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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 INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON THE
CONCEPTUAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTERIZATION OF THE TIR
PROCEDURE ON ITS ELEVENTH SESSION
(29 January 2007)**

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
I. Attendance	1-2
II. Adoption of the agenda	3
III. Election of a chairperson	4
IV. Activities of the Informal ad hoc Expert Group	5-11
A. Reference Model of the TIR Procedure	5-6
Chapter 2 – E-Business Requirements	7-9
B. Future projects for the Reference Model of the TIR Procedure	10
C. WCO transit data model	11
V. Other business	12
VI. Date and place of next session	13

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 eleventh session on 29 January 2007 in Geneva.
2. The session was attended by experts from Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, 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

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.1/2007/1).

III. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

4. The Expert Group re-elected Ms. N. Özyazıcı, Turkey and Mr. P. Arsić, Serbia as Chairperson and Vice-chairman respectively.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP

A. Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/7 (version 1.6a)

5. The Expert Group confirmed its endorsement of the latest version (1.6a) of the Reference Model, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/7. It requested the secretariat to submit this document, in 3 languages, for further discussion and, possibly, endorsement to the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30). The Expert Group requested the secretariat, however, to provide a more clarifying introduction to annex 3 of the Reference Model and to replace the set of data elements with the correct version, as contained in annex 4 to the report of its second session (ExG/COMP/2002/10).
6. The Expert Group took note of a statement by Turkey, outlining that, in its view, the development of the eTIR system should not exceed the scope of the current TIR system. The Expert Group considered that the statement was of a political nature and referred the matter to WP.30 for further consideration.

Chapter 2 – E-Business Requirements

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/2; **ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2**

7. The Expert group welcomed an oral introduction by the secretariat of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2007/2, containing answers to a number of questions, raised by the IRU with regard to documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/8 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/9. The Expert Group was of the view that the answers provided clarifications to the scope and targets of the eTIR project and agreed that Chapter 2 of the Reference Model required amendment to provide similar clarity.

8. The Expert Group extensively discussed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2 containing draft proposals for Chapter 2 of the Reference Model. The Expert Group identified three areas where the document needed to be improved:

- Alignment of the terminology used in draft Chapter 2 with the text of the TIR Convention, with the aim to clarify that the proposals are in line with the basic philosophy and structure of the TIR procedure;
- Further linkage between Chapters 1 and 2 of the Reference Model, in order to ensure that the future eTIR system encompasses the computerization of all current procedures;
- Refinement of technical issues raised by the IRU and others.

9. In order to facilitate this task, the Expert Group proposed to convene a small drafting group composed of 2 to 3 Customs IT experts, 2 to 3 representatives for the private sector, who should be assisted by the UNECE secretariat. The drafting group should meet once with the mandate, where appropriate, to review, reformulate and amend document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2, in line with the above instructions by the Expert Group. The European Commission, Turkey as well as Serbia agreed to participate in this drafting group from the Customs side, whereas the IRU proposed to coordinate with its member associations and provide the experts representing the private sector. The drafting group was requested, when redrafting document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/2, to clearly highlight the changes with regard to the previous version of the document. The Expert Group requested the document to be available in all 3 official languages for its next meeting.

B. Future projects for the Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: **ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/3**

10. The Expert Group welcomed documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/3, and agreed in principle with the proposed contents of Chapter 3 of the Reference Model, the so-called Analysis Chapter. However, it stressed that such work should only be undertaken after sufficient clarity on the status of the e-Business Requirements in Chapter 2 had been obtained.

C. WCO transit data model

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/4

11. The Expert Group discussed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/4, highlighting the differences between the TIR and WCO data models. The Expert Group requested the secretariat not to submit Data Maintenance Requests (DMR) with regard to the future eTIR system to WCO before approval from WP.30 of Chapter 2 of the Reference Model had been obtained. In the meantime, the secretariat was asked to focus its attention on those conceptual differences, which prevent the WCO transit data model from being used within the framework of the current TIR procedure.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

12. The Expert Group was informed by the European Commission of the latest developments in the NCTS/TIR project, which provides for the electronic submission of a TIR Customs declaration in addition to the paper TIR procedure. As of 1 February 2007, NCTS can be used for TIR transports in 8 countries of departure and 16 countries of destination in the European Union. The Expert Group welcomed information that the EU Customs Code Implementing Provisions will be amended over the next months to provide a legal basis for the mandatory and electronic introduction of the TIR declaration data across the whole Community. Finally, the Expert Group took note that, in the context of safety and security measures, the supply of advance cargo information in electronic format will become obligatory in the EU as from 1 July 2009 for all import and export operations. For incoming transports, including TIR, this means that a pre-entry declaration must be lodged. This declaration can be the transit declaration, provided that it contains the additional security data in electronic format and is submitted within the specified deadlines.

VI. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

13. In view of the positive impact of having interpretation available at the meeting, in particular for the experts from Russian speaking countries, the Expert Group requested the secretariat to have its next session organized in conjunction with the forthcoming session of WP.30. Consequently, the twelfth session will tentatively be held on **Tuesday 5 June 2007** (instead of 4 June, as previously announced!).
