


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

Geneva, 12 (p.m.)–13 October 2022

**Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR
Convention on its seventy- eighth session**
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I. Attendance

1. The Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention held its seventy-eighth session on 12 (p.m.) and 13 October 2022, virtually and in-person, in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Union were present. The following non-governmental organization was represented: International Road Transport Union (IRU).

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

2. The Committee adopted the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/158) and noted the availability of additional information.

3. Having obtained the strict minimum for a quorum to reach decisions (26 States being contracting party), the Committee expressed its concern with regard to its future conduct of business and called upon all contracting parties to the TIR Convention to ensure due representation at each session, and to be, at least, present at the start of session to take part in the roll-call.

III. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975 (agenda item 2)

4. The Committee was informed that the TIR Convention has seventy-seven contracting parties and that the TIR system is operational in sixty-five countries. In particular, the Committee was informed that, since its previous session, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, issued, on 1 April 2022, depositary notification C.N.91.2022.TREATIES-XI.A.16, informing that, by 25 March 2022, none of the contracting parties to the TIR Convention had communicated an objection to the proposed amendments to Article 18 and Annexes 1 and 6 of the Convention. Consequently, in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 (3) of the Convention, the amendments entered into force on 25 June 2022. With the entry into force of these amendments, the number of places of loading and unloading per TIR transport has increased from four to, maximally, eight. The lay-out of the TIR Carnet, Version 1 and Version 2, has been adjusted accordingly. More detailed information on the status of the Convention and on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

5. Under this agenda item, the delegation of the European Union informed the Committee about the publication, on 24 June 2022, of amendments to Article 18, Annex 1 and Annex 6 of the TIR Convention in Official Journal L 167 (2022), in all official languages of the European Union.² The Committee accepted an offer by the secretariat to attach, as Annex II to the final report, a list with references to all publications (since 2009) of amendments to the TIR Convention in the Official Journal of the European Union.

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

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2022:167:TOC>

IV. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (agenda item 3)

A. Activities of the TIR Executive Board

1. Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board

6. The Committee endorsed the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its ninetieth (October 2021) and ninety-first (February 2022) sessions, contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/7, respectively.

7. At its ninety-second session (June 2022), the Board took note of the progress in the eTIR project and the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB), such as a change in the TIR Carnet holder status notification system and the future launch of a new TIR Carnet holder web portal and mobile applications for holders and customs officers.

8. The Board discussed various proposals by IRU that would increase the competitiveness of the TIR system. The proposals relate to (a) the TIR procedure and postal items; (b) inclusion of practical examples of the use of authorized consignor and consignee in the TIR Handbook and (c) simplification of the procedure for the approval of road vehicles. The Board approved a concept note for the organization of a workshop on the intermodal aspects of the TIR procedure, to be conducted in the second half of 2022. The Board mandated the secretariat to start preparing guidelines for the usage of the TIR and eTIR procedures for intermodal transport. The Board took note of a proposal for an early warning mechanism to be introduced as a new Explanatory Note 8.10 (e), but agreed that more time was required to study the proposal. The Board took note of the analysis of the TIR Carnet prices for 2022 and welcomed the results of the survey on customs claims for the years 2017–2020. The Board requested the secretariat to transmit the results to AC.2 for its October 2022 session and appealed to AC.2 to urge all contracting parties to respond to future surveys. Finally, the Board considered a document by IRU about recurring checks of TIR transports at certain border crossing points and noted that the countries concerned had already started discussing the matter and had requested IRU for additional evidence on the actual cases.

9. At its ninety-third session (October 2022), the Board took note of the final accounts for the year 2021, the interim status report covering the period from 1 January 2022 until 30 June 2022 and the audit certificate for the year 2021, contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/8, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/9 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/10, respectively. The Board endorsed the budget proposal and cost plan of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15.

10. The Board welcomed the progress made with the eTIR conformance tests, in particular the nomination of conformance tests coordinators in various countries and the conformance tests workshop, held online on 7 October 2022. It also took note of the work of the secretariat regarding the various ITDB applications, in particular the holder portal.

11. On the basis of proposals made by IRU to increase the competitiveness of the TIR system, the Board continued discussing a set of amendment proposals to the TIR Convention as well as a comment. The Board intends to finalize the proposals at its next session (December 2022) and transmit them to the Committee for consideration at its February 2023 session.

12. The Board almost finalized its consideration of a revised Explanatory Note to Article 6, paragraph 2 and a new Explanatory Note 8.10 (e) and expects to agree on the final wording of both explanatory notes at its next session (December 2022) and transmit them to the Committee for consideration at its February 2023 session.

13. The Board considered (but could not reach agreement on) an issue transmitted by the Committee to the Board on the addition of a pair of messages to allow the application used by associations to issue eGuarantees, to check the status of TIR Carnet holders and who should register eGuarantees in the eTIR international system, further to their issuance by

issuing associations. The Board decided to continue discussing this issue at its next session, on the basis of a presentation to be organized by IRU.

14. Furthermore, the Board considered a document transmitted by IRU, presenting evidence about a high number of recurring checks of TIR transports at certain border crossing points and recommended that the parties involved should discuss the matter between themselves.

15. Finally, the Board took note that a new global guarantee agreement between IRU and the international insurer AXA had been signed and that certified copies would shortly be sent to the TIR secretariat and, via national associations, to customs authorities.

16. Under this agenda item, the Committee also took note of the prices of TIR Carnets for the years 2012 to 2022, as communicated to TIRExB per the requirements of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 3 (vi) of the TIR Convention, and the analysis of the 2022 prices, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/17.

2. Election of members of the TIR Executive Board

17. Under this agenda item, the Committee noted that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the term of office of each member of TIRExB shall be two years. Since the present members of TIRExB had been elected at its session in February 2021, the Committee must, at its next session (9 February 2023), proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of TIRExB. The Committee decided to follow the established election procedure which, so far, had been based on the following provisions:

(a) the comment adopted on 26 June 1998 to the Rules of Procedure of TIRExB on “representation”, with the exception of paragraph (c) as its provisions relate only to the initial election of Board members and are thus no longer appropriate (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, annex and Corr.1);

(b) the procedure for the election of members of TIRExB adopted on 26 February 2000 by the Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, paras. 31 and 34). In addition, for the sake of transparency, the Committee decided, at its seventy-fourth session (October 2016), to apply Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of ECE, which stipulates that “all elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate”, even in case the number of nominated candidates equals the number of available posts (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/131, para. 12).

18. The Committee authorized the ECE secretariat to issue, before the end of October 2022, a document recalling the approved election procedures and soliciting candidates willing to stand for election as members of TIRExB for the term 2023–2024. The secretariat informed the Committee that the call for candidates will be circulated, as in the past, via email to all heads of customs administrations of contracting parties, delegates of AC.2, TIR focal points and to the permanent missions of contracting parties to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The deadline by which nominations would need to be received by the ECE secretariat is 12 December 2022, midnight CET. No further candidates may be nominated following expiry of this deadline. On 14 December 2022, the ECE secretariat will circulate a list of candidates who have been nominated by their respective governments or organizations, being contracting parties to the Convention.

19. The Committee mandated the secretariat, in case no in-person election could be organized or in case the session would be organized in a hybrid format, to organize the election by means of any adequate method, while fully ensuring that the election can take place by means of a secret ballot and that all States, contracting parties to the Convention, can take part therein.

20. In reply to questions from various delegations, in particular the delegation from Iran (Islamic Republic of), the secretariat promised to keep delegations informed about the conduct of the session as soon as such information would be made available by the competent services of UNOG conference services.

3. International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat

21. The Committee was informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat. The Committee took note of the current status of data recordings in ITDB and, in particular, of the following figures: 1,161 web application users, 30,599 authorized holders recorded, 271 stamps and seals recorded, 2,783 customs offices recorded and of the web service usage for the past years. The Committee also took note of the latest improvements of ITDB, in particular the deployment in production of the holder status change email notification in ITDB (as of 2 August 2022), the start of the user acceptance testing of the eTIR portal (in September 2022), as well as the progress in the development of the two eTIR mobile apps, intended for holder staff and customs officers.

4. National and regional TIR workshops and seminars

22. The secretariat informed the Committee that it had participated in a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) webinar on the “Future of Transit in Mongolia: Challenges and Opportunities” (25 May 2022) and that it had organized, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, a training workshop in Casablanca (28–29 June 2022). Transport/trade and customs experts from several sub-Saharan countries had participated in the workshop. The United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Africa (ECA) were present at the workshop and had presented the current status of border crossings in their regions. On 23 September 2022, the secretariat presented the benefits of the TIR Convention and, in particular, eTIR to a delegation of the Cross Border Road Transport Agency (CBRTA) of South Africa.

23. The secretariat further informed the Committee about upcoming events, such as an online TIRExB seminar on the intermodal aspects of the TIR procedure (17 October 2022), a workshop in Djibouti to promote accession to the TIR and CMR Convention for African countries (tentative date: 7–8 December 2022) and a workshop in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) dedicated to the development of an eTIR corridor between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

24. The delegation of Uzbekistan informed the Committee about certain practical issues/questions raised when conducting workshops with countries of Central and South-Asia, interested to join the TIR Convention, for example with regard to the possibility (or not) to request additional guarantees. More effort should be put on knowledge-sharing in the field of TIR for the benefit of these and other countries. The delegation offered to prepare a document for consideration at the next session of the Committee, highlighting a set of recurring issues and questions.

B. Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat

1. Status report on the accounts for the year 2021

25. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Committee. The Committee was informed that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations had formally finalized the accounts for 2021. The Committee formally approved the status report on the accounts for 2021, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/8.

2. Interim statement for the year 2022

26. The Committee took note of the provisional interim statement for 2022, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/9.

3. Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat

27. Under this agenda item, the Committee formally took note of the audit certificate of 2021, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/10 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/10/Corr.1. Further to the tentative decision, taken at its seventy-seventh session (February 2022), to reflect the resulting deficit over 2021 in the amount per TIR Carnet in 2023 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 18), the Committee mandated the secretariat to discuss, on its behalf, with IRU the issue of past and, potentially, future deficits, on the understanding that, in accordance with the newly introduced provisions 4 of the preamble of the Agreement and 12 of its Annex II, that, for the last year of this ECE/IRU Agreement, the deficit should be absorbed by IRU without recourse, parties settle the issue through mutual consultation and report to AC.2 at its February 2023 session.

28. In the context of this issue, the delegation of the European Union raised questions related to certain figures in Enclosure I of the said audit certificate and proposed that the auditor be invited to provide explanations at the next session of the Committee. In reply, IRU clarified that it could not commit to such request on behalf of a third party, but that the request would be conveyed to the auditor and that, in the absence of its availability, the financial services of IRU would stand ready to explain how the various figures had come about and the financial impact of past and future deficits on the IRU accounts.

4. Survey on customs claims

29. Pursuant to its mandate to supervise the operation of the guarantee system (Annex 8, Article 10, paragraph (a)), TIRExB, at regular intervals, conducts a survey on the status of customs claims in all TIR contracting parties. As part of its activities for the 2021–2022 term of office, TIRExB launched the survey for the years 2017–2020. The Committee considered the consolidated results of the survey on the status of customs claims in all TIR contracting parties for the years 2017–2020, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/18. In this context, the Committee recalled that, for every claims survey, TIRExB is obliged to instruct the TIR secretariat to send numerous reminders to obtain replies and that, despite these reminders, still not all contracting parties feel compelled to respond. Consequently, the Committee urged contracting parties, once more, to respond timely to future claims surveys to ensure their relevance as a supervisory tool for TIRExB.

5. Budget proposal for the year 2023

30. The Committee considered the budget proposal and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15). The proposed cost plan for 2023 (estimated at \$ 1,824,453 inclusive of programme support costs), reflects an increase of \$ 35,482 over the approved budget and cost plan for TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for 2022.

31. Having recalled the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/4, Annex II), the Committee approved the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023, as well as the net amount of \$ 1,211,169 to be transferred by IRU, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15).

32. The Committee noted that IRU expects to distribute 564,000 TIR Carnets in 2023 (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2022) No. 7). Based on the forecast and the provisions of Explanatory Note 8.13.1-3, the Committee approved the net amount of \$ 2,15 per TIR Carnet (rounded). The amount per TIR Carnet will be expressed in Swiss francs following the transfer of the above amount to the ECE named bank according to the prevailing United States dollar – Swiss franc exchange rate on the day of the transfer.

V. Revision of the Convention (agenda item 4)

A. Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party

33. The Committee took note that, for the time being, no amendment proposals have been transmitted by the Working Party for its consideration.

B. Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board

34. The Committee recalled that, at its seventy-sixth session (October 2021), it considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/4 by IRU, presenting an analysis of the messages exchanged in the framework of the eTIR specifications, but could not reach agreement, due to the technical nature of the issues at stake. It requested the secretariat to transmit the document to the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) for further assessment, inviting the Turkish delegation, which stressed the need for full compliance of the proposal with the provisions of the TIR Convention, as well as others, to submit their comments to the secretariat no later than by 7 November 2021, so that they could be transferred to TIB for consideration. TIB was requested to transmit its findings to the Committee for final approval, including, potentially, issues of a legal nature that needed to be addressed by the Committee itself (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/155, paras. 21 and 22). At the previous session of the Committee (February 2022), the Chair of TIB briefed the Committee about its findings on this issue. The Committee took note that TIB had considered the creation of an additional pair of messages which would allow the platform, used by associations to issue eGuarantees, to ensure that the holder is authorized prior to the issuance of eGuarantees. TIB had decided that the inclusion of a new pair of messages is feasible and makes sense from a technical perspective. TIB had requested the secretariat to transmit these findings to AC.2. Regarding the question raised by Türkiye who should be registering eGuarantees, issued by national associations in line with the provision of Article 6, paragraph 3 of the TIR Convention, in the eTIR international system, TIB decided that, before being in a position to propose a technical solution, the issue, because of its legal nature, should be transmitted back to AC.2. TIB recommended that AC.2 could, possibly, seek prior consideration by TIRExB before taking a final decision on both matters. AC.2 agreed with this recommendation and requested TIRExB to assess the legal aspects of the issue and provide its considerations to AC.2 at one of its future sessions. In its intervention under this agenda item, the delegation of IRU explained that its proposal does not imply any changes in the roles of either IRU or its member associations, as had already been clarified at the previous session of AC.2. IRU and its TIR national associations exchange data on TIR Carnets and eGuarantees in full respect of the TIR Convention (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 23 and 24).

35. The Committee took note that TIB, at its second session (August 2022), had confirmed that the applications developed by IRU and used by national associations to issue eGuarantees to authorized TIR holders mirror the procedures used for the distribution and issuance of paper TIR Carnets. It was of the view that, since the registration of eGuarantees in the eTIR international system, by means of the E1 message, is triggered by an action performed by the issuing association, the provisions of Article 6 paragraph 3 seem to be respected (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/4, para. 9).

36. The Committee was informed by the Chair of TIRExB about the assessment of the legal aspects of the addition of a pair of messages to allow the application used by associations to issue eGuarantees, to check the status of TIR Carnet holders and who should register eGuarantees in the eTIR international system, further to their issuance by issuing associations. The Board considered, but could not reach agreement about, the issue and decided to postpone this discussion to its next session to continue its considerations, based on a presentation of the application used by associations to issue eGuarantees.

37. The Committee took note that, for the time being, no further amendment proposals have been transmitted by TIRExB for its consideration.

C. Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption

38. The Committee took note that, for the time being, there are no outstanding accepted amendment proposals pending formal adoption by the Committee.

VI. eTIR (agenda item 5)

39. The Committee was informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR). In particular:

(a) the latest developments of the eTIR international system and the ongoing eTIR interconnection projects. Recalling the vast amount of work undertaken in the field of eTIR, the Committee was informed about the status of the various interconnection projects and took note that, on 7 October 2022, the secretariat had organized a workshop on the conformance tests with countries ready to start implementing eTIR without further delay (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Pakistan Tunisia, Türkiye, Uzbekistan) as well as with IRU.

(b) the outcome of the second session of TIB, which took place on 30 August–2 September 2022 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/4). In particular, the Committee was informed by the Chair of TIB (Mr. P. Arsic from Serbia) about possible amendment proposals for version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications, that had been discussed by TIB, inter alia, the data related to a prescribed national itinerary and a notification mechanism in case of a forced change in the itinerary, the submission by holders of text fields in more than one language, the distribution of eTIR code lists and a notification mechanism when the transport will not reach a country.

40. With regard to the conduct of the second session, the Chair raised concerns about the fact that TIB did not attain the required quorum (of 19 contracting parties bound by Annex 11), forcing it to apply the silence procedure, as outlined in provisions 26 and 27 of its Terms of Reference. The silence procedure was initiated on 7 September 2022 and will finish on 19 October 2022, after which the final report will be published. He stressed the crucial importance for contracting parties, bound by Annex 11 of the TIR Convention, to ensure due representation at each session, in order to take part in the roll-call and actively contribute to the future of the TIR system. Finally, he solicited candidates to act as Vice-Chair for the remainder of 2022. Recognizing her expertise with eTIR, the Committee welcomed the candidacy of Ms. L. Jacobs (Belgium) and recalled that the election would formally take place at the December 2022 session of TIB.

41. The Committee also took note of the revised version 4.3 of the introduction of the eTIR specifications, as contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/2/Rev.1–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/11/Rev.1 (introduction), ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/3/Rev.1–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/12/Rev.1 (eTIR concepts), ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/4–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/13 (eTIR functional specifications) ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/5–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/14 (technical specifications).

42. Finally, the Committee took note that the third session of TIB will take place on 19–20 December 2022 and that the following dates are tentatively reserved for the following sessions: 1–2 May 2023, 30 August–1 September 2023 and 18–20 December 2023. Admitting that those dates were far from ideal, the secretariat invited delegations to address their concerns to the management of ECE.

VII. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system (agenda item 6)

A. Prolongation of the authorization

43. The Committee recalled that, at its previous session, it formally had decided to prolong the authorization of IRU for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system, for a period of 3 years (2023–2025) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 35).

B. Audit report for the year 2021

44. The Committee recalled that, pursuant to Annex IV of the agreement between ECE and IRU, IRU shall annually issue an audit report and management letter concerning the records and accounts kept by IRU pertaining to the organization and functioning of the international guarantee system and the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets.

45. The Committee considered and took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/16 by IRU, containing the audit report and management letter for the year 2021. In reply to a request from the delegation of the European Union for clarification of the terms used on page 9 of the document, IRU, referring to the complexity behind some of the terms, offered to receive interested parties at its premises to provide further and extensive explanations. Alternatively, IRU stands ready to discuss the matter bilaterally.

VIII. Authorization to conclude an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union (agenda item 7)

46. The Committee recalled that, at its previous session, it adopted document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/4, containing the draft ECE/IRU agreement for the years 2023–2025. The Committee had mandated the secretariat to conclude the new agreement with a view to continue financing the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2023, subject to official confirmation, at the current session, of the required adjustments to Annex 1 to the said agreement with the budget proposal and cost plan figures for the year 2023 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 40) (see agenda item 3 (b) (v)). The Committee mandated ECE and IRU to proceed with signing the new agreement at the earliest convenience, but, in any case, well before 15 November 2022, on the understanding that Annex I would contain exactly the same figures as for the budget of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023, that it had approved under agenda item 3 (b) (v) and contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15.

IX. Other business (agenda item 8)

A. Date of next session

47. The Committee tentatively decided to hold its seventy-ninth session on 9 February 2023, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.

48. Recalling that no vice-Chair had been elected in 2022, the Committee invited all delegations to nominate candidates for the positions of Chair and vice-Chair for the year 2023 prior to the elections to be carried out at the February 2023 session of the Committee.

49. Under this agenda item, the secretariat proposed, in reply to an intervention from the delegations Uzbekistan under agenda item 3 (a) (iv) on problems in the application of the

Convention by new contracting parties, to organize a workshop, under the auspices of the Committee, dedicated to training new contracting parties and interested countries in correctly applying the provisions of the Convention. From its side, IRU expressed support for such initiative and expressed interest from the private sector to participate in and even contribute to the workshop, which was warmly welcomed. The workshop might even trigger some useful additional best practices to the TIR Handbook, in particular, but not limited to, the upcoming physical start of eTIR transports. The tentative date of the workshop is 8 February 2023. Details will be communicated at a later stage.

B. Restriction on the distribution of documents

50. The Committee decided that there would not be any restriction on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

C. List of decisions

51. The list of adopted decisions will be attached as Annex to the final report.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

52. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the convention, the Committee adopted the report of its seventy-eighth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex I

List of decisions taken at the seventy-eighth session of the Administrative Committee

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>
2.	2. The Committee adopted the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/158) and noted the availability of additional information.	Committee
6.	6. The Committee endorsed the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its ninetieth (October 2021) and ninety-first (February 2022) sessions, contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/6 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/7, respectively.	Committee
18-19.	<p>18. The Committee authorized the ECE secretariat to issue, before the end of October 2022, a document recalling the approved election procedures and soliciting candidates willing to stand for election as members of TIRExB for the term 2023–2024. The secretariat informed the Committee that the call for candidates will be circulated, as in the past, via email to all heads of customs administrations of contracting parties, delegates of AC.2, TIR focal points and to the permanent missions of contracting parties to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The deadline by which nominations would need to be received by the ECE secretariat is 12 December 2022, midnight CET. No further candidates may be nominated following expiry of this deadline. On 14 December 2022, the ECE secretariat will circulate a list of candidates who have been nominated by their respective governments or organizations, being contracting parties to the Convention.</p> <p>19. The Committee mandated the secretariat, in case no in-person election could be organized or in case the session would be organized in a hybrid format, to organize the election by means of any adequate method, while fully ensuring that the election can take place by means of a secret ballot and that all States, contracting parties to the Convention, can take part therein.</p>	Secretariat
25.	25. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Committee. The Committee was informed that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations had formally finalized the accounts for 2021. The Committee formally approved the status report on the accounts for 2021, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/8.	Committee
27.	27. Under this agenda item, the Committee formally took note of the audit certificate of 2021, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/10 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/10/Corr.1. Further to the tentative decision, taken at its seventy-seventh session (February 2022), to reflect the resulting deficit over 2021 in the amount per TIR Carnet in 2023 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 18), the Committee mandated the secretariat to discuss, on its behalf, with IRU the issue of past and, potentially, future deficits, on the understanding that, in accordance with the newly introduced provisions 4 of the preamble of the Agreement and 12 of its Annex II, that, for the last year of this ECE/IRU Agreement, the deficit should be absorbed by IRU without recourse, parties settle the issue through mutual consultation and report to AC.2 at its February 2023 session.	Committee
31-32.	31. Having recalled the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/4, Annex II), the Committee approved the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023, as	Committee

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>
	well as the net amount of \$ 1,211,169 to be transferred by IRU, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15).	
	32. The Committee noted that IRU expects to distribute 564,000 TIR Carnets in 2023 (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2022) No. 7). Based on the forecast and the provisions of Explanatory Note 8.13.1-3, the Committee approved the net amount of \$ 2,15 per TIR Carnet (rounded). The amount per TIR Carnet will be expressed in Swiss francs following the transfer of the above amount to the ECE named bank according to the prevailing United States dollar – Swiss franc exchange rate on the day of the transfer.	
46.	46. The Committee recalled that, at its previous session, it adopted document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/4, containing the draft ECE/IRU agreement for the years 2023–2025. The Committee had mandated the secretariat to conclude the new agreement with a view to continue financing the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2023, subject to official confirmation, at the current session, of the required adjustments to Annex 1 to the said agreement with the budget proposal and cost plan figures for the year 2023 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 40) (see agenda item 3 (b) (v)). The Committee mandated ECE and IRU to proceed with signing the new agreement at the earliest convenience, but, in any case, well before 15 November 2022, on the understanding that Annex I would contain exactly the same figures as for the budget of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023, that it had approved under agenda item 3 (b) (v) and contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15.	Secretariat/IRU
47.	47. The Committee tentatively decided to hold its seventy-ninth session on 9 February 2023, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.	

Annex II

Text of the TIR Convention, published in the Official Journal of the European Union in all official languages

- OJ L165 (26/6/2009) TIR Convention up and until amendment 28:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2009:165:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ L 066 (6/3/2012): amendment 29
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2012:066:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 244 (8/9/2012): amendment 30
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2012:244:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 245 (14/9/2013: amendment 31
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2013:245:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 346 (2/12/2014: amendment 32
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2014:346:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 321 (29/11/2016): amendment 33
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2016:321:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 99 (19/04/2018): amendment 34
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2018:099:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ-296 (22 November 2018): amendment 35
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2018:296:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ-331 (20 September 2021) amendment 36
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:331:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 193 (1 June 2021) amendment 37
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2021:193:TOC>
- OJ 459 (22 December 2021) amendment 38
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2021:459:TOC>
- OJ 167 (24 June 2022) amendment 39
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2022:167:TOC>
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