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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC
EXPERT GROUP ON CONCEPTUAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF
COMPUTERIZATION OF THE TIR PROCEDURE
(Geneva, 14 and 15 November 2005)

A. 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 eighth session on 14 and 15 November 2005 in Geneva.

2. The session was attended by experts from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Community (EC). Experts from the International Road Transport Union (IRU) were also present. The full list of participants is presented in annex 1.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/3.

3. The Expert Group adopted the provisional agenda, prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/3). It took note of the list of unsolved issues and decisions presented in annexes 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda.

4. At the request of the Turkish Customs authorities, the Expert Group added a point under other business to allow for a presentation on the Turkish Customs Computerized TIR Carnet System.

C. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

5. Ms. N. Özyazıcı, Turkey and Mr. P. Arsić, Serbia and Montenegro were elected as Chairperson and Vice-chairman, respectively, for this session and the sessions of the Group in 2006.

D. ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP

(a) Results of the eTIR questionnaire

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/4.

6. The Expert Group took note of the latest results of the eTIR questionnaire contained in TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/4 and agreed that, despite the additional answers received until 30 October 2005, the conclusions drawn at the seventh meeting remained valid. The document now contains answers from 40 Customs authorities.

7. The experts from the IRU pointed out that answers from some key players in the TIR system were still missing and, therefore, expressed concerns with regard to the conclusions drawn and included in Chapter 1 of the Reference Model.

8. The Group also took note that the secretariat had received answers from the Russian Federation, but that these had come too late to be inserted into document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/4. It welcomed the idea of receiving updated results at its ninth session, including the answer by the Russian Federation together, possibly, with other replies received by the secretariat before mid-February 2006.

(b) Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/1, version 1.5a.

Decision: 104

9. The Expert Group was informed about the latest version (1.5a) of the Reference Model, dating from 30 June 2005.

10. It took note that no experts had requested to replace the activity diagrams in Chapter 1 by sequence diagrams and, therefore, decided to close issue 4.

Annexes

Decision: 106

11. In view of the fact that the UNTDED/ISO7372 Secretary had not been in a position to meet with the IRU and UNECE secretariats before the session, the Expert Group decided to postpone the discussion to its next meeting. Moreover, it requested the secretariat to also try to include the WCO secretariat in the discussion on the alignment of the TIR data elements with international standards.

(b) Future projects for the Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2, ExG/COMP/2005/7.

Decisions: 105, 107-109

12. The experts from Customs authorities extensively discussed document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 prepared by the secretariat with the assistance of the European Commission and taking into account the guidelines provided by the Working Party in Informal document 9 (2005). They updated the document and requested the secretariat to prepare and distribute a revised version before 25 November 2005. Moreover, the Group mandated the secretariat to seek guidance from WP.30, by submitting a short document on the various options that would allow for the exchange of advance cargo information. Furthermore, it requested the secretariat to submit the revised version of document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 to WP.30 for consideration. Finally, it also mandated the secretariat to continue its work on the basis of the revised document and to draft for its ninth session a document on the possible steps that would lead to a fully computerized eTIR system.

13. The experts from the IRU informed the Group that they, as well as the experts from national associations, were not in the position to provide comments during the session because the document had only been distributed a week before the meeting. They informed the Group that they would provide consolidated written comments for discussion by WP.30 at its next session. Furthermore, they informed the Expert Group that they would submit for the next session of WP.30 a document on their vision of a computerized TIR system.

14. Finally, the Expert Group took note of document ExG/COMP/2005/7 transmitted by the IRU for the previous session of the Group and decided to revert to it, if necessary, for the elaboration of Chapter 2 of the Reference Model.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

15. The European Community informed the Expert Group of its NCTS/TIR pilot project developments and, in particular, that the Customs Code Committee agreed to consider a draft Regulation which would comprise the following elements:

- the legal basis for electronic NCTS/TIR declarations,
- the introduction of the data elements of the NCTS/TIR declaration,
- the ability to exchange TIR data between Customs authorities using IT and computer networks,
- the use of electronic messages to replace the return of voucher N.2 and the termination of TIR operations using electronic messages,
- a modified enquiry, and
- a fallback procedure in the event of a system failure.

16. The Expert Group also welcomed the presentation made by the Turkish delegation showing how the Turkish Customs administration foresees the adaptation of its national Customs Computerized TIR Carnet System in order to meet the requirements of the future eTIR system as described in document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2.

F. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

17. At the kind invitation of the Slovak Customs authorities, the Expert Group tentatively decided to hold its next session in Bratislava on 7 and 8 March 2006.

Annex 1
(English only)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BELGIUM

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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IT Deputy Head

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Head TIR Carnets Management

UNECE SECRETARIAT

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Customs Expert

Mr. André SCEIA

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Mr. Imed BEN HAMIDA

Administrative Clerk

Annex 2 – Open and discussed issues

No	Subject	Description	Date	Source	Related decision(s)	Solved
4	0.2.1 Phases and workflow	ExG questions the usefulness of sequence diagrams as deliverables in the first stages of the work to complement or even replace the current activity diagrams.	1-2 Sep. 03	ExG (Budapest)	4	-1
41	Chapter 2	Following WP.30 decision regarding the step-by-step approach for the development of the project, ExG underlines the necessity to elaborate a detailed description of the final product in order to be able to split the work into various steps.	1-2 Mar. 04	ExG (Geneva)	78, 94, 100, 60	0
63	Annexes	Add an Annex as described in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 point 4.	17 Jan. 05	IRU	98	0
64	2. E-Business Requirements	Proposal: alternative Chapter 2, E-Business Requirements of the Reference Model (document ExG/COMP/2005/7).	17 Jan. 05	IRU	-	0
65	Intro to Chapter 2	The ExG wonders what is the best option to provide advance cargo information (push or pull information?)	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)		0

Annex 3 – Decisions

Decision No.	Issue No.	Description	Date	Source	Version¹
104	4	The sequence diagrams are not useful in Chapter 1.	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)	
105	64	ExG decides to revert to document ExG/COMP/2005/7, if necessary, for the elaboration of Chapter 2 of the Reference Model.	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)	
106	63	ExG requests the secretariat to try to include WCO in the discussion.	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)	
107	65	ExG requests to submit a short document to WP.30 on the various options that would allow for the exchange of advance cargo information	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)	
108	41	ExG requests the secretariat to submit the revised version of document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 to WP.30 for consideration	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)	
109	41	ExG mandates the secretariat to continue its work on the basis of the revised document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 and to draft a document on the possible steps that would lead to a fully computerized eTIR system.	14-15 Nov. 05	ExG (Geneva)	

¹ This column indicated in which version the results of the decision will be included for the first time.