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Administrative Committee for the TIR
Convention, 1975

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
TIR CONVENTION, 1975 ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION
(25 and 26 September 2003)**

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Annex 1: Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

Annex 2: Amendments adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee

Annex 3: Comments for inclusion into the TIR Handbook,
prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party
on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Committee held its thirty-fifth session in Geneva on 25 and 26 September 2003.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States; European Community (EC).
3. The following international organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).
4. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

COMMEMORATIVE WORDS

5. The Administrative Committee, at the request of its Chairman, observed a minute of silence for the late Mr. I. Parts, the distinguished delegate of Estonia.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNECE TRANSPORT DIVISION

6. The Director of the UNECE Transport Division, in opening the meeting, informed the Committee that the UNECE/IRU Agreement had been signed on 18 September 2003 and thanked all actors involved in the finalization, in particular the Chairman of WP.30, Mr. G. Jacobs, for their efforts in this respect.
7. He also informed the Administrative Committee about the appointment of Mr. P. Hansen as TIR Secretary and that the UNECE had requested the extension of contracts for the staff of the TIR secretariat for the year 2004.
8. Furthermore, the Director pointed out the importance of progressing the issues important to the sustainability of the TIR system such as adopting the definitions of roles and responsibilities for the TIRExB, the TIR secretariat and the IRU as well as the inclusion of a control system for TIR Carnets in the body of the Convention.

9. The Director invited all delegations to participate in the TIR training seminar organized by the UNECE, the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the TIRExB (Moscow, 2-3 October 2003).

10. Finally, he underlined the commitment of the UNECE to support the TIR Convention and to cooperate with the Contracting Parties in this respect.

11. The Administrative Committee took note of the information provided by the Director.

REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

12. The Administrative Committee, at the request of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee (TRANS/BUR.2003/11), reconsidered the report of its thirty-fourth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69) with a view to noting if any missing parts should be included.

13. The German delegation pointed out that the question that had been discussed during the thirty-fourth session concerning the right of the Administrative Committee to endorse or be involved in the co-decision concerning the removal or appointment of the TIR Secretary, including the reference to the such decisions in the past, should be reflected in the report.

14. The delegation of the Russian Federation also noted that it has comments as reflected in the report of the meeting of 10 and 11 July 2003 of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee.

15. The Administrative Committee decided to issue a corrigendum to the report in this respect.

16. The Administrative Committee was informed by the secretariat that it had obtained a legal opinion by the United Nations Legal Office in New York in the matter of the appointment of the TIR Secretary. The Committee was also informed that the TIRExB would review this opinion at its forthcoming session.

17. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to provide it with a copy of the legal opinion including the background correspondence mentioned therein and decided to revert to this question at its next session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 1.

18. The Administrative Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the UNECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70) with the addition of the following item under point 13 of the agenda:

- Decree No. 1132 issued by the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation.

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69; <http://tir.unece.org>, Depository Notifications C.N.623.2003.TREATIES-1; C.N.630.2003.TREATIES-2; C.N.645.2003.TREATIES-1; C.N.807.2003.TREATIES-5; C.N.809.2003.TREATIES-5.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 2.

19. The Administrative Committee was informed of the situation concerning the geographical scope and the number of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. It noted that the Convention has 65 Contracting Parties, including the European Community and that, according to information provided by the IRU, TIR operations can be established in 53 Contracting Parties.

20. The Administrative Committee endorsed the list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, of countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established and of national associations issuing TIR Carnets and providing guarantee coverage as contained in annex 1 to this report.

21. Detailed information on the status and the functioning of the Convention, including all relevant Depository Notifications as well as the complete and continuously updated text of the Convention is available on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

22. In relation to the amendment adopted by the Administrative Committee concerning the deletion of Explanatory Note 0.38.1 to Article 38 of the Convention as contained in TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, it requested the secretariat to issue a corrigendum to the report setting out the dates of notification of objection and of entry into force of the amendment.

23. In relation to the amendment adopted by the Administrative Committee concerning Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) to Article 2, paragraph 1 (b) of Annex 2 as contained in TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69 and Corr.1, it requested the secretariat, in future similar cases, to inform the Contracting Parties in writing about administrative changes in the procedures adopted.

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/9; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/12; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/13.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (a) (i).

24. The Chairman of the TIRExB reported on the recent activities of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as well as on the outcome of the seventeenth (April 2003), eighteenth (June 2003) and nineteenth (September 2003) sessions of the TIRExB.

25. The Administrative Committee endorsed the reports of the TIRExB at its fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/9; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/12; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/13; Informal document No. 8 (2003)), and approved the activities of the TIRExB.

26. The Administrative Committee also endorsed the Work Programme for the years 2003 and 2004 for the TIRExB as contained in Informal document No. 8 (2003), including the point contained in point 2.1.(1), second bullet point of the Work Programme.

(ii) Identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder and access and use of the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (a) (ii).

27. The Administrative Committee was informed by the TIR Secretary on the current operation of the ITDB and on progress made in providing on-line access to authorized Customs TIR Focal

Points for inquiry procedures. It noted that the secretariat has finalized the development and testing of the system, and was now awaiting a security audit of the system to be conducted, as requested by the Committee. Pending the outcome of audit, the Committee decided to postpone the decision to launch the system until its thirty-sixth session in February 2004.

28. The Administrative Committee requested all Contracting Parties to the Convention to respect the requirements for data transmission for authorized persons to the TIR system which are set out in Annex 9, Part II, paras. 4 and 5 as this was considered essential for the proper functioning and sustainability of the TIR Convention.

(iii) Joint TIR secretariat/IRU Taskforce on Safe TIR

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (a) (iii).

29. The Administrative Committee was informed of progress made by the SafeTIR-Taskforce, a joint effort by the secretariat and the IRU, to improve the functioning of the IRU-operated computer based so-called SafeTIR system. The Committee welcomed the information that substantial improvement in the functioning of SafeTIR could be reported in the few countries where there were still outstanding issues to consider. The Committee noted that the operation SafeTIR in a number of Contracting Parties was still below expectations and would require continued attention. It expressed its satisfaction with the practical results achieved by the Taskforce so far and agreed that the Taskforce would only meet in future when the need would arise. In such situation, of course, any development would be reported to the Working Party for consideration.

(iv) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (a) (iv).

30. The Administrative Committee was informed about the TIR training seminar (Moscow, 2 - 3 October 2003).

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval of the final accounts for the year 2002

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/6.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 34 (b) (i).

31. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its spring session, it approved in principle the final accounts for the year 2002 and decided to formally approve them at the present session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, para. 21).

32. The Administrative Committee formally approved the final accounts of the TIREXB for the year 2002 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/6.

33. The Administrative Committee pointed out that, in future, the term donor should not be used to identify the IRU.

(ii) Budget of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/7.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (b) (ii).

34. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB should submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

35. The Administrative Committee noted that, since the budget year would only be completed on 31 December 2003, financial statements showing the funds received and expended for the TIRExB in 2003, in line with the internal and external auditing procedures of the United Nations, were not yet available.

36. The Administrative Committee took note of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 30 June 2003, as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/7.

37. The Administrative Committee decided to approve the complete and final accounts for 2003 at its spring session in February 2004.

(iii) Budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2004

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/8/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/5.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (b) (iii).

38. The Administrative Committee took note that the Agreement between the UNECE and the IRU had been signed on 18 September 2003, containing information on the amounts to be transferred by the IRU to the TIR Trust Fund (Annex 1), cost plan for the year 2004 (Annex 2) and the administration of the TIR Trust Fund (Annex 3).

39. The Administrative Committee was informed that the budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2004, as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/8/Rev.1, were finalized and approved by the TIRExB at its nineteenth session on 22 September 2003.

40. The Administrative Committee approved the budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2004, which contains an increase in the total budget of US\$ 305,000,00, compared to the budget originally proposed for the year 2004 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/8). The increase, which relates to increases in budget lines 1100 and 1301, is a reserve requested by the United Nations Financial Services to be used for separation costs in case of early termination or expiration of the Agreement.

(iv) Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 3 (b) (iv).

41. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at earlier sessions, it had decided to continue the initial funding arrangements for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention and to make efforts to have the costs for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat included into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of the next United Nations budget cycle (2004-2005) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, paras. 41 and 42).

42. The Administrative Committee was informed that the budget proposals submitted by the UNECE for the budget cycle (2004 and 2005) did not include provisions to have the cost for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat included, as had been requested by previous sessions of the Administrative Committee.

43. The Administrative Committee requested to be provided with full and correct information concerning the procedures for including the cost for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in the UNECE budget and subsequently in the overall UN budget. The Committee was informed orally by the secretariat of the procedures.

44. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its thirty-sixth session providing information of all relevant procedures to be taken by the UNECE and Contracting Parties to include cost for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in the UNECE budget for the next budget cycle (2006 and 2007). It also requested the secretariat to prepare, if appropriate according to the relevant procedures, the necessary resolutions or recommendation for its forthcoming session or the forthcoming session of the Working Party (WP.30) supporting the inclusion of TIRExB and TIR secretariat cost in the UNECE budget.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS IN THE YEAR 2004

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 4.

45. The Administrative Committee was informed by the IRU that, with the signature of the UNECE/IRU Agreement, it had lifted its reservation on the 2003 budget and the Agreement for the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets for 2003.

46. The Administrative Committee stressed that the reservation of the IRU had no legal value in relation to decisions of the Administrative Committee concerning the budget for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat and that it is the competence of the Contracting Parties to the Convention alone to decide on the budget of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat and the size of the levy on TIR Carnets.

47. The Administrative Committee considered the authorization for the year 2004 and authorized the IRU to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2004, as long as the conditions set by the Administrative Committee as referred to in the provisional agenda were fulfilled.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE GUARANTEE SYSTEM IN THE YEAR 2004

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2002/18; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 5.

48. The Administrative Committee was informed by the representative of the IRU that his organization would accept the authorization on a permanent basis until 2005.

49. As a result, the Administrative Committee was informed by the delegation of the Russian Federation that it considered the reservation irrelevant in view of the signing of the Agreement between the UNECE and the IRU.

50. The Administrative Committee authorized the IRU to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international TIR guarantee system covering the period until and including the year 2005 in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 bis of the Convention.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNECE AND THE IRU

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/14.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 6.

51. The Administrative Committee was informed by the Chairman of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport, Mr. G. Jacobs, that the group “Friends of the Chair” had met on 21 and 22 August 2003 in the Netherlands to consider the draft of the revised UNECE/IRU Agreement. Following the conclusions of the meeting, the Agreement, in particular through the Chairman’s continuous contacts with all players, had finally been signed on 18 September 2003 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/14).

52. The Administrative Committee thanked Mr. Jacobs for his perseverance in finalizing the Agreement.

53. The Administrative Committee endorsed the Agreement. The Committee pointed out that paragraph 2, bullet point 12 of the Agreement should be clarified.

54. The Administrative Committee also took note of observations of the Chairman of WP.30 made in Informal document No. 9 (2003), para. 8 (b), concerning the use of the term levy and requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its forthcoming session containing a revised formulation proposed by the Chairman to be contained in Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLES OF THE TIREXB, THE TIR SECRETARIAT AND THE IRU

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/11.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 7.

55. The Administrative Committee considered TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/11, prepared at the request of the Working Party (WP.30), containing the views of the Chairman of WP.30 on the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the TIR system.

56. The Committee decided to delete sections G and H of the document as they do not have any relevance to the discussion, at this point of time. Concerning paragraph 8 (g) it was decided to delete the words "... of the Customs Administration..." and to delete the last sentence. It also decided to delete paragraph E (e). The delegation of the Russian Federation noted that it does not share the view of the Chairman of the Working Party in relation to the proposal contained in paragraph 8 (g).

57. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a document for the forthcoming session of the UNECE Working Party WP. 30 containing proposals for the inclusion of the parts C, D, E and F of the document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/11 into point 1.9 of the introduction to the TIR Handbook.

REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

(a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 8 (a).

58. The Administrative Committee reiterated that all Contracting Parties were expected to fully comply with the provisions of the Convention, also with regard to the transmission to the TIRExB, within the stipulated time frames, of the information contained in Annex 9, Part II of the Convention and document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5. It also reiterated that it was essential, for the proper

application of the Convention, that Contracting Parties transmitted information about the implementation of the Convention and amendments thereto to the secretariat.

(b) Implementation of Phase II of the TIR revision process

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2002/18; ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.21.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 8 (b).

59. The Administrative Committee was informed by the secretariat of its efforts to monitor the implementation of the amendments under Phase II of the TIR revision process at the national level that had come into force on 12 May 2002.

(c) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/208.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 8 (c).

60. The Administrative Committee was informed of progress made in the preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process within the UNECE Working Party WP.30 and its ad hoc group of experts on the computerization of the TIR procedure. Information on the progress is available from the following web site:
http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/adhoc/conc_tech/conc_tech_index.htm.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(a) Draft amendments on a control system for TIR Carnets

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2003/10; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/2003/5; TRANS/WP.30/2003/8.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 9 (a).

61. The Administrative Committee considered the document TRANS/WP.30/2003/10, prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Working Party, containing draft amendments on the introduction of a control system for TIR Carnets.

62. The Committee was informed by the European Community that it did not yet have a common position on the proposal.

63. The Committee was informed by the Russian Federation that it supported the proposal, but drew the attention of the Administrative Committee to the possible contradictions between the use of the term “termination of a TIR operation” and the objectives which are set out for the TIR Control system of TIR Carnets in the draft Annex 10.

64. The Administrative Committee decided to postpone further considerations on this issue to its thirty-sixth session, but decided to lift all square brackets contained in the proposal.

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69/Corr.1; Depository Notifications C.N.645.2003.TREATIES-3; C.N.809.2003.TREATIES-5.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 9 (b).

65. The Administrative Committee adopted the changes contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69/Corr. 1.

66. The Administrative Committee took note of the Depository Notification C.N.645.2003.TREATIES-3 issued by the Legal Office of the United Nations on 23 June 2003 containing both the adopted text included in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69 and the text contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69/Corr.1 and that the amendments would enter into force on 7 November 2003 as announced with Depository Notification C.N.809.2003.TREATIES-5.

(c) Example of a TIR Carnet duly filled-in

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 9 (c).

67. The Administrative Committee took note of a new Explanatory Note and a new comment to the TIR Convention, prepared by the secretariat and endorsed by the TIRExB at its seventeenth session.

68. The Administrative Committee approved the draft Explanatory Note and comment to the Convention as contained in annex 2 to this report. The Administrative Committee decided to postpone the submission of the request to the UN Legal Office to issue a depository notification in this respect until such a time where there would be other amendments to be transmitted, at which

time the secretariat was requested to inform Contracting Parties on the applicable date for objections and entry into force of the present amendment.

(d) Other amendment proposals

Documentation: Depository Notification C.N.623.2003.TREATIES-1; Depository Notification C.N.630.2003.TREATIES-2.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 9 (d).

69. The Administrative Committee noted that no other proposals for amendments to the Convention have been submitted.

70. The Administrative Committee took note of other Depository Notifications issued by the Legal Office of the United Nations, concerning an amendment of Article 26, para. 1 of the Convention (Depository Notification C.N.623.2003.TREATIES-1) and the deletion of Explanatory Note 0.38.1 of Annex 6 relating to Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Convention (Depository Notifications C.N.630.2003.TREATIES-2 and C.N.807.2003.TREATIES-5).

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

(a) Comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/206; TRANS/WP.30/208.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 10 (a).

71. The Administrative Committee endorsed comments to the provisions of the Convention that have been prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) at its one-hundred-and-third and one-hundred-and-fourth sessions as contained in annex 3 to this report. These comments relate to (a) Article 17, concerning the number of TIR Carnets required for the transport of mixed cargoes containing heavy and bulky goods; and (b) Article 18, concerning possibilities of increasing the total number of loading and unloading points to more than four in exceptional cases and to Article 17, concerning the use of more than one TIR Carnet for a TIR transport.

(b) Comment adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 10 (b).

72. The Administrative Committee decided to postpone to its next session the endorsement of a comment that had been adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its eighteenth session (16, 17 and 19 June 2003) as contained in annex 4 to the Provisional agenda. This comment relates to falsified acceptance of a TIR Carnet at the Customs office of departure.

TIR HANDBOOK

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 11.

73. The Administrative Committee took note that the TIR Handbook contains the text of the Convention and its annexes, including the amendments to the Convention, at present including the amendments adopted under Phase II of the TIR revision process, as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30), the Administrative Committee and the TIRExB. The updated TIR Handbook in English, French and Russian can be viewed and downloaded from the UNECE TIR web site in various languages (<http://tir.unece.org>). Updated hard-copy versions of the TIR Handbook are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian and Russian. A limited number of such copies may be obtained free of charge from the secretariat.

74. The Working Party took note that, in future, it could be possible that hard copy versions would only be made available in the official languages of the United Nations.

TIR WEB SITE

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 12.

75. The Administrative Committee recommended Contracting Parties and other interested users to make use of the continuously updated information provided on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Decree No. 1132 issued by the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation

76. The European Community inquired why the secretariat had not prepared a document on Decree No. 1132 issued by the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation, as requested by the Administrative Committee at its thirty-fourth session.

77. The secretariat explained that information had not been available before the session. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its next session on the basis of information which the delegation of the Russian Federation was invited to provide.

(b) Date of next session

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 13 (a).

78. The Administrative Committee decided to hold its next session in Geneva on 5 and 6 February 2004. The deadline for submission of official documentation from delegations is 9 November 2003.

(c) Restriction on the distribution of documents

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 13 (b).

79. The Administrative Committee decided that there should be no restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/70, item 14.

80. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirty-fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Annex 1**STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975**

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established</u> ^{*/}	<u>National associations</u> ^{**/}
Afghanistan	-	-
Albania	Albania	ANALTIR
Algeria	-	-
Armenia	Armenia	AIRCA
Austria	Austria	AISÖ
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	ABADA
Belarus	Belarus	BAIRC
Belgium	Belgium	FEBETRA
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-
Bulgaria	Bulgaria	AEBTRI
Canada	-	-
Chile	-	-
Croatia	Croatia	TRANSPORTKOMERC
Cyprus	Cyprus	TDA
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	CESMAD BOHEMIA
Denmark	Denmark	DTL
Estonia	Estonia	ERAA
Finland	Finland	SKAL
France	France	SCT/ACF - AFTRI
Georgia	Georgia	GIRCA
Germany	Germany	BGL - AIST
Greece	Greece	OFAE
Hungary	Hungary	ATRH
Indonesia	-	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	ICCIM
Ireland	Ireland	IRHA
Israel	Israel	IRTB
Italy	Italy	UICCIAA
Jordan	Jordan	SOJFV
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	KAZATO
Kuwait	Kuwait	KATC
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan	KYRGYZ AIA
Latvia	Latvia	LA

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.

^{**/} For details, refer to the International Directory of TIR Focal Points administered by the UNECE secretariat (<http://tir.unece.org>).

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established</u> ^{*/}	<u>National associations</u> ^{**/}
Lebanon	Lebanon	CCIAB
Lithuania	Lithuania	LINAVA
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	FEBETRA
Malta	-	-
Mongolia	-	-
Morocco	Morocco	ONT
Netherlands	Netherlands	SCT/TLN - KNV - EVO/SIEV
Norway	Norway	NLF
Poland	Poland	ZMPD
Portugal	Portugal	ANTRAM
Republic of Korea	-	-
Republic of Moldova	Republic of Moldova	AITA
Romania	Romania	UNTRR
Russian Federation	Russian Federation	ASMAD
Serbia and Montenegro	Serbia and Montenegro	CCIS-ATT
Slovakia	Slovakia	CESMAD SLOVAKIA
Slovenia	Slovenia	GIZ INTERTRANSPORT
Spain	Spain	ASTIC
Sweden	Sweden	SA
Switzerland	Switzerland	ASTAG
Syrian Arab Republic	Syrian Arab Republic	SNC ICC
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	ABBAT
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	AMERIT
Tunisia	Tunisia	CCIT
Turkey	Turkey	UCCIMCCE
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	THADA
Ukraine	Ukraine	AIRCU
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	RHA - FTA
United States of America	-	-
Uruguay	-	-
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	AIRCU
European Community		

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.

^{**/} For details, refer to the International Directory of TIR Focal Points administered by the UNECE secretariat (<http://tir.unece.org>).

Annex 2

AMENDMENT PROPOSALS TO THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 26 September 2003

Add a new Explanatory Note 0.1 (b) to Article 1 (b) of the TIR Convention to read as follows:

"Annex 6, new Explanatory Note 0.1 (b)

Article 1 (b) implies that, where several Customs offices of departure or destination are located in one or several countries, there may be more than one TIR operation in a Contracting Party. Under these circumstances the national leg of a TIR transport carried out between two successive Customs offices, regardless of whether they are offices of departure, destination or en route, can be considered as a TIR operation."

Add a new comment to Annex 1 to the TIR Convention to read as follows:

"Use of extra sheets in case of several Customs offices of departure or destination

According to No. 6 of the Rules regarding the Use of the TIR Carnet, two extra sheets are required for each additional Customs office of departure or destination. In line with Explanatory Note 0.1 (b), each national leg of a TIR transport carried out between two successive Customs offices, whatever their status, can be considered as a TIR operation. To ensure uninterrupted Customs control, it is recommended to use one set of vouchers No. 1/No. 2 and to apply a separate discharge procedure for each TIR operation. Where there are several Customs offices of departure, the succeeding Customs office(s) of departure not only start(s) a new TIR operation, but also certify(ies) the termination of the previous TIR operation by filling-in the respective voucher No.2 and counterfoil No.2 of the TIR Carnet. Thus, the succeeding Customs office(s) of departure also fulfil(s) the role of the Customs office of destination or exit (en route) for the goods loaded at the previous offices of departure. This also applies, mutatis mutandis, where there are several Customs offices of destination. The preceding office(s) of destination not only certify(ies) termination of the previous TIR operation, but also start(s) a new TIR operation by filling-in the respective voucher No.1 and counterfoil No.1 of the TIR Carnet. Thus, the preceding office(s) of destination also fulfil(s) the role of the Customs office of departure or entry (en route) for the goods bound for the subsequent office(s) of destination."

Annex 3

**COMMENTS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE TIR HANDBOOK,
prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party on
Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)**

Endorsed by the TIR Administrative Committee on 26 September 2003

Comments to article 17

Add a new comment to Article 17 to read as follows:

"Issuance of TIR Carnets for a mixed cargo consisting of normal goods and heavy or bulky goods

When taking a decision on the number of TIR Carnets required for the transport of a mixed cargo consisting of both normal goods and heavy or bulky goods, the Customs office of departure shall take into account the specific provisions of Article 32 according to which for the transport of heavy or bulky goods the cover and all vouchers of the TIR Carnet shall bear the endorsement "heavy or bulky goods". Since this endorsement does not apply to normal goods transported under Customs seal, a separate TIR Carnet (or TIR Carnets) shall be required to cover the transport of normal goods."

Add the same comment to Article 32.

{TRANS/WP.30/206, para. 57}.

Add a new comment to Article 17 to read as follows:

"Simultaneous use of several TIR Carnets

Where the Customs office of departure has accepted several TIR Carnets for one TIR transport, this office shall indicate all reference numbers of these TIR Carnets in box "For official use" on all vouchers of each TIR Carnet accepted. "

{TRANS/WP.30/208, para. 52}.

Comment to Article 18

Add a new comment to Article 18 to read as follows:

"Possibilities of increasing the total number of loading and unloading points to more than four in exceptional cases

According to Article 18 and No.5 of the Rules regarding the use of the TIR Carnet (Annex 1), one TIR transport may not involve more than four points of loading and unloading. In order to increase the total number of loading and unloading points in the course of one transport operation, a road vehicle or a combination of vehicles or containers may perform several TIR transports consecutively or at a time, each under cover of a separate TIR Carnet. To this end, the following options may be used:

- (i) Consecutive use of two TIR Carnets for one transport operation in accordance with the comment to Article 28 "Possibility of using two TIR Carnets for a single TIR transport ". The first TIR Carnet may include up to 4 Customs offices of departure and destination. After its completion and termination at the fourth Customs office, a new TIR Carnet may be opened and used for the remainder of the transport operation. A proper inscription shall be made in both TIR Carnets to reflect this fact. Thus, the last Customs office of destination covered by the first TIR Carnet becomes the office of departure for the second TIR Carnet which may include up to three Customs offices of destination. In the first TIR Carnet, all goods bound for Customs offices of destination of the second TIR Carnet should be indicated as intended for the last Customs office of destination. Such a procedure may cover up to seven Customs offices of departure and destination. To fulfil the conditions laid down in Article 2 of the Convention, it is essential that both TIR transports be carried out across at least one border. Since two TIR Carnets are used one after another, only one TIR guarantee exists at a time;*
- (ii) Simultaneous use of several road vehicles (e.g., a combination of vehicles) or several containers. In line with Article 17, paragraph 1 of the TIR Convention, for each road vehicle or container a separate TIR Carnet may be issued. Each TIR Carnet may cover up to four points of loading and unloading. The Customs office(s) of departure should indicate all reference numbers of these TIR Carnets in box "For official use" on all vouchers of each TIR Carnet accepted.*

Whatever alternative is used, consignments to be unloaded at different unloading points should be separated from each other, as stipulated in Explanatory Note 0.18-2, paragraph 1."

{TRANS/WP.30/208, para. 28}.
