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**Economic Commission for Europe****Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Seventy-sixth session**

Geneva, 13–14 October 2021

Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda

**Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board****Report of the eighty-seventh session of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)****I. Attendance**

1. The TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) held its eighty-seventh session on 8 February 2021 (morning only) in Geneva, with the possibility of online participation.
2. The following members of TIRExB were present: Mr. S. Amelyanovich (Russian Federation), Mr. M. Ayati (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. M. Ciampi (Italy), Ms. D. Dirlik Songur (Turkey), Mr. P. J. Laborie (European Commission), Mr. H. R. Mayer (Austria), Ms. E. Takova (Bulgaria) and Mr. F. Valiyev (Azerbaijan). Mr. S. Somka (Ukraine) was excused.
3. Ms. T. Rey-Bellet attended the session as observer, representing the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

**II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)***Documentation:* Informal document TIRExB/AGE/2021/87draft

4. TIRExB adopted its agenda with the addition of Informal document No. 1 (2021) under agenda item 6 “Other matters”.

**III. Adoption of the report of the eighty-sixth session of TIRExB (agenda item 2)***Documentation:* Informal document TIRExB/REP/2020/86draftwith comments

5. TIRExB adopted the report of its eighty-sixth session as in Informal document TIRExB/REP/2020/86draftwith comments.

## **IV. Adaptation of the TIR procedure to modern business, logistics and transport requirements (agenda item 3)**

### **Implementation of the intermodal aspects of the TIR procedure**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 6/Rev.1 (2020)

6. The secretariat informed the Board that, further to the call from the Chair to the members at the previous session to provide comments until the next meeting and, particularly, a review of the updated document by the members from European Union Member States, since most of the new examples and content were linked with European Union countries' practice (see TIRExB/REP/2021/86final, paras. 17–20), the secretariat received feedback from the members from European Union Member States. The Board considered Informal document No. 6/Rev.1 and approved the final version of the study as in the document. TIRExB requested the secretariat to submit it to the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2). The Board considered the study as one of its major achievements of its term of office and noted that it might always be further revised according to new developments.

## **V. Computerization of the TIR procedure (agenda item 4)**

### **A. eTIR project**

7. The Board noted that the first session of the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) was held in hybrid format on 20–21 January 2021 and allowed to make good progress with regard to important amendments to be included into version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications. Furthermore, the Board noted that an informal preparatory session for the second session of WP.30/GE.1 was held on 22 January 2021. The reports of both meetings will be submitted to the second session of WP.30/GE.1. The second and third session of WP.30/GE.1 are planned for 25–28 May 2021 and 13–15 September 2021, respectively. The Board further noted that countries were invited to send any proposed amendments to the eTIR specifications to be discussed at the second session not later than by 2 March 2021.

8. The Board also recalled that the following countries had indicated an interest in the connection of their customs Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) system to the eTIR international system, either in the form of a request for information or the willingness to start a connection project: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. To date, projects have been started with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia and Turkey. Finally, the Board noted that the secretariat, the European Commission and a few European Union Member States were finalizing the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS)-eTIR Proof of Concept. Mr. S. Amelyanovich (Russian Federation) stated that it would be beneficial to also contact the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) for such an exercise, to accelerate the connection to the eTIR international system. The secretariat committed contacting EEU.

9. The Board was informed that the secretariat provided funds through United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on COVID-19 response to assist customs authorities of several contracting parties with interconnection projects and, in particular, with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Tunisia for the implementation stage and Pakistan for the design stage. The Board was also informed that work continued to upgrade the eTIR international system and of the eTIR data model. Finally, the Board was informed that technical guides for message pairs I5/I6, I9/I10, I11/I12 and I13/I14 had been published on the eTIR documentation portal.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://wiki.unece.org/display/ED/Technical+Guides>

10. Finally, the Board noted that the secretariat was preparing a new website for eTIR to use both for promoting the eTIR international system and the interconnection with national custom systems besides as an e-learning platform. The secretariat informed the Board that this initiative could be possible because of funds raised from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and presented its gratitude for its support.

## **B. International TIR Data Bank**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 5 (2020)

11. The Board was informed about the current status of data recordings and usage figures in the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) (details available in the presentation communicated to the Board members). The Board was further informed about the recent ITDB related achievements, in particular the activation of the customs office module public pages for transporters, the preparation and communication of the survey on expectation on the ITDB Certificate of Approval (CoA) module (sixteen responses received until the session), upgrade of the ITDB platform framework from version 2 to version 4 as well as the implementation of automated tests. It was also informed about the next tasks, in particular the collection and summary of the CoA expectation survey responses and the communication of another survey to assess the status of digitalization of the CoA process at national customs administrations.

12. Mr. S. Amelyanovich (Russian Federation) raised concerns on providing customs office data to ITDB as it could be very labour intensive and error prone for contracting parties with a large territory such as the Russian Federation. The secretariat noted this concern and proposed addressing it via the implementation of a system-to-system interface to import these data automatically in ITDB.

## **VI. Activities of the secretariat (agenda item 5)**

### **General activities of the secretariat**

13. The Board noted that its self-evaluation, finalized at the previous session (TIRExB/REP/2021/86final, paras. 27–29), was submitted to AC.2 with Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2021) No. 3 to be considered at its February 2021 session.

14. The Board also took note of planned activities to promote the eTIR international system, in particular the workshops with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ECSWA) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which would probably be held online due to the pandemic.

## **VII. Other matters (agenda item 6)**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 1 (2021)

15. The Board considered a letter by IRU on the new TIR Carnet distribution prices as in Informal document No. 1 (2021). Ms. T. Rey-Bellet (IRU) stated that, due to the decline in the use of TIR Carnets throughout 2020, there had been an increase in the insurance premiums which, in the end, necessitated increasing the TIR Carnet distribution prices.

16. Mr. S. Amelyanovich (Russian Federation) raised concern about the amount of increase in the price and asked if the total increase was required by the insurance premium. He also referred to previous discussions regarding the access of the Board to the composition of the TIR Carnet price. Ms. T. Rey-Bellet (IRU) stated that the previous discussions were concluded with the result that the authority of TIRExB regarding the TIR Carnet prices referred to the price itself but not the pricing mechanism. She added that she was not in a position to share information about the insurance premiums which fell into their relationship with the insurer under confidentiality principle.

17. Mr. S. Amelyanovich (Russian Federation) stated that he found this amount of increase unjustified. He further emphasised the importance of taking precise and complete information about how the price of TIR Carnets was formulated, to see what portion of the income went to what cost, i.e. paper/printing, insurance premium and so on. He added that this increase would create financial burdens in the use of TIR Carnets and would not facilitate the expansion of the TIR system. Finally, he reminded that while the full guarantee coverage was discussed at TIR bodies, a possible increase in the price of TIR Carnets was raised by IRU as a counter argument and now that the increase was done without enough explanation. He defined it as a unilateral action and suggested the Board to consider it.

18. The Board took note of the information on the new TIR Carnet distribution prices and requested the secretariat to submit the letter to AC.2, where all contracting parties are represented.

### **VIII. Restriction in the distribution of documents (agenda item 7)**

19. TIRExB decided to keep documents issued in relation to the current session restricted.

### **IX. Date and place of next session (agenda item 8)**

20. The Board decided not to fix a date for its eighty-eighth session, but to leave it up to the new composition of the Board to take a decision on this matter.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The 2021–2022 composition of the Board later decided to conduct its eighty-eighth session on 12 (morning) and 13 (afternoon) April 2021, in Geneva, subject to COVID-19 limitations.