



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
RESTRICTED

ExG/COMP/2002/5  
1 September 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions  
affecting Transport

Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and  
Technical Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Convention  
(14-15 November 2002,  
agenda item 2 (a))

**INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON  
CONCEPTUAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE  
COMPUTERIZATION OF THE TIR PROCEDURE**

**Activities of the Expert Group**

**Project overview**

**Note by the secretariat**

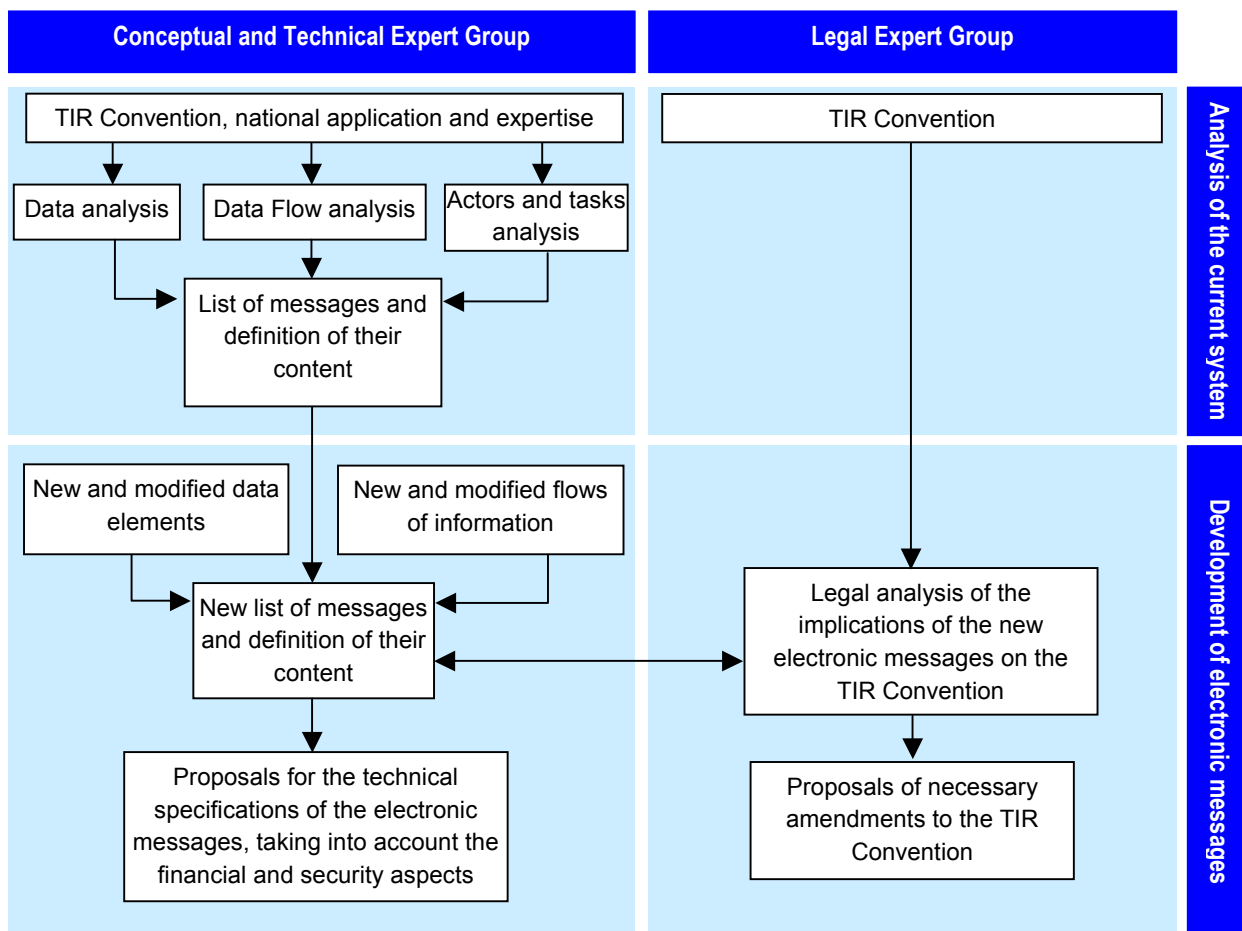
**A. BACKGROUND**

1. At its ninety-ninth session, the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), mandated the secretariat to organize, *inter alia*, meetings of an Informal ad hoc Expert Group which should study the conceptual and technical aspects of the computerization process of the TIR Convention, including the financial and administrative implications of its introduction, both at the national and at the international level, and prepare a draft set of electronic messages to allow for an interchange of electronic data, nationally, between Contracting Parties and with international organizations (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 67).

2. In line with this mandate, the Informal ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Convention held its first session in Geneva on 24-25 January 2002. At this meeting, some participants expressed the wish to get a clearer view of the work of the Expert Group, in particular in relation to the work to be performed by the Informal ad hoc Expert Group on the Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Convention. In order to address this issue, the secretariat has prepared the underlying document.

**B. SCOPE OF WORK OF THE EXPERT GROUP WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE TIR COMPUTERIZATION PROJECT**

3. Without prejudging the final choices with regard to approach and organization of a computerized TIR procedure, the goal of the Conceptual and Technical Expert Group is to design a set of electronic messages and to define the adequate security and financial requirements supporting them, so as to enable and/or simplify the interchange of electronic data at the national and international level between Contracting Parties as well as with the national associations and the international organization (TRANS/WP.30/200/11, para. 15). The following sketch describes the intended steps to achieve this goal.



4. In the view of the secretariat, the Expert Group will first address the analysis of the data elements required for the operation of a TIR transport on the basis of the current provisions of the TIR Convention and the resolutions and recommendations, adopted by the Administrative Committee against the background of their application at the national level and the personal expertise of the participating experts. At the same time, the Expert Group will analyse the circulation of data within the TIR procedure, as well as identify the activities performed by the various actors involved. As outcome of this work, the Expert Group will be able to identify which messages need to be developed, including the content of each of these messages.

5. The Expert Group will then look at possible new features, which could be included into the electronic version of the TIR procedure in order to increase security and efficiency. Within the context of the issue, the Expert Group will have to take account of the discussion on the issue by the Working Party (TRANS/WP.30/202/ para. 33-37). The outcome of this part of the work will also have to be reviewed by the Legal Expert Group, which is mandated to assess to what extent the new features are compatible with the text of the provisions of the TIR Convention.

6. As a final step, the Expert Group will address the aspect of inserting adequate security features into the identified electronic messages in order to ensure a safe and secure environment for the transmission of data. Taking account of these security features, the Expert Group will draw up the technical specifications of each of the identified electronic messages and it will give, to the extent possible, an assessment of the resources at the international and the national level to implement them.

#### **C. WORK OF OTHER BODIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE TIR COMPUTERIZATION PROJECT**

7. The ad hoc Expert Group on Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure, will be asked to study the implications of the work performed by the Conceptual and Technical Expert Group and, in particular, its impact on the provisions of the TIR Convention as well as the current and future role of the various actors involved in the TIR procedure. This study will also have to take account of the various possible approaches of the computerization process.

8. Once the two Informal ad hoc Expert Groups have identified the necessary technical, financial and legal implications of the introduction of electronic messages into the TIR Convention, the issue of computerization will be reverted to the Working Party for further consideration. At this stage the Working Party might need the help of other Expert Groups to study and propose various approaches towards the implementation of the electronic messages. Apart from the legal aspects involved, the selection of the approach will be guided by the messages, designed at an earlier stage of the project, the security of the system and the resources required. And, in view of the complexity and the wide geographical coverage of the project, a number of steps will have to be defined before a fully computerised TIR procedure can be implemented.

---