TIRExB Informal document No. 14 (2012)

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Fiftieth session
Athens, 14–15 May 2012
Agenda item 10

Election of a TIRExB replacement member

Note by the secretariat

A. Background and mandate

1. At its previous session, the Board requested the secretariat, to prepare, for consideration at its next session an Informal document, outlining the professional requirements of prospective TIRExB members (Informal document TIRExB/REP/2012/49draft, paragraph 30).

2. Further to above request, the secretariat prepared this document, for consideration by the Board.

B. Professional requirements for the nomination of members of TIRExB

3. At its twenty-fourth session (February 1998), the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) provisionally endorsed, inter alia, the Rules of Procedure of TIRExB (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, paragraph 25 and Annex 4), pending the establishment of TIRExB. AC.2, at its twenty-fifth session (June 1998), AC.2 adopted a comment to amend the provisional Rule of Procedure on ‘Representation, to read as follows:

(a) Board members should be competent and experienced in the application of Customs procedures, particularly the TIR transit procedure, both at national and international levels;

(b) Board members should be nominated by their respective Governments or organizations being Contracting Parties to the Convention. They should represent the interests of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and not the specific interests of any one individual Government or organization (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, paragraph 22 and annex).

4. Originally, the comment contained a third requirement, stipulating that "the composition of the TIRExB should, to the extent possible, reflect the geographical coverage of the TIR procedure and its impact on the Contracting Parties, being important countries of origin, transit or destination for TIR operations. As a very rough indicator that may guide
the Administrative Committee for the initial\textsuperscript{1} election of Board members, it is proposed that Board members are nominated from the following six groups (...) of Contracting Parties utilizing, at present, the TIR procedure.” However, at its twenty-ninth session (October 2000), AC.2 decided to remove this requirement, as its provisions related only to the initial election of Board members and were, thus, no longer appropriate (see TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paragraph 25).

5. At its first session (March 1999), TIRExB, further to the provisional endorsement of its Rules of Procedure by AC.2 and on the understanding that the Convention stipulates that TIRExB adopts its own Rules of Procedure (Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 3), adopted its Rules of Procedure, without the above mentioned comment thereto.

6. Since then, the professional requirements for election have been consistently reproduced as Informal document No. 1 in the years when elections have taken place (viz. 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011).

C. Considerations by the Board

7. TIRExB may wish to consider the following options for the future:

(a) Continue the current practice of including the professional requirements in the Informal document on the election of members of TIRExB, distributed every two years at the beginning of the election process, or alternatively

(b) Introduce, as originally proposed by AC.2 in 1998, the above quoted comment to amend the Rule of Procedure on representation, or alternatively

(c) Amend the existing Rule of Procedure on representation with the text of the above quoted comment in a slightly revised wording to read as follows:

“Board members shall be competent and experienced in the application of Customs procedures, particularly the TIR transit procedure, both at national and international levels;

Board members should be nominated by their respective Governments or organizations being Contracting Parties to the Convention. They shall represent the interests of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and not the specific interests of any one individual Government or organization.”

\textsuperscript{1} Underlining as part of the adopted text of AC.2 report TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, Annex.