Strengthening border crossing facilitation

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Inland Transport Committee
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Outline

• Harmonization Convention (agenda item 10 (h))
• Computerization of TIR (eTIR project) (agenda item 10 (h))
• Financing the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/2011/4)
• UNECE-IRU agreement (ECE/TRANS/2011/4)
• Transparency and good governance in the TIR system (ECE/TRANS/2011/4)
Harmonization Convention

• New Annex 9 on rail border crossing adopted in May 2010
• It will enter into force on 30 November 2011 unless objections are transmitted to the United Nations Secretary-General before 31 August 2011
• For information of ITC
TIR Convention: priorities identified by the UNECE reform

- to strengthen the TIR Convention;
- to improve transparency in its management
eTIR project: issues at stake

- Informal Ad hoc Expert Group (WP.30/GE.1) - 18th session next week
- Technical provisions - eTIR reference model
- Financial implications, including a cost/benefit analysis, should be addressed
- Legal provisions: to amend the current Convention or to draft a new eTransit convention?
Current environment

- Transport sector
- Other Customs administrations
- Guarantee chain
- TIR-EPD
- ITDBonline
- TIRExB (UNECE)

National TIR Operation

- National Declaration Mechanism (Single Windows)
Fully computerized eTIR system

Transport sector

Other Customs administrations

Guarantee chain

SafeTIR

TIR-EPD

National TIR Operation

National Declaration Mechanism (Single Windows)

eTIR
What will happen to the present IT tools?

*Existing* IT tools are essential for the well functioning of the TIR procedure and will be *part* of the eTIR system.
ITC is invited:

- to support the continuation of the eTIR project and to prolong the mandate of WP.30/GE.1
- to mandate UNECE to provide the necessary resources to conduct a cost/benefit analysis of a computerized TIR system
Financing the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat

- Since the establishment in 1999, financed through a small amount per TIR Carnet (currently CHF 0,33 - less than 1% of the TIR Carnet price by IRU)
- Contracting Parties envisaged eventual financing through the UN Regular Budget
- TIR Administrative Committee invited CP and UNECE to take steps to include the operation into the Regular Budget as of the next UN budget cycle
- For information of ITC
UNECE-IRU agreement

- to confirm the authorization granted to IRU
- to ensure the transfer of funds to the TIR Trust Fund for the operation of the TIRExB and TIR secretariat
- new agreement for 2011-2013 signed in November 2010
- IRU requested (i) a special title to distinguish IRU from other NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and (ii) to introduce a Steering Committee, with the participation of IRU, to administer the TIR Trust Fund. So far, no support by the TIR Administrative Committee
- For information of ITC
Transparency and good governance in the TIR system

- Cannot be insured without proper audits of an international organization authorized to distribute TIR Carnets and organize the guarantee system
- Currently audits cover less than 1% of the TIR revenues
- Contracting Parties grant an NGO an authorization (license) to perform certain tasks and revenue-generating opportunities
Transparency and good governance in the TIR system

• Monopolistic situation: there is only one authorized NGO for the time being
• CPs must have the right to verify how the authorized NGO uses the privileges and financial tools granted by the authorization
• Audit amendments are considered by WP.30
• Supported by EXCOM in December 2010
• ITC is invited to take note of and support
Thank you for your attention