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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

#### Sixty-sixth session

Geneva, 12 October 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session<sup>1, 2</sup>

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday,  
12 October 2017, Room XII

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975.
3. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:

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<sup>1</sup> 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 official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: wp.30@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html). During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as well as a complete list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, are available on the UNECE website: [www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs).

Delegates are requested to register online at: [www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=VsKgPL](http://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=VsKgPL) or to complete the registration form available from the Internet website of the ECE Sustainable Transport Division [www.unece.org/meetings/practical\\_information/confpart.pdf](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical_information/confpart.pdf) and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat, at the latest one week prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (wp.30@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).

- (a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board:
  - (i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board;
  - (ii) Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2017-2018;
  - (iii) Survey on customs claims;
  - (iv) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat;
  - (v) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars.
- (b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat:
  - (i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2016;
  - (ii) Interim financial statement for the year 2017;
  - (iii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat;
  - (iv) Budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2018.
- 4. Revision of the Convention:
  - (a) Amendment proposals to the Convention with regard to the maximum level of guarantee per TIR Carnet;
  - (b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party;
  - (c) Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board;
  - (d) Proposals transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation;
  - (e) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption;
  - (f) Proposals to increase the membership and widen the geographical scope of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB).
- 5. Phase III of the TIR revision process - Computerization of the TIR procedure.
- 6. Best practices:
  - (a) Use of subcontractors;
  - (b) Implementation of the intermodal aspects of the TIR procedure.
- 7. Other business:
  - (a) IRU external audit report and related matters;
  - (b) Audit requirements for an authorized international organization;
  - (c) Application of the TIR Convention on Belarus-Ukraine border-crossing points;
  - (d) Date of next session;
  - (e) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
  - (f) List of decisions.
- 8. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/134). The Committee will be informed that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, "a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purpose of taking decisions". The number of States which are Contracting Parties to the Convention is seventy.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/134

### **2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975**

The Committee will be informed about changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of Contracting Parties. More detailed information on these issues as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board**

#### **(a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board**

##### **(i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision of the Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), the secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its seventieth (December 2016), seventy-first (February 2017) and seventy-second (May 2017) sessions for information and endorsement by the Committee. More information about the recent activities of TIRExB as well as about various considerations and decisions taken at its seventy-third (June 2017) and seventy-fourth (October 2017) sessions will be provided orally by the Chair of TIRExB.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/10,  
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/11

##### **(ii) Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2017-2018**

In line with the established practice, the Committee will be invited to approve the programme of work of TIRExB for 2017-2018 and provide guidance on future activities and priorities of the work of TIRExB.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/12

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<sup>3</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

**(iii) Survey on customs claims**

Pursuant to its mandate to supervise, inter alia, the operation of the guarantee system (Annex 8, Article 10, paragraph (a)), TIRExB, at regular intervals, conducts a survey on the status of customs claims in all TIR Contracting Parties. The Committee will be informed by the secretariat about the launching of the survey on customs claims for the years 2013-2016.

The Committee will also be informed about the request transmitted by the Working Party, to share, from the latest surveys on customs claims, the country-by-country replies on the number of TIR operations in their territory, where the amount of customs duties and taxes exceeded 60,000 euros (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/290, para. 26).

**(iv) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat**

The Committee will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, if any.

**(v) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars**

The Committee will be informed about TIR workshops and seminars conducted and/or planned.

**(b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat**

**(i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2016**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Committee. The Committee may wish to note that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations have formally finalized the accounts for 2016. The Committee will be invited to formally approve the status report on the accounts for 2016 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/20.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also be informed by the secretariat about the follow-up to the decision of AC.2 at its sixty-fourth session to request the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), to carry out an audit of the accounts of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/20

**(ii) Interim financial statement for the year 2017**

In line with standing practice, the Committee may wish to take note of the provisional interim financial statement for 2017 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/21.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/21

**(iii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat**

The Committee may wish to recall the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89, para. 38 and Annex II), according to which

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(8) IRU<sup>4</sup> maintains a separate account detailing the number of TIR Carnets distributed and the related amounts received;

(9) IRU auditor produces an audit certificate providing an opinion of the above-mentioned account for the year in question showing the amount transferred and the total amount actually invoiced (15 January);

(10) The difference between the two amounts will need to be adjusted a posteriori;

(11) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if there is an excess (i.e. more was received than initially transferred), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, will be informed and IRU shall transfer the excess to the UNECE<sup>5</sup> named bank account before 15 March. This amount will be reflected in the UNECE TIR accounts to be taken into account for the next budget year;

(12) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if there is a deficit (i.e. less was received than initially transferred), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, and on the proposal of IRU, shall approve the appropriate action, which shall be either:

(a) a recalculation of the amount per TIR Carnet referred to in Annex 8, Article 13.1, or

(b) the deficit will be recorded in the IRU account referred to above and shall, on the basis of a proposal from IRU as endorsed by the Administrative Committee, be subsequently adjusted."

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that the audit certificate for the year 2016 recorded a deficit (i.e. less was received than initially transferred), and that, at its previous session, it had decided to consider the appropriate action according to item 12 of the above procedure at its current session. To this end, the Committee will be invited to take note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/13 prepared by the secretariat and outlining the main considerations on the deficit for the year 2016. In line with point (12) above, the Committee may also wish to take note of Informal Document WP.30/AC.2 (2017) No.9, containing the recommendation by IRU, as reflected in a letter to the secretariat.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/13, Informal Document WP.30/AC.2 (2017) No. 9

**(iv) Budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2018**

The Committee may wish to recall the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat

<sup>4</sup> International Road Transport Union

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

(ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89, para. 38 and Annex II) and, in particular, the following steps:

(a) The UNECE secretariat prepares a document comprised of the budget proposal established by TIRExB for approval by the Committee (September);

(b) The UNECE secretariat informs IRU of the budget proposal and the net amount to be transferred and requests IRU to provide an operational forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in the forthcoming year (September);

(c) IRU provides the Committee with its forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in the forthcoming year and its internal calculation concerning the amount per TIR Carnet (September-October);

(d) The Committee approves the budget and the net amount to be transferred by IRU, and takes note of the forecast established by IRU. The Committee also approves the amount per TIR Carnet, calculated by the secretariat on the basis of the forecast provided by IRU (September-October);

(e) IRU transfers the net amount approved by the Committee to the UNECE named bank account (mid-November).

The Committee will be informed about the activities of the UNECE secretariat and IRU under items (a) - (c). Under item (d), the Committee will be invited to approve the budget and cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2018 as well as the net amount to be transferred by IRU (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/22). The Committee may also wish to be informed by IRU about the forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in 2018 and of its internal calculation concerning the amount per TIR Carnet (Informal Document WP.30/AC.2 (2017) No.8). The Committee may wish to approve the amount per TIR Carnet, which will be expressed in Swiss francs following the transfer of the above net amount to the UNECE named bank according to the prevailing United States dollar - Swiss franc exchange rate on the day of the transfer.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/22, Informal Document WP.30/AC.2 (2017) No.8

#### **4. Revision of the Convention**

##### **(a) Amendment proposals to the Convention with regard to the maximum level of guarantee per TIR Carnet**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, TIRExB had reported its findings namely that it could not recommend unequivocally any change to the current system other than raising the recommended maximum guarantee amount from 60,000 to 100,000 euros. Against this background, the Committee agreed, at its previous session, to amend Explanatory Note 0.8.3. to refer to 100,000 euros rather than 50,000 United States dollars (see agenda item 4(e) on accepted amendment proposals pending formal adoption). At its current session, the Committee will be invited to resume its discussions on other ways to further increase flexibility in the guarantee system, taking into account the above-mentioned findings of TIRExB and the decision to increase the maximum recommended amount per TIR transport to 100,000 euros.

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to recall its considerations on the guarantee for carriage of tobacco and alcohol products and its decision to resume its discussions on this issue at its current session. The Committee will be orally informed about on-going considerations at the Working Party on this issue, and may wish to postpone its discussions until such time as the Working Party transmits its findings to AC.2.

**(b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party**

The Committee will be invited to continue its consideration of outstanding amendment proposals transmitted by the Working Party. For ease of reference, the Committee reached agreement on a number of proposals transmitted by the Working Party; these have been included in the package of amendment proposals to the TIR Convention pending formal adoption, for consideration under agenda item 4(e). The Committee will be invited to continue its discussions on the remaining amendment proposals for which a decision is still pending as follows:

(a) Amendment of Article 6, paragraph 1, Explanatory Note 0.6.2. and Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1: The Committee may wish to recall that, due to ongoing internal consultations, several delegations were not in a position to discuss this proposal. The Committee may wish to continue its considerations in the event that all delegations are prepared to do so. For ease of reference, this proposal is contained, with annotations, in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/14.

(b) Amendment of Article 18, to increase the number of places of loading and unloading from four to eight: At its previous session, the Committee took note of the proposal by the delegation of the Russian Federation to Article 18 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(e)). The Committee decided to mandate the secretariat to collect and consolidate comments by Contracting Parties to that proposal, for consideration at its current session. To this end, the secretariat has issued document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/18 containing the original proposal by the delegation of Turkey with an overview of previous discussions, as well as the proposal by the Russian Federation and the comments received thereto as at 21 July 2017. Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to take due account, in its discussions, of the on-going work of TIRExB to elaborate, in line with the decision of the Committee at its previous session, an Explanatory Note to Article 18, to accompany the original proposal as submitted by the delegation of Turkey (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(e)).

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/14, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/18

**(c) Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board**

The Committee will be invited to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/6, transmitted by TIRExB and containing a revised proposal for a new Explanatory Note to Article 49 of the Convention, so as to widen the scope of greater facilities that Contracting Parties may grant to transport operators. The Committee may wish to recall that this proposal was not discussed at the previous session, due to a lack of time.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/6

**(d) Proposals transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation**

The Government of the Russian Federation had submitted proposals to amend various provisions of the body of the Convention as well as of Annex 9. The proposals are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/14. The Committee may wish to recall that comments to these proposals from Contracting Parties were consolidated in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/1/Rev.1-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/7/Rev.1, and that additional justifications had been submitted by the Russian Federation, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/17-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/16. The Committee may wish to recall that it has concluded its consideration of all the amendment proposals referred to above except for one, over the course of several sessions and as

reflected in the relevant reports. For ease of reference, the secretariat has issued document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/19, containing the last outstanding amendment proposal by the delegation of the Russian Federation, to amend Article 11 with a new paragraph 4 bis, together with an overview of previous discussions and comments thereto. The Committee will be invited to resume and, possibly, finalise its considerations on this proposal.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/14, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/1/Rev.1-  
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/7/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2015/17-  
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2015/16, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/19

**(e) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption**

The Committee may wish to review and formally adopt the package of amendment proposals as contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/15 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/16. For ease of reference, these proposals refer to:

(a) Article 1, para. (q), on the definition of a “guaranteeing association” (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/127, para. 32);

(b) Article 2 to specify that the word “frontier” refers to a customs frontier (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/127, para. 34 (a));

(c) Article 11, para. 3, on reducing the earliest moment at which a claim to an association can be made (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/127, para. 34(c));

(d) Article 38, in order to, unequivocally, entitle a Contracting Party to assess whether a customs offence is serious enough to constitute grounds for exclusion (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/129, para. 36(c));

(e) Replacement of the term “approved” by “authorized” when referring to national associations in Article 3 para. (b), Article 6, para. 2 and in Annex 9, Part II (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(c));

(f) Annex 9, Part I, para. 7 replacement of “Contracting Parties” by “each Contracting Party” (see ECE/ TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(d));

(g) Annex 8, Article 1 bis, addition of new paras. 4-6 on additional examinations (see ECE/ TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(a));

(h) Annex 9, Part III, para. 2, new items (o), (p) and (q) on audit requirements for the authorized international organization (see ECE/ TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(a));

(j) Annex 9, Part I, subtitle and Annex 9, Part I, para. 1, first line on the addition of the word “minimum” (see ECE/ TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 41(f));

(k) Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.8.3, replacement of the amount of 50,000 United States Dollars with 100,000 Euros (see ECE/ TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/133, para. 36).

The Committee may also wish to recall that the proposal on Article 2 will be transmitted to the depositary in a separate document from the rest of the package (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/16), thus providing the opportunity to any Contracting Party to exercise its right to object under Article 59 without, at the same time, jeopardizing the entry into force of the other amendments that have met consensus.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/15, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/16



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

The Committee may wish to recall the information provided by the delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) about its intention to submit proposals to amend the TIR Convention so as to increase TIRExB from nine to twelve members 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. In this context, the Committee will be invited to consider the proposals submitted by Iran (Islamic Republic of), as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2016/22, which was not discussed at the previous session due to a lack of time.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2016/22

**5. Phase III of the TIR revision process - Computerization of the TIR procedure**

The Committee will be informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure. In particular:

(a) the ECE/IRU eTIR Pilot Project between Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey as pilot countries;

(b) the outcome of the twenty-sixth session of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Technical and Conceptual Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure (GE.1), which took place on 18 and 19 May 2017 in Geneva; and

(c) the outcome of the fourth session of the Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.2), which took place on 16 and 17 May 2017 in Geneva.

**6. Best practices**

**(a) Use of subcontractors**

Due to a lack of time, the Committee did not discuss this item at previous sessions. The Committee will be invited to revert to this issue at its current session, taking into account document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/13.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2012/13

**(b) Implementation of the intermodal aspects of the TIR procedure**

The Committee will be informed about the elaboration, by TIRExB, of an example intermodal container transport between two inland customs offices with a sea leg. TIRExB, at its seventy-first session (February 2017), decided to transmit the example to AC.2 for endorsement, on the understanding that the absence of clear provisions in the TIR Convention on the use of subcontractors would be highlighted when introducing the item at AC.2. The Committee will be invited to consider and, possibly, endorse the example as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/17, and instruct the secretariat to include it in the next revised edition of the TIR Handbook.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/17

**7. Other business**

**(a) IRU external audit report and related matters**

The Committee may wish to refer to the relevant discussions of the Working Party on the IRU external audit report and access thereto. Furthermore, the Committee may wish to invite IRU to provide information on any other matters of interest for AC.2.

**(b) Audit requirements for an authorized international organization**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-third session, it had adopted the procedure for the distribution of the documents transmitted by IRU under Annex 9, Part III, to the Contracting Parties of the TIR Convention (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/129, Annex). Under this agenda item, the Committee will be informed on any follow-up actions pursuant to the adoption of this procedure.

**(c) Application of the TIR Convention on Belarus-Ukraine border-crossing points**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-fourth session, the delegation of Ukraine requested the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda, pertaining to certain aspects of the application of the TIR Convention at border crossing points between Belarus and Ukraine. Due to a lack of time, this item was not discussed at the previous session. The delegation of Ukraine will be invited to introduce this issue to the Committee, and to indicate the matters the Committee is invited to consider with regard to this agenda item.

**(d) Date of next session**

The UNECE secretariat has made the necessary arrangements to hold the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on 8 February 2018. The Committee may wish to confirm this date.

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

The Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

**(f) List of decisions**

The Committee will be informed that, following the decision at its previous session, a list of decisions will be attached to its final report.

**8. Adoption of the report**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Committee will adopt the report of its sixty-sixth 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 at the end of the session for adoption in all working languages.