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Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and
Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON
CONCEPTUAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTERIZATION OF THE TIR
PROCEDURE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION
(12 June 2007)**

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (further referred to as: “the Expert Group”) held its twelfth session on 12 June 2007 in Geneva.
2. The session was attended by experts from Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, United Kingdom, as well as from the European Community (EC). Experts from the International Road Transport Union (IRU) were also present.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/1

3. The Expert Group adopted the provisional agenda, prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/7).

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP (Agenda item 2)

A. Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2005/32/Rev.1 (version 1.6a)

4. The Expert Group took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2005/32/Rev.1 containing the revised version 1.6. of the Reference Model of the TIR Procedure, as endorsed at the Expert Group’s tenth session, which had been submitted to the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) for consideration at its one-hundred-and-sixteenth session (13-15 June 2007) and confirmed that the changes it had requested at its previous session had been adequately made.

Chapter 2 – E-Business Requirements

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2/Rev.1; Informal document No. 1 (2007) (English); Informal document No. 2 (2007) (French); Informal document No. 3 (2007) (Russian; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/6; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/9; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/10

5. The Expert Group noted that the small drafting group, which met in Belgrade on 6 and 7 March 2007, at the kind invitation of the Serbian Customs administration, had fulfilled its mandate of reviewing, reformulating and amending, where appropriate, Chapter 2 of the Reference Model. The Expert Group endorsed the report of the meeting, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/6.
6. The Expert Group welcomed the amendments to Chapter 2 of the Reference Model, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2/Rev.1. In view of the fact that Informal document No. 3 (2007) (Russian) was not available, the secretariat presented orally the differences with regard to the previous version in order to allow Russian speaking delegates to take note of the amendments.

7. The Expert Group highlighted the importance of the role of the International TIR Database (ITDB) within the eTIR project as described in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2/Rev.1 and required the secretariat to provide a summary description of the ITDB in annex to this report.

8. The Expert Group discussed extensively documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/9 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/10, submitted by the IRU after the Belgrade session. The documents describe technical issues in relation to the amended Chapter 2 of the Reference Model as well as various other issues of a strategic and/or legal nature. With regard to document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/9, the Expert Group was of the view that it had adequately addressed most issues, by means of further explanations by the secretariat, and decided not to revert to them at future sessions. In this context, the Expert Group referred “issue 5”, dealing with the overnight transition, to the WP.30 for further discussion at its one-hundred-and-sixteenth session. It also requested the secretariat to further clarify fallback scenarios into the next version of Chapter 2. On the two issues presented by the IRU in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/15 (the joint role of the TIR Carnet and the validation of the guarantee), the Expert Group was of the opinion that, from a conceptual/technical point of view, it was not in a position to acknowledge any advantage of the IRU's proposals over those which are contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2/Rev.1, which has been drafted on the basis of WP.30's guidelines. Therefore, the Expert Group referred both issues to WP.30 for further discussion at its one-hundred-and-sixteenth session.

B. WCO transit data model

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/8

9. The Expert Group welcomed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/8, presenting the temporary list of Data Maintenance Requests (DMR) to be presented to the WCO with a view to encompassing the requirements of the current TIR procedure in the WCO transit data models. It also took note of the updates to the document resulting from the last Data Model Project Team (DMPT) meeting, which took place in Brussels on 4-6 June 2007. It encouraged the secretariat to continue to actively participate in the DMPT meetings.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 3)

10. No other issues were discussed.

V. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda item 4)

11. The Expert Group was not in a position to agree on a date for its next session. Therefore, it requested the secretariat to seek tentative date(s), possibly in the course of November 2007, and transmit them to the Group at the first opportunity.

Annex

International TIR database (ITDB) summary description

ITDB is the international repository of data on transport operators authorized to use the TIR procedure. It was established in 1999 and it has since been maintained and updated by the TIR secretariat on behalf of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB). It contains information on more than 40,000 transport operators authorized to use the TIR system in 55 countries. It also contains information on operators who have been withdrawn or excluded from the TIR system. The ITDB is composed of three parts: a database, an inputting module (ITDB2001) and a consultation module (ITDBonline).

Figure 1 presents the schematic overview of the ITDB structure. The exchange of data allowing for a regular updating of the ITDB is ideally performed by means of a proprietary format (.TIR), which is generated by the ITDB2001 application. TIR customs focal points can consult the ITDB via the Internet by means of the ITDBonline web application.

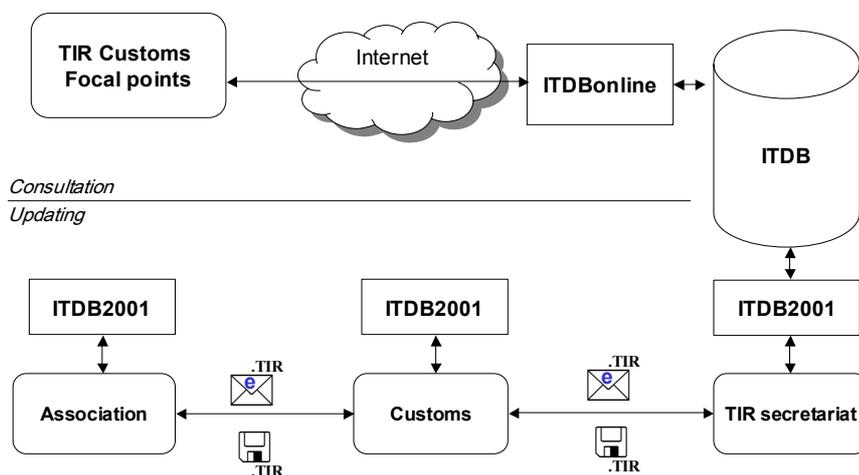


Figure 1 – ITDB structure

Authorized TIR customs focal points can consult the ITDB database to obtain information on registered transport operators. In the spring of 2007, the AC.2 decided to enlarge the access to the ITDB to other customs officials, provided they have been authorized by national TIR customs focal points. The TIR secretariat is currently working on a solution that would allow for increasing the number of users and decentralizing the distribution of users' credentials.

In parallel, following the mandate given in spring 2006 by the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2), the TIR secretariat has started the development of a project called ITDB Online+. In line with this mandate, the TIR secretariat is devising a new web based interface that will allow associations and customs to update the data in the ITDB. The ITDBonline+ project aims at increasing the reliability and timeliness of the data stored in the ITDB.
