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Economic Commission for Europe

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Seventieth session

Geneva, 13 June 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventieth session*, **

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday,
13 June 2019, Room XXVI

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975.
3. Revision of the Convention:
 - (a) Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure – Annex 11 to the Convention;

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html. During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** The full text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as well as a complete list of contracting parties to the TIR Convention, are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs. Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=5xSqz6 at the latest one week prior to the session. Prior to the session, delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.



- (b) Accepted amendment proposals pending formal adoption.
- 4. Other business:
 - (a) Date of next session;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
- 5. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/142). The Committee will be informed that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, "a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the States which are contracting parties is required for the purpose of taking decisions". The number of States which are contracting parties to the convention is seventy-five.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/142

2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

The Committee will be informed about changes in the status of the convention and in the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Committee may wish to be informed that, since its previous session, the Convention has entered into force for Argentina and Oman. With the accession of Oman, the TIR Convention now has seventy-six contracting parties. More detailed information on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

3. Revision of the Convention

(a) Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure – Annex 11 of the Convention

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, further to the progress made by the Working Party in finalizing and adopting the text of draft Annex 11 of the convention, it had started considerations of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7, containing the required amendments to introduce eTIR in the legal text of the TIR Convention, 1975. It also took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 8, containing editorial amendments made to the text of Annex 11 by the Working Party.

In its introductory statement the delegation of the Russian Federation stated that the Russian Federation supported the efforts of the contracting parties, as well as the ECE secretariat, to speed up the computerization of the TIR procedure, but that it had a number of comments on the text of the proposed amendments to the TIR Convention and draft

¹ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

Annex 11. Considering that the draft required revision and that its approval at that session was premature, it announced that, in line with internal procedures, comments and proposals to draft Annex 11 to the TIR Convention would be prepared and sent to ECE for consideration by contracting parties. In their interventions, the delegation of the European Union, the delegations of the Czech Republic and the Netherlands stated being in a position to signal agreement with the text of Annex 11, pending confirmation by means of a formal decision, once a final text would be available. The delegation of Turkey expressed full support for Annex 11, calling upon contracting parties to agree to start with the computerized TIR procedure without further delay. The delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ukraine and Uzbekistan supported this statement.

In conclusion of its first considerations, the Committee agreed that, before organizing the extraordinary session of AC.2 in June 2019, the experts from the Russian Federation and the secretariat should hold (Friends of the Chair) consultations to mainly provide clarifications and explanations on the concerns of the Russian Federation. If, after those consultations, the delegation of the Russian Federation would still believe that the text of Annex 11 should be amended to reflect their concerns, they agreed to provide by 10 April 2019, in Russian and English, concrete amendment proposals to Annex 11 with appropriate explanations. If, however following consultations, the Russian Federation would agree to adopt Annex 11 as it was in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7, as amended by the Working Party at its 151st session, and without any further changes, then the secretariat would be requested to submit the final text to the European Union and other contracting parties for finalization of their internal procedures and organize an extraordinary meeting of AC.2 in June 2019, for possible adoption of Annex 11. The Committee mandated the secretariat to convene an extraordinary session of AC.2 on 13 June 2019 to make the necessary arrangements, including the preparation of pre-, in- and post-session documents, to facilitate the due conduct of the session. The agenda of the session should be limited to discussions on Annex 11 and accepted amendment proposals pending formal adoption (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, paras. 48–52).

Due to the fact that, at the time of the submission of the agenda, the outcome of the consultations process was, as yet, unknown, the secretariat has prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7, containing the consolidated text of Annex 11 as transmitted by the Working Party to the Committee for its consideration. In case of any further development, the secretariat will either issue a revision to the draft agenda, to document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7 or any other official or informal document, as required by the situation at hand.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7

(b) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to recall that, so far, it has accepted proposals to amend Article 6, paragraph 1, Explanatory Note 0.6.2 and Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1, adjusting the existing wording to include the term “customs authorities or other competent authorities”, as well as proposals to amend Article 18 and to add a new Explanatory Note 0.18.3. The secretariat was requested to prepare a new document, listing all accepted amendment proposals so that the Committee, at its previous session could proceed with their formal adoption and consecutive transmission to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation among all TIR contracting parties (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 52).

At its previous session, due to a lack of time, the Committee decided to revert to this issue at its June 2019 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, para. 46).

Further to this request, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6/Rev.1 for formal adoption by the Committee. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the secretariat has tentatively amended the document, which now includes, in annex II, proposals to amend Article 20 and Explanatory Note 0.8.3 and, in annex III, proposals to amend the comment to Explanatory Note 0.8.3. as it can fairly be assumed that the Committee is in a position to adopt these amendments without further discussion.

For information, other proposals: (a) by TIRExB on the mandatory submission of data to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)), (b) by IRU, possibly, also on the ITDB and (c) by the Working Party on an Explanatory Note to Article 49 as well as a comment to Article 1 (o)), will be tabled for the October 2019 session of the Committee.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6/Rev.1

4. Other business

(a) Date of next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the seventy-first session of the Committee on 17 October 2019. The Committee may wish to confirm this date.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

(c) List of decisions

Following a decision by the Committee, a list of decisions will be attached to the final report.

5. Adoption of the report

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the convention, the Committee will adopt the report of its seventieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the end of the session for adoption in all working languages.
