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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

(12-15 February 2002)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ONE-HUNDREDTH SESSION OF
THE WORKING PARTY ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AFFECTING TRANSPORT**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 12 February 2002 ^{*/}**

^{*/} For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: Poul.Hansen@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UNECE Transport Division (www.unece.org/trans). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE (www.unece.org)) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (Poul.Hansen@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

1. Adoption of the agenda TRANS/WP.30/199
2. Election of officers
3. Activities of UNECE bodies and other United Nations organizations of interest to the Working Party
4. Activities of other organizations of interest to the Working Party
5. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (“Harmonization Convention”) ECE/TRANS/55
(www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/conventions/list.htm)

Preparation of a new Annex on efficient border crossing procedures TRANS/WP.30/2001/16
TRANS/WP.30/196
TRANS/WP.30/194
TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8
TRANS/WP.30/192
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6. Draft UNECE Conventions on International Customs Transit Procedures for the Carriage of Goods by Rail TRANS/2001/10
TRANS/WP.30/194
TRANS/WP.30/2000/17
TRANS/WP.30/164
TRANS/WP.30/R.141
7. Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) ECE/TRANS/17 and Amendments 1-19
1999 TIR Handbook
(www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)

(a) Status of the Convention TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63,
annex 1
(www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)
Depositary Notification
C.N.36.2001.TREATIES-1

(b) Revision of the Convention

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|------|---|--|
| (i) | Adoption of amendment proposals and examples of best practices under Phase II of the TIR revision process | Depositary Notification
C.N.37.2001.TREATIES-2
Depositary Notification
C.N.503.2001.TREATIES-4
Depositary Notification
C.N.688.2001.TREATIES-4
Depositary Notification
C.N.1106.2001.TREATIES-5
TRANS/WP.30/2002/8
TRANS/WP.30/2001/14
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59
and Corrs.1 and 2
TRANS/WP.30/192
TRANS/WP.30/2000/18 |
| (ii) | Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process | TRANS/WP.30/2002/7
TRANS/WP.30/2001/19
TRANS/WP.30/2001/18
TRANS/WP.30/2001/15
TRANS/WP.30/2001/13
TRANS/WP.30/2001/12
TRANS/WP.30/2001/11
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TRANS/WP.30/2001/8
TRANS/WP.30/2001/6
TRANS/WP.30/2001/5
Informal document No.15 (2001)
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Informal document No.13 (2001)
Informal document No.12 (2001)
Informal document No.8 (2000)
Informal document No.7 (2000)
Informal document No.1 (2000)
TRANS/WP.30/1999/5
Informal document No.5 (1997) |

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| (c) | Application of the Convention | (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm) |
| (i) | Settlement of claims for payments | TRANS/WP.30/196 |
| (ii) | Introduction of an identification number for the TIR Carnet Holder | TRANS/WP.30/2001/9
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59 |
| (iii) | Re-introduction of the guarantee for sensitive and other excluded goods | TRANS/WP.30/196
TRANS/WP.30/194
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TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/1
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TRANS/WP.30/178 |
| (iv) | Measures to reduce the number of lost, stolen and falsified TIR Carnets | TRANS/WP.30/196
TRANS/WP.30/194 |
| (v) | Application of Article 38 of the Convention | TRANS/WP.30/196
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TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/14
and Corr.1 |
| (vi) | Road vehicles considered as heavy or bulky goods | TRANS/WP.30/2002/8 |
| (vii) | Guidance on Customs control and trade facilitation | TRANS/WP.30/2002/1 |
| (viii) | Filling-in of TIR Carnets | TRANS/WP.30/2002/2 |
| (ix) | Amendment proposals relating to technical provisions | TRANS/WP.30/2002/3
TRANS/WP.30/2002/4
TRANS/WP.30/2002/5 |
| (x) | Renewal of the certificate of approval | |
| (xi) | Inclusion of place and number of seals in the certificate of approval | |

- (xii) National control measures in the Russian Federation
 - (xiii) Report on the situation at CIS borders TRANS/WP.30/2002/6
 - (xiv) TIR Handbook UN/ECE document
(www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)
 - (xv) Other matters
8. Prevention of the abuse of Customs transit systems by smugglers TRANS/WP.30/127
9. Other business
- (a) Dates of the next sessions
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents
10. Adoption of the report

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The secretariat proposes the following schedule of the work:

Monday 11 February 2002:	Informal <u>Ad Hoc</u> expert group meeting on SMGS rail Customs transit
Tuesday, 12 February 2002:	WP.30 agenda items 1 - 7
Wednesday, 13 February 2002:	WP.30 agenda items 7 - 9
Thursday, 14 February 2002:	TIR Administrative Committee
Friday, 15 February 2002:	Adoption of reports: UNECE Working Party (WP.30) TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2)

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1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda (TRANS/WP.30/199).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party will have to elect a Chairman and possibly a Vice-Chairman for its sessions in 2002.

3. ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party will be informed about the results of relevant sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party and may wish to be informed about recent activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

4. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities by the World Customs Organization (WCO), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), the European Commission (DG TAXUD) as well as by other governmental and non-governmental organizations as they relate to matters of interest to the Working Party.

5. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF FRONTIER CONTROLS OF GOODS, 1982 ("Harmonization Convention")

Preparation of a new Annex on efficient border crossing procedures

The Working Party may wish to recall that the Administrative Committee for the "Harmonization Convention" at its last session (18 and 20 October 2000) had agreed with the general conclusions of the Working Party on the preparation of a new Annex 8 to the Convention concerning efficient border crossing procedures for international road transport. It decided to consider and possibly adopt the draft Annex, including its technical appendices, at its next session, which had been planned to be held in October 2001 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/8, paras. 12-22; TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 10-13). This session of the Administrative Committee

was however postponed until October 2002 as some of the provisions of the new Annex 8, in particular those of Articles 2 and 4 had not yet been finalized.

The Working Party at its ninety-ninth session considered a consolidated text of a new Annex 8, including provisions on an International Vehicle Weight Certificate as well as an International Technical Inspection Certificate (TRANS/WP.30/2001/16) prepared by the secretariat. The Working Party, reiterating that the objective of preparing a new Annex 8 to the Convention had been to address all elements important for efficient border crossing procedures in international road transport of goods, decided to consider the results of national consultations with competent authorities and Ministries on the acceptability of the various provisions of the new Annex 8 at its next session (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 23).

The Working Party may wish to exchange views on the results of their national consultations and may wish to consider whether modifications on some of the technical provisions of the new Annex 8 are necessary. The Working Party will be informed about the progress made by the Regional Road Transport Committee (RRTC) on the introduction of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the countries of the South-Eastern Co-operation Initiative (SECI).

6. DRAFT UNECE CONVENTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAIL

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its ninety-sixth session, it had terminated its activities towards the preparation of harmonized pan-European Customs transit procedures for international rail transport. According to its decision (TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 14-21), the two draft conventions prepared for this purpose had been transmitted, via diplomatic channels, to the Contracting Parties to the COTIF Convention and to the SMGS Agreement respectively with a view to soliciting their views on the approach taken and on the Customs transit procedures proposed therein (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 26). The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made in preparing a revised draft Convention based on the SMGS consignment note, and in particular about the conclusions of an ad hoc informal expert group meeting of interested countries and international organizations, scheduled to be held on 11 February 2002.

7. CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION, 1975)

(a) Status of the Convention

The Working Party will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975.

A complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention as well as a list of countries in which TIR operations can be undertaken is annexed to the report of the thirty-first session of the TIR Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, annex 1).

On 12 February 2001, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had issued Depositary Notifications C.N.36.2001.TREATIES-1 and C.N.37.2001.TREATIES-2 containing all amendment proposals contained in TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 3 adopted under Phase II of the TIR revision process as well as amendment proposals to Article 3 of the Convention contained in TRANS/WP.30/AC.2, annex 4. These amendments would come into force on 12 May 2002 if by 12 February 2002 no objection to the proposed amendments had been raised. Comments to these proposed amendments, adopted by the Working Party, are contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 5. The Working Party will be informed about the status of the entry into force of these amendment proposals.

Permanently updated information on the scope of the TIR Convention and on the relevant Depositary Notifications is available on the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

(b) Revision of the Convention

(i) Adoption of amendment proposals and examples of best practices under Phase II of the TIR revision process

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its ninety-sixth session, it had finalized work on Phase II of the TIR revision process by agreeing on a complex package of amendment proposals to the Convention and by adopting examples of best practices. The TIR Administrative Committee, at its twenty-ninth session (19 and 20 October 2000) had adopted the amendment proposals prepared by the Working Party together with comments thereto (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annexes 3 and 5 and Corrs.1 and 2). The Administrative Committee also endorsed examples of best practices as had been prepared by the Working Party (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 7).

The main objective of Phase II of the TIR revision process had been to facilitate the application of the Convention at the national level. For this purpose, the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in the TIR procedure have been clearly defined and specified. Furthermore, guidance has been provided on the required national administrative procedures providing for an efficient functioning of the TIR procedures and, if required, for a speedy recovery of Customs duties and taxes at risk from the person directly liable (for example, the holder of a TIR Carnet) or, if this turned out not to be possible, from national guaranteeing associations.

The Working Party may also wish to recall that, at its ninety-eighth session, it had been informed that the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB), in the framework of developing best practices, had developed an example authorization and agreement to be concluded between competent authorities and national associations (TRANS/WP.30/2001/14). The Working Party will be informed of further deliberations by the TIRExB on this subject.

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

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its ninety-sixth session, it had decided to start work on Phase III of the TIR revision process which would include a study of the following elements (TRANS/WP.30/192, para. 33):

- Revision of the TIR Carnet, including the insertion of additional data elements (ID number, HS code, value of goods, etc.) (TRANS/WP.30/188, para. 31);
- Increase in the number of places for loading and unloading under Customs seal (TRANS/WP.30/186, paras. 42 and 43);
- Possibilities for the reduction of the legally required delays for notification of non-discharge of TIR Carnets (TRANS/WP.30/188, para. 38);
- Use of new technologies in TIR operations also with a view to reducing the delay in notification of non-discharge (TRANS/WP.30/188, para. 31).

At its ninety-seventh session, the Working Party decided to consider also under Phase III of the TIR revision process amendment proposals on the definition and voting rights of regional economic integration organizations (TRANS/WP.30/194, para. 43). Following consideration of this subject on the basis of a proposal prepared by the European Commission (TRANS/WP.30/2001/15), the Working Party decided at its ninety-ninth session to transmit this proposal to the next session of the TIR Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 50-54).

- Revision of the TIR Carnet

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its ninety-eighth session, it had discussed extensively the usefulness of including additional data elements into the TIR Carnet. The Working Party was of the opinion that additional data elements could be useful in relation to the procedures for recovery of debt and facilitating subsequent Customs procedures (TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 35-40). The Working Party, at its ninety-ninth session, decided to continue further discussion on the inclusion of the HS code and value of goods when the final results of the European Commission sub-group on data were available. The conclusions of this sub-group could, however, only be taken as one of the elements for the discussion given the considerable differences between the TIR and the Community/Common transit systems. The Working Party was of the view that the specific requirements concerning documentation required in addition to those stipulated in the TIR Convention might need to be studied separately. In this context, the Working Party may wish to be informed about the preliminary results of a questionnaire transmitted by the secretariat to selected countries about the documentary requirements for TIR operations (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 56-57).

At its ninety-ninth session, the Working Party had also considered document TRANS/WP.30/2001/18 prepared by the secretariat presenting information on the use of additional data elements in case of initiation of a procedure for recovery of Customs claims, Delegations were invited to inform the secretariat of their views on the feasibility and usefulness of developing a mutual assistance procedure in the framework of the TIR Convention (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 58-59). The Working Party might wish to be informed about the reactions received from the Contracting Parties.

- Increase in the number of loading and unloading places

The Working Party may wish to continue its discussion of this subject based on document TRANS/WP.30/2001/19 prepared by the secretariat containing proposals for three alternative solutions to increase the number of loading and unloading places.

- Possibilities for the reduction of the legally required delays for notification of non-discharge of TIR Carnets

The Working Party, at its ninety-ninth session, was of the view that Customs authorities could not accept any reduction in the legally prescribed time-limits for notification of non-discharge as provided in the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 62).

The IRU had informed the Working Party at its previous sessions of its intention to raise the issue of pre-notification of non-discharge, once a revision of the inquiry procedure in the Community and Common transit systems had been undertaken in the European Community. The Working Party may wish to be informed by the representative of the European Commission of the progress in this respect.

The IRU had requested the Working Party at its ninety-ninth session to consider, at one of its future sessions, how to provide specific guidance in cases where a notification in case of non-discharge according to the relevant provisions adopted under Phase II of the revision process (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, Annex 6, particularly new Explanatory Note 0.8.7, new Explanatory Note 0.11-1 and comment to Article 11) had not been transmitted to the TIR Carnet holder. The Working Party may wish to be informed by the IRU of further details concerning this issue.

- Use of new technologies

The Working Party may wish to consider the preliminary results of the results of the first session of the Informal Ad Hoc Expert Group on Computerization of the TIR Procedure (Geneva, 28-29 January 2002). The proposed Terms of Reference for this expert group are contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2002/7.

(c) **Application of the Convention**

The Working Party may wish to note that permanently updated information on the application of the Convention is available on the UNECE TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

(i) **Settlement of claims for payments**

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the IRU on further progress made in the current arbitration procedure, initiated by the IRU, to obtain payment for Customs claims presented to the previous insurers of the international guaranteeing chain which had denounced their contract with the IRU at the end of 1994 (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 71, TRANS/WP.30/196, para. 51; TRANS/WP.30/194, para. 49, TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 44 and 45; TRANS/WP.30/190, para. 37; TRANS/WP.30/188, paras. 46 and 47; TRANS/WP.30/184, paras. 51 and 52; TRANS/WP.30/182, paras. 37 and 38).

The Working Party may also wish to be informed by Customs authorities and the IRU of the present situation with regard to the settlement of claims for payments made by Customs authorities against national guaranteeing associations. In particular, the Working Party may wish to have an indication of the amounts paid out by the international insurers and the IRU in the years 2000 and 2001 as well as information on the reasons for payment claims by Customs authorities. Regular information in this respect would allow for better risk assessment in the application of the Convention by Customs authorities and the TIRExB.

(ii) **Introduction of an identification number for the TIR Carnet Holder**

On 20 October 2000, the TIR Administrative Committee had adopted a Recommendation stipulating the insertion of the individual and unique identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder (as prescribed since 1999 in the Model Authorization Form (MAF) contained in Annex 9, Part II of the TIR Convention) into each TIR Carnet used (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 2).

The Working Party may wish to exchange information about the experiences concerning the implementation and application of the Recommendation and how the Recommendation has assisted in the operation of the TIR procedures.

The Working Party may also wish to be informed of the first experiences of providing access to the International TIR Databank (ITDB) for all TIR Customs Focal points to facilitate inquiry procedures.

(iii) **Re-introduction of the guarantee for sensitive and other excluded goods**

The Working Party may wish to be informed of progress made by the IRU, in co-operation with the insurers and the European Commission, to re-introduce the guarantee coverage for so-called “sensitive” goods under cover of TIR Carnets for which some guaranteeing associations in countries of the European Community and the IRU had denounced their insurance contracts.

The Working Party had, on various occasions, urged the IRU and the international guaranteeing chain to re-establish full guarantee coverage for these sensitive goods as soon as possible (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 79; TRANS/WP.30/196, para. 61; TRANS/WP.30/194, para. 53, TRANS/WP.30/192, paras. 46-48; TRANS/WP.30/188, paras. 48-51; TRANS/WP.30/184, paras. 48-50; TRANS/WP.30/178, paras. 80 and 81).

In the same context the Working Party may also wish to be informed about efforts to further improve and extend the present IRU SAFETIR system in order to better control the use of TIR Carnet.

(iv) **Measures to reduce the number of lost, stolen and falsified TIR Carnets**

At its ninety-eighth session, the Working Party had been informed about the fact that the IRU had been forced to change the supplier of the paper for TIR Carnets as of September 2001 and as a result was forced to change one of the security features in the TIR Carnet, as the new paper supplier could not provide these features. The IRU had proposed to the TIRExB to change at the same time the design related features of the TIR Carnet as well as to add some other security features in order to make falsification more difficult (TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 68 and 69). The TIRExB decided to accept the changes in the lay-out of the TIR Carnet as proposed by the IRU since they do not modify the relevant provisions of the Convention.

The TIR secretariat has already distributed to all TIR Customs Focal Points detailed descriptions of the present (red) and new (blue) TIR Carnets. Including all of its security elements. Detailed information in this respect is also available on the UNECE TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

The new version of the TIR Carnet is foreseen to reach Customs authorities in December 2001/January 2002. The Working Party may wish to exchange information about the experiences concerning the introduction of the new TIR Carnet version.

(v) **Application of Article 38 of the Convention**

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at the invitation of the TIR Administrative Committee, the Working Party, at its ninety-seventh session, had considered the underlying reasons for the exclusion of persons from the TIR procedure in accordance with Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Convention. The TIR Administrative Committee had noted that the reasons for exclusions were quite different in the Contracting Parties to the Convention. This was mainly due to different national interpretations of the conditions for such exclusion as stipulated in Article 38 of the Convention; i.e. "guilty of a serious offence" (TRANS/WP.30/194, para. 74).

At its ninety-eighth session, the Working Party had agreed, as a first step, to facilitate the application of national legislation with regard to Article 38 and, for this purpose, decided to consider the deletion of Explanatory Note 0.38.1 to Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/196, para.75). The Working Party, at its ninety-ninth session, took note that Explanatory Note 0.38.1 to Article 38 seemed not to be in line with the philosophy of the TIR Convention, which is based on the notion that as much competence as possible should be left to national legislation (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 94).

The Working Party also considered to add a comment to Article 38, paragraph 2 of the Convention concerning "Cooperation between competent authorities" based on the proposal of the secretariat contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/14 (TRANS/WP.30/196, para. 76).

The Working Party also considered to add a new comment to Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Convention concerning "Exclusion of a domestic transport operator from the TIR procedure" based on a revised text of the proposal contained in TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/14. The same comment should also be added to Annex 9, Part II, "Procedure" (TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 77 and 78).

The Working Party may wish to continue its consideration on this subject.

(vi) **Road vehicles considered as heavy or bulky goods**

Having considered the subject concerning vehicles considered heavy or bulky at its ninety-ninth session (TRANS/WP.30/2001/198, paras. 95-98), the Working Party may wish to consider the issue on the basis of document TRANS/WP.30/2002/8 prepared by the secretariat.

(vii) **Guidance on Customs control and trade facilitation**

The Working Party may wish to consider amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the European Community as contained in document number TRANS/WP.30/2002/1. The objective of the proposals is to provide for a clear definition of the terms “facilitation and Customs controls” in the framework of the Convention.

(viii) **Filling-in of TIR Carnets**

The Working Party, at its ninety-ninth session, considered the question of filling-in the TIR Carnet, in particular the filling in of TIR Carnets by hand. The Working Party, after due interpretation of the wording of both the French and English language versions of paragraph 10. b) of Annex 1 of the TIR Convention (Rules regarding the Use of the TIR Carnet) felt it permissible to lodge TIR Carnets filled-in by hand (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 104-107).

The Working Party may wish to consider document TRANS/WP.30/2002/2 prepared by the secretariat proposing to insert a new comment or, if required, possibly a new Explanatory Note 1.10 b) to Annex 1 providing guidance concerning the filling-in of TIR Carnets.

(ix) **Amendment proposals relating to technical provisions of the Convention**

The Working Party may wish to consider amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Liaison Committee of the Body and Trailer Building Industry (CLCCR) as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2002/3 which would provide for a clearer description of the design of the TIR plate (amendment to Annex 5 of the Convention), in document TRANS/WP.30/2002/4 concerning the structure of load compartments (amendment to Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (a) of the Convention) and in document TRANS/WP.30/2002/5 concerning the structure of load compartments (amendment to Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) of the Convention).

(x) **Renewal of the certificate of approval**

At its ninety-eighth session, the Working Party was informed by the representative of the European Commission about a practical difficulty in the application of Annex 3, paragraph 4 of the Convention concerning the renewal of the certificate of approval for road vehicles. Transport operators increasingly use road vehicles in Contracting Parties other than those where they are registered. As a consequence, vehicles must be sent back to the country of registration for inspection and renewal of the certificate of approval, which often causes operational and economic difficulties (TRANS/WP.30/196, para. 86).

The Working Party may wish to consider this question on the basis of information to be provided by the European Commission and the IRU.

(xi) **Inclusion of place and number of seals in the certificate of approval**

At its ninety-ninth session, the Working Party was requested by the representative of the Netherlands to consider the question of including information on the exact placement and number of seals on the load compartment in the Model Certificate of Approval of a Road Vehicle, contained in Annex 4 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/198, para. 108).

The Working Party may wish to consider this question on the basis of information to be provided by the Netherlands.

(xii) **National control measures in the Russian Federation**

At its ninety-ninth session, the Working Party was informed by the representatives of the European Community and Finland of problems caused by the introduction of new transit regulations for certain goods in the Russian Federation. The representative of the Russian Federation had informed the Working Party about the general purpose of the new regulations. The Working Party had requested the TIRExB to consider whether the new regulations were in line with the provisions of the TIR Convention (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 101-103).

The Working Party may wish to be informed by the Government of the Russian Federation about further details of the regulations, if possible. The Working Party may also wish to be informed by the Chairman of the TIRExB of the considerations of the TIRExB concerning this issue.

(xiii) **Report on the situation at CIS borders**

The Working Party may wish to take note of document TRANS/WP.30/2002/6 transmitted by the IRU containing a summary of the results of a survey conducted by the IRU concerning problems of international carriers at CIS internal and external borders.

(xiv) **TIR Handbook**

The Working Party may wish to note that the 1999 TIR Handbook has been updated to take account of new developments, recently adopted amendments and comments as well as modified recommendations. The complete text of the TIR Handbook is available on the UNECE TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm). By the end of January 2002, updated

versions in the Arabic, English, French and Russian languages are expected to be available. The Chinese, Czech German, Italian, Spanish and Turkish updated versions are expected to be available as of April 2002.

Following the possible entry into force of the amendment package under Phase II of the TIR revision process on 12 May 2002, a new updated version of the TIR Handbook will be issued by the secretariat.

The TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and the TIR Administrative Committee. Hard-copy versions of the TIR Handbook are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. A limited number of such copies may be obtained free of charge from the secretariat.

(xv) **Other matters**

The Working Party may wish to consider any other issues and difficulties in the application of the Convention faced by Customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or the IRU.

8. PREVENTION OF THE ABUSE OF CUSTOMS TRANSIT SYSTEMS BY SMUGGLERS

Having discussed at earlier sessions a number of drug seizures involving TIR vehicles, the Working Party felt that it should be informed of any special devices and facilities used by smugglers abusing the TIR transit system. The Working Party invited all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to transmit all relevant information on such cases so that it could take the necessary steps, falling within its competence and mandate, to prevent such occurrences (TRANS/WP.30/127, paras. 55-57).

As in the past, the Working Party may wish to exchange views and report on experiences on this subject, if any, on a confidential basis.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) **Dates of the next sessions**

The Working Party may wish to decide on the dates for its next sessions.

The secretariat has already scheduled the one-hundredth-and-first session of the Working Party to be held in the week from 17 to 21 June 2002.

The one-hundredth-and-second session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held during the week of 21 to 25 October 2002, in conjunction with the thirty-third session of the TIR Administrative Committee and, possibly the fifth session of the Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.

(b) **Restriction on the distribution of documents**

The Working Party should decide whether there shall be any restrictions with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report on its one-hundredth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available for adoption in all working languages.



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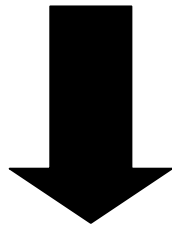
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