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Item 4 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Activities of the TIRExB

Report by the Chairperson of the TIRExB

Review of the TIRExB programme of work for 2005-2006

Note by the TIR Secretary

The TIRExB, at its thirty-first session (25 and 26 January 2007), reviewed its programme of work for 2005 and 2006 and prepared a summary table outlining main accomplishments of the TIRExB against the programme items. This table is reproduced below for the information of the TIR Administrative Committee.

Annex

ACTIVITIES OF THE TIRExB IN 2005-2006

Outputs expected in 2005 and 2006	Main accomplishments
<i>Ongoing activities</i>	
(1) To study specific measures (both legal and practical) to combat fraud resulting from the misuse of the TIR procedure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of possible weaknesses in the legal basis of the TIR Convention which could make it prone to fraud. • Continue development of a mechanism aimed at the early identification of fraud in order to define the appropriate responses to prevent and combat such fraud. • On the basis of the relevant survey of the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention undertaken in 2003-2004 prepare an example of best practices with regard to the implementation of controlled access to the TIR procedure (Annex 9, part II of the Convention). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB was of the view that passenger cars on their own wheels involve a high risk of fraud and proposed an amendment to the TIR Convention with a view to rectifying the situation. The amendment proposal is under consideration by AC.2. • The TIRExB considered that the provisions of the TIR Convention do not provide for a harmonized use of TIR Carnets by so-called subcontractors and started its discussions how to tackle this issue. • On the basis of a survey on TIR fraud patterns, the so-called "Fraud Report Form" and a procedure for its use were elaborated. Following approval by AC.2, the FRF was distributed to Contracting Parties and put on the Web. • In cooperation with the IRU, an example of best practice was prepared which will be submitted to AC.2 for consideration and approval.

Outputs expected in 2005 and 2006	Main accomplishments
(2) To facilitate the exchange of information between competent authorities of Contracting Parties, national guaranteeing associations, IRU and other Governmental and non-governmental organisations. To co-ordinate and foster the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of Contracting Parties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate adequate instruments and undertake to find measures to improve international co-operation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and their national associations, and the international organization in order to prevent and combat fraud. • Taking into account the views of other international governmental and non-governmental bodies, and in consultation with the IRU, develop and disseminate guidelines concerning the use of risk analysis, and the identification of fraud prevention measures. • On the basis of information provided by the TIR international guarantee chain, study the situation with regard to the new trends of fraud, the notifications of non-discharge and TIR infringements as a contribution to an "early-warning system" for identification and prevention of fraud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB prepared an example of best practices on the effective implementation of Article 38 of the TIR Convention and transmitted it to WP.30 and AC.2 for consideration and approval (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/17- WP.30/AC.2/2006/17). • In cooperation with the IRU, the TIRExB prepared an example of best practice with regard to the implementation of controlled access to the TIR procedure which will be submitted to AC.2 for consideration and approval. • The TIRExB discussed some individual cases of lost TIR Carnets as well as the general issue on the validity of lost, stolen and invalidated TIR Carnets. • The TIRExB considered problems regarding approval of TIR vehicles and distributed a training manual prepared by CAFAO. With input from CAFAO, CLCCR and the IRU, the Board is preparing check-lists for various types of road vehicle constructions.
(3) To supervise the national Customs control measures introduced in the framework of the TIR Convention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify national Customs control measures introduced in Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and check their conformity with the provisions of the TIR Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB considered the application of the TIR procedure in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Italy and Hungary. Where appropriate, follow-up activities were undertaken, including correspondence with the respective national authorities.

Outputs expected in 2005 and 2006	Main accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the respective national authorities in order to modify or abolish measures which are in contradiction to the TIR Convention. 	
(4) To supervise the functioning of the TIR international guarantee system	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor constantly the settlement of Customs claims, on the basis of information provided by national Customs authorities and the IRU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB has taken note of the global situation with Customs claims, as reported by the IRU. • To obtain figures on a country-by-country basis, the Board prepared a survey on Customs claims, to be conducted in 2007. • The TIRExB discussed the issue if the present TIR guarantee level is still appropriate and decided to make a survey of Contracting Parties in this regard. The survey has been elaborated and will be undertaken in 2007. • The TIRExB started its considerations concerning the possibility of suspending the guarantee coverage in a given Contracting Party.
(5) To contribute to the computerization of the TIR procedure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the activities undertaken within ad-hoc expert groups on the computerization of the TIR procedure. • Promote the ITDB as one of future e-TIR components. • Develop on-line access to ITDB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB monitored the activities of the Ad-hoc Expert Group on the Computerization of the TIR Procedure. • ITDB has been promoted at various international and national meetings, such as seminars, workshops, etc. • On-line access to the ITDB was developed for TIR Customs focal points. Further proposals on the enlargement of the circle of authorized users and data elements to be released have been submitted to AC.2. ITDB Online+ project being developed.

Outputs expected in 2005 and 2006	Main accomplishments
(6) To support training activities on the application of the TIR Convention, mainly in Contracting Parties where difficulties are experienced or might be expected in this area.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize, possibly in co-operation with the IRU, and substantially contribute to regional and national workshops and seminars on the application of the TIR Convention. • Update and distribute the TIR Handbook in several languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of regional and national workshops and seminars on the application of the TIR Convention have been conducted, most in cooperation with IRU: Kyrgyzstan (March 2005), Azerbaijan (September 2005), Beijing (September 2005), Kazakhstan (November 2005), Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (April 2006), Bulgaria (May 2006), Mongolia (October 2006), Serbia (December 2006). • A new 2007 edition of the TIR Handbook was prepared in all 6 UN official languages (in print).
(7) To facilitate the settlement of disputes between Contracting Parties, associations, insurance companies and international organisations without prejudice to Article 57	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse and monitor disputes referred to the Board and make recommendations (if necessary) to facilitate their settlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB received information about problems in the relations between the Customs authorities and the national guaranteeing associations of Kyrgyzstan. This issue was settled in September 2006. • No other disputes have been referred to the TIRExB.

Outputs expected in 2005 and 2006	Main accomplishments
(8) To monitor the application of the EDI control system for TIR Carnets.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue activities, in co-operation with IRU, towards the full implementation of the Recommendation on an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 20 October 1995¹. • Monitor performance and give feedback to the Contracting Parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIRExB is awaiting detailed information on the performance of Contracting Parties, to be provided by the IRU, with a view to planning activities on the full implementation of the new Annex 10 to the Convention.
(9) To supervise the centralised printing and distribution of the TIR Carnets, including the monitoring of the price of TIR Carnets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor modifications in the price of TIR Carnets as reported by IRU. • Approve any proposed modifications to the TIR Carnet in advance of its introduction and distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes in the price were reported to the TIRExB. • Following the introduction of the ID-number of the TIR Carnet holder into the TIR Carnet, a new layout was approved. • The TIRExB discussed some individual cases of lost TIR Carnets as well as the general issue on the validity of lost, stolen and invalidated TIR Carnets
(10) To maintain the central record for dissemination to Contracting Parties of information on all rules and procedures prescribed for the issue of TIR Carnets by associations, as far as they relate to the minimum conditions and requirements laid down in Annex 9	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study information provided by IRU, identifying the common rules and procedures prescribed for the issue of TIR Carnets by associations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board studied several documents by the IRU on the underlying rules and procedures.

¹ New Annex 10 to the TIR Convention.

Outputs expected in 2005 and 2006	Main accomplishments
<i>Activities of a limited duration</i>	
(11) Consideration of amendment proposals to the TIR Convention of technical nature	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the amendment proposals of technical nature, as identified by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), and submit the results back to WP.30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The underlying amendment proposals were considered and submitted to WP.30 in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/2. In addition, the TIRExB prepared a draft example of best practice with regard to the application of Articles 39 and 40 (to be finalized).
(12) Preparation of best practices regarding the use of the TIR Carnet	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an instruction on step-by-step filling-in of the TIR Carnet by the TIR Carnet holder and Customs authorities. Prepare an example of best practices on the use of the TIR Carnet by the Customs offices of departure, destination and en route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TIRExB considered the filling-in of box 8 of vouchers No.1 and No.2 of the TIR Carnet and invited Customs administrations to share their internal step-by-step instructions with the Board. This activity should be continued in 2006-2007.
(13) Preparation of best practices on effective implementation of Article 38 of the TIR Convention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an example of best practices on effective implementation of Article 38 of the TIR Convention and transmit it to WP.30 and/or AC.2 for consideration and approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An example was prepared and submitted to WP.30 and AC.2 for consideration as document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/17 - ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2006/17.
