Regular Budget of the United Nations. The Administrative Committee was informed that the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted in December 1999 its biannual budget for the years 2001-2002 without provisions, as of the year 2001, for the financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat.

25. In view of this situation, the Administrative Committee decided to continue the initial funding arrangements 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 year 2003.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS

(a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2000

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

26. The Administrative Committee noted that, following the conclusion of an agreement between the IRU and the UN/ECE as mandated by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, para. 31) and the fulfilment of the relevant conditions by 15 November 1999, the IRU is authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2000.

27. The Administrative Committee endorsed the relevant UN/ECE-IRU Agreement as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2.

(b) Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2001

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53.

28. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention, the TIRExB should 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.

29. The Administrative Committee took note that the IRU proposed to continue the central printing and distribution of TIR Carnets for a period of 5 years as of the year 2001 and to finance, as long as its expenses are not covered by the Regular Budget of the United Nations, the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2, para. 7).

30. In accordance with the procedure and the conditions adopted at its twenty-sixth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 20), the Administrative Committee authorized the IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2001. The Administrative Committee also approved the request of the IRU for an authorization of five years, i.e. covering the period 2001 to 2005. It requested the UN/ECE secretariat to examine the possible consequences that this may entail for the functioning of the guarantee chain and the operation of the TIREXB.

REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

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

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

31. The Administrative Committee was informed of the status of implementation and of difficulties that have arisen during implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process which had come into force on 17 February 1999. The Administrative Committee was informed that not all Contracting Parties had yet complied with the provisions of Annex 9, particularly Part I, paragraph 1 (f)(v) of the Convention on full liability coverage by national associations. The Administrative Committee requested the TIRExB to make all efforts in obtaining the required data and documents from all Contracting Parties applying the Convention.

(b) **Adoption of amendment proposals under Phase II of the TIR revision process**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/188, paras. 23-30; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/3-TRANS/WP.30/2000/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/7-TRANS/WP.30/2000/9; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

32. The Administrative Committee was informed by the Chairman of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) about progress made under Phase II of the TIR revision process. It noted that it was expected that Phase II could be concluded in due course and that the forthcoming session of the Administrative Committee in October 2000 was expected to adopt the relevant package of amendment proposals.

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/188, paras. 31-38; Informal document No. 1 (2000).

33. The Administrative Committee was informed by the Chairman of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) about initial work that has been started under Phase III of the TIR revision process. Particular emphasis was placed on the use of the latest technology for the TIR procedure and a first session of the Working Party dealing with this matter was scheduled for June 2000.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

34. The Administrative Committee noted that no other proposals for amendments to the Convention have been submitted.

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

EDI control system for TIR Carnets: Modification of the Recommendation adopted by the Administrative Committee on 20 October 1995

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/188, paras. 43-45; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/4 - TRANS/WP.30/2000/3; TRANS/WP.30/186; TRANS/WP.30/1999/11.

35. The Administrative Committee took note of the proposal of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its ninety-fourth session, to modify its Recommendation of 20 October 1995 on the introduction of a control system for TIR Carnets (TRANS/WP.30/188, paras. 43-45). The objective of this modification was to develop a harmonized reconciliation procedure to obtain confirmation, correction or invalidation of data provided by the so-called "SAFETIR" system operated by the IRU.

36. The Administrative Committee approved the modifications proposed by the UN/ECE Working Party, but decided to modify slightly the beginning of operating paragraph 2 to read as follows: "The annexed Model Reconciliation Form (MRF) could be addressed to Customs authorities by their respective national associations".

37. The Administrative Committee endorsed in particular the view of the Working Party that channels and means of communication between national associations or the IRU and the Customs authorities would need to be determined in consultation with these authorities.

38. The complete text of the revised Recommendation is contained in annex 2 to this report.

TIR HANDBOOK

Documentation: United Nations Publication (available at the session);
http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm.

39. The Administrative Committee noted that a new TIR Handbook has been issued by the UN/ECE and the TIR secretariats. This 1999 TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and the Administrative Committee.

40. The TIR Handbook is available in Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. An Arabic version is under preparation. A limited number of copies are available free of charge from the UN/ECE and TIR secretariats.

41. The complete and permanently updated text of the TIR Handbook is also available on the TIR Internet web site in the Czech, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish languages (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF TIR FOCAL POINTS

Documentation: Publication available at the session;
http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

42. The Administrative Committee took note of a new hard-cover version of the international directory of TIR focal points containing 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.

43. The permanently updated directory may be consulted on the TIR web site (http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

44. The Administrative Committee decided to hold its next session on 19 and 20 October 2000, in conjunction with a scheduled session of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)(16-20 October 2000).

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

45. The Administrative Committee decided that there should be no restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session, with the exception of the international directory of TIR Focal Points (see para. 42).

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

46. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the TIR Convention, 1975, the Administrative Committee adopted the report on its twenty-eighth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat.

Annex 1**APPLICATION OF THE TIR CONVENTION**

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established</u> ^{*/}
Afghanistan	-
Albania	Albania
Algeria	-
Armenia	-
Austria	Austria
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Belarus	Belarus
Belgium	Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-
Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Canada	-
Chile	-
Croatia	Croatia
Cyprus	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Denmark	Denmark
Estonia	Estonia
Finland	Finland
France	France
Georgia	Georgia
Germany	Germany
Greece	Greece
Hungary	Hungary
Indonesia	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland	Ireland
Israel	-
Italy	Italy
Jordan	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Kuwait	Kuwait

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.

Contracting Parties

(cont'd)

Kyrgyzstan

Latvia

Lebanon

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malta

Morocco

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Republic of Korea

Republic of Moldova

Romania

Russian Federation

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Syrian Arab Republic

Tajikistan

The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia

Tunisia

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Ukraine

United Kingdom

United States of America

Uruguay

Uzbekistan

Yugoslavia

European Community

Countries with which a TIR transitoperation can be established (cont'd) */

-

Latvia

Lebanon

Lithuania

Luxembourg

-

Morocco

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Portugal

-

Republic of Moldova

Romania

Russian Federation

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Syrian Arab Republic

-

The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia

Tunisia

Turkey

-

Ukraine

United Kingdom

-

-

Uzbekistan

-

* Based on information provided by the IRU.

Annex 2**INTRODUCTION OF A CONTROL SYSTEM FOR TIR CARNETS****Recommendation adopted by the
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975
on 20 October 1995**

The Administrative Committee,

Referring to resolution No. 49 on short-term measures to ensure the security and the efficient functioning of the TIR transit regime, adopted on 3 March 1995 by the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (TRANS/WP.30/162, annex 2),

Referring also to the Urgent Communication to all Contracting Parties of the TIR Convention, 1975, adopted by the TIR Contact Group on 29 June 1995 relating to the transport of small quantities of tobacco and alcohol (TRANS/WP.30/R.157, annex),

Regretting that, in spite of the activities of Contracting Parties to control more effectively the functioning of the TIR transit regime in line with the recommendations of the above two instruments and in spite of the efforts of the IRU, the international insurers would only be prepared to continue their insurance coverage if additional short-term measures are implemented by Customs authorities,

Determined to safeguard the present TIR transit system,

With a view to furnishing rapidly data to the IRU on the presentation of TIR Carnets at Customs offices of destination, decides to recommend to all Contracting Parties to implement, at all Customs offices authorized to handle TIR Carnets, the following measure:

- (1) Customs authorities should transmit to the competent national guaranteeing associations, if possible via central or regional offices, by the fastest available means of communication (fax, electronic mail, etc.) and if possible on a daily basis, at least the following information in a standard format in respect of all TIR Carnets presented at Customs offices of destination, as defined in article 1 (g) of the Convention:
 - (a) TIR Carnet reference number;
 - (b) Date and record number in the Customs ledger;
 - (c) Name or number of Customs office of destination;
 - (d) Date and reference number of the discharge (if different from (b));
 - (e) Partial or total unloading;

- (f) Discharge with or without reservation, without prejudice to articles 8 and 11 of the Convention;
 - (g) Other information or documents (optional);
 - (h) Page number ^{1/}.
- (2) The annexed Model Reconciliation Form (MRF) could be addressed to Customs authorities by national associations or by the IRU
- (a) in case of discrepancies between the data transmitted and those on the counterfoils in the used TIR Carnet; or
 - (b) in case no data have been transmitted whereas the used TIR Carnet has been returned to the national association.

Customs authorities should return the duly filled-in MRF as soon as possible ^{2/}.

Requests national guaranteeing associations and the IRU to allow Customs authorities access to their respective data banks on TIR Carnets, if they so wish;

Also requests Customs authorities and national guaranteeing associations to conclude an agreement, in line with national law, covering the above data exchange;

Understands that the implementation of the above data exchange, as soon as possible, but by 31 December 1995 at the latest, will replace the existing separate private control procedure in those Contracting Parties where it is currently applied;

Requests Contracting Parties and the IRU to report to the next sessions of the Administrative Committee, the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport and the TIR Contact Group on the implementation of the above measure.

^{1/} Amended by the TIR Administrative Committee on 26 February 1999 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 43).

^{2/} Amended by the TIR Administrative Committee on 25 February 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 36).

