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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

(One-hundred-and-ninth session, 31 January – 4 February 2005,  
agenda item 7 (b) (ii))

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP  
ON CONCEPTUAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTERIZATION  
OF THE TIR PROCEDURE\***

**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 sixth session on 26 and 27 October 2004 in Geneva.

2. The session was attended by Customs representatives from Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Netherlands, Turkey and the European Community (EC) as well as by representatives from the national associations of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine. Experts from the International Road Transport Union (IRU) were also present. The full list of participants is presented in Annex 1.

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\* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Transport Division due to resource constraints.

3. In his opening statement, the TIR Secretary stressed the importance of the work of the Expert Group and expressed his satisfaction with the growing interest shown by Contracting Parties in the eTIR Project. He underlined the need to achieve results in the near future in order to ensure the sustainability of the TIR system in the long term. He emphasized the necessity to finalize the description of the paper-based TIR procedure and to focus on the elaboration of the future system. In view of the importance of formulating a clear vision of Customs' expectations for the eTIR Project, he proposed to undertake a survey to obtain more precise information on the requirements, needs and constraints of Contracting Parties. Finally, he appealed to all Contracting Parties, in particular those which, so far, have not shown interest in the work of the Expert Group, to participate in the future work of the Group. In this context, national associations of those countries, where national Customs authorities have, so far, not participated, were invited to encourage them to become actively involved in the work of the eTIR Project.

## **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/19.

4. The Expert Group adopted the provisional agenda, prepared by the secretariat (ExG/COMP/2004/19). It took note of the list of unsolved issues and open decisions presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda. Furthermore, it decided to add two agenda items to the provisional agenda (3 (a) (1.1) Vision and 3 (a) (1.3) TIR Carnet life cycle use case) to discuss, respectively, issues No. 47-49 and issue No. 57.

## **C. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

5. The Expert Group was not in a position to elect a Chairman for the current session. Therefore, it requested delegations to present candidates for the election for 2005 which will take place at the forthcoming session. Delegations were invited to send proposals to the secretariat.

## **D. ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP**

### **(a) Reference Model of the TIR Procedure**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2003/1, version 1.3a.

Decision: 87<sup>\*</sup>

6. The Expert Group was informed about the latest version (1.3a) of the Reference Model, dating from 30 September 2004. At the request of the IRU, it decided to add an introductory paragraph to Chapter 1.1.4 clarifying that the business opportunity and problem statement had not been updated since the first report of the Ad hoc Expert Group on Computerization in 2001: “This section describes the initial considerations with regard to the development of the eTIR Project. A full vision of the future will be defined in Chapter 2 of this document”. The secretariat will distribute an updated Reference Model after the session.

### **(0) Introduction**

#### **(0.2) Background to the Reference Model**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/13.

Decision: 81

7. The Expert Group accepted, with minor changes, the proposed updates to Chapter (0.2) as contained in document ExG/COMP/2004/13 in order to introduce the step-by-step approach into the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology.

### **(1) Business Domain Modelling**

#### **(1.1) Vision**

Decisions: 82-84, 89

8. The Expert Group took note that, at the last session, the discussion on issues 47 to 49 had been postponed. These issues stress the importance of updating Chapter 1.1.7 “Constraints” and

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\* The open issues and those solved in the course of the session as well as the decisions related to these issues or taken by the Expert Group during the session are contained in Annex 2 (issues) and Annex 3 (decisions) to this report.

of filling-in Chapter 1.1.8 “Stakeholders’ needs”. The Expert Group welcomed the proposal from the secretariat to undertake a survey to gather information from Customs administrations on existing systems and on their needs and constraints regarding the eTIR system. The results of the survey will be presented to the Expert Group at one of its future sessions. IRU offered its assistance in drafting the survey.

### **(1.2) TIR Procedure domain**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/20.

Decision: 85

9. The Expert Group accepted the changes to Chapter 1.2 proposed by the secretariat in document ExG/COMP/2004/20. It requested the secretariat to include the changes in version 1.4 of the Reference Model and decided not to come back to this Chapter unless written proposals were submitted in the future.

### **(1.3) TIR Carnet life cycle use case**

Documentation: Informal document 8 (2004).

Decision: 86

10. The Expert Group accepted the updates to Chapters 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 as contained in Informal document 8 (2004). It made minor changes to the proposal and requested the secretariat to include the updates in the next version of the Reference Model. It decided not to come back to this Chapter unless written proposals were submitted in the future.

### **(1.4) The Elaboration of Use Cases**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/21.

Decisions: 88, 93

11. At its previous session the Expert Group requested the secretariat to prepare a new working document containing a revised Chapter 1.4, taking account of all observations submitted. To follow up on this request by the Expert Group, the secretariat issued document ExG/COMP/2004/21.

12. The Expert Group discussed the six use cases and requested the secretariat to include all amendments submitted into a revised Chapter 1.4 to be included in the Reference Model. Providing the requested updates are correctly integrated, the Expert Group validated Chapter 1.4

and decided not to come back to it unless proposals for change are made in the form of a document.

**(1.6) High level diagrams**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/22.

Decision: 92

13. The Expert Group took note of document ExG/COMP/2004/22 submitted by the secretariat at the request of the Group. The document underlined the need to introduce new terms for the analysis of the goods manifest.

14. It also welcomed a presentation by the IRU introducing an alternative modelling of the goods manifest based on the term “goods manifest line item”. This alternative was considered simpler and more appropriate to describe the actual goods manifest. Therefore, it requested the secretariat to amend the high-level class diagram, the high-level class diagram description, the requirements list as well as the glossary in accordance with this decision in the next version of the Reference Model. It finally decided not to come back to Chapter 1.6 unless proposals for change are made in writing.

15. The ExG established that, with the exception of Chapters 1.1.7. and 1.1.8., it had completed its work on Chapter 1 of the Reference Model and that it would dedicate its future work to the remaining Chapters, unless new, as yet unknown, information would require a re-assessment of Chapter 1.

**Annexes**

Documentation: Informal document 9 (2004), ExG/COMP/2004/16, ExG/COMP/2004/15.

Decisions: 90, 91

16. The secretariat introduced Informal document 9 (2004) highlighting the requirements and terms of the glossary which had been presented in document ExG/COMP/2004/16 and which had not been discussed at the fifth session. The Expert Group went through the requirements and terms introducing some amendments and validating them.

17. At its fifth session, the Expert Group had taken note of document ExG/COMP/2004/15 explaining how to read a UML class diagram. In order not to lose this valuable explanation, the Expert Group decided to follow the proposal to include this explanation into Annex 3.

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

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/23.

Decision: 94

18. The Expert Group welcomed document ExG/COMP/2004/23, in which the secretariat has drafted a high-level description of a fully computerized eTIR system. The ExG was not yet in a position to express a clear opinion on the document. However, it felt, in general, that the description in the document could serve as the initial basis for the elaboration of the step-by-step approach in order to achieve full computerization of the TIR Carnet life cycle.

19. The Expert Group pointed out that some elements of the future system as well as the proposed steps, though as such correct, might not be totally in line with the mandate by the Working Party. It stressed the importance of reverting to the Working Party as soon as the steps were better defined to request their validation before continuing with the elaboration of the eTIR system.

20. The Expert Group decided to provide the secretariat with written comments together with alternative proposals before 14 January 2005. On that basis, the secretariat will elaborate working documents for discussion at the next session.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

21. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

**F. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION**

22. The Expert Group tentatively decided to hold its next session in Geneva on 8 and 9 March 2005 (to be confirmed).

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**Annex 1**

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## 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	
36	Annex 2 - TIR glossary	The secretariat proposes to amend Annex 2 with a number of terms. See document ExG/COMP/2004/9 for more details.	18 Feb. 04	Secretariat	91, 61	
39	1.4 Elaboration of use cases	ExG is not yet in a position to finalize the descriptions of the use case descriptions presented in document ExG/COMP/2004/2.	1-2 Mar. 04	ExG (Geneva)	76, 88, 58	✓
40	1.6. High level class diagram	ExG is not yet in a position to validate Chapter 1.6.	1-2 Mar. 04	ExG (Geneva)	77, 95, 59	✓
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, 60	
47	1.1.7. Constraints	Listing constraints in Annex 1. See Informal document 6 (2004) chapter F for more details.	14 Jun. 04	IRU	67, 82	
48	1.1.7. Constraints	Introduction of further constraints. See Informal document 6 (2004) chapter F for more details.	14 Jun. 04	IRU	68, 83	
49	1.1.8. Stakeholders' needs	Introduction of stakeholders' needs. See Informal document 6 (2004) chapter G for more details.	14 Jun. 04	IRU	69, 84	
51	1.4. Elaboration of use cases	Proposal for structured approach of use cases scenarios. See Informal document 5 (2004) for more details.	23 Jun. 04	Secretariat	93	✓
53	Annex 1 and Annex 2	The difference between TIR Consignment and Consignment is not clear. See document ExG/COMP/2004/15 and proposed explanation in Informal document 4 (2004).	08 Jun. 04	ExG/Secretariat	72, 92	✓
54	1.2 TIR procedure domain	The national Customs are missing from the TIR procedure package diagram.	24 Jun. 04	Secretariat	71, 85	✓
55	0.2 Introduction to the Reference Model	UMM does not take account of the step by step approach proposed by the Working Party.	1-2 Mar. 04	ExG (Geneva)	80, 81, 41	✓
56	Annex 3	Proposal : add content of document ExG/COMP/2004/15 to Annex 3	30 Jun. 04	Italy	90	✓
57	1.3 TIR Carnet life cycle use case	If the TIR Carnet validity expires, the TIR Carnet holder has to return the TIR Carnet to the international organization. In order to reflect this, Chapters 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 of the Reference Model have to be amended. See proposal in Informal Document 8 (20)	10 Oct. 04	Secretariat	86	✓
58	all document	Numbering of figures is wrong.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	87	✓
59	1.1.4 Business Opportunity and Problem Statement	In order to better reflect the historical aspects of the chapter 1.1.4, it is proposed to add 'This section describes the initial considerations with regard to the development of the eTIR project. A full vision for the future will be defined in Chapter 2'	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	89	✓

**Annex 3 – Decisions**

<b>Decision. No</b>	<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Version<sup>1</sup></b>
81	55	ExG accepts the introduction of document ExG/COMP/2004/13, with minor updates (title, figure).	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
82	47	ExG mandates the secretariat to undertake a survey dealing with this issue.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	
83	48	ExG mandates the secretariat to undertake a survey dealing with this issue.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	
84	49	ExG mandates the secretariat to undertake a survey dealing with this issue.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	
85	54	ExG accepts the amendment proposal contained in document ExG/COMP/2004/20.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
86	57	ExG accepts the proposed amendments to chapter 1.3 as presented in document ExG/COMP Informal document 8 (2004) (replacement of the term 'used' by 'presented to the Customs office of departure' / and check if in UML second arrow is necessary)	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
87	58	ExG mandates the secretariat to revise the numbering of figures.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
88	39	ExG accepts the text contained in document ExG/COMP/2004/21, with a number of minor amendments.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
89	59	ExG accepts the proposal.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
90	56	ExG accepts the proposal.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
91	36	ExG accepted the majority of the terms but decided to come back on the definitions of the terms: first Customs offices of departure, intermediate Customs offices of departure, last Customs offices of destination and intermediate Customs offices of destination.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
92	53	ExG decided to replace the use of the proposed terms by the term 'goods manifest line item'.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
93	51	ExG accepted the structured description but as description of the activity diagrams. It decided to keep the textual description for the description of the scenarios.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4
94	41	ExG will provide the secretariat with written comments on document ExG/COMP/2004/23. The comments will be provided together with concrete alternative proposals and should be submitted long enough in advance to allow the secretariat to prepare documents for the forthcoming session.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	
95	40	ExG mandates the secretariat to include the 'goods manifest line item' concept into the high-level class diagram and issue a final version in the forthcoming Reference Model.	26-27 Oct. 04	ExG (Geneva)	1.4

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