

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General 20 February 2023

Original: English

Paragraphs

Page

Economic Commission for Europe

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Seventy-ninth session

Geneva, 9 February 2023

Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention on its seventy-ninth session

Contents

I.	Attendance			1	3
II.	Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)			2	3
III.	Ele	Election of officers (agenda item 2)			3
IV.	Stat	Status of the TIR Convention, 1975 (agenda item 3)			3
V.	Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (agenda item 4)			5–32	3
	A.	Act	5–25	3	
		1.	Election of members of the TIR Executive Board	5–9	3
		2.	Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board	10–23	4
		3.	International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat	24	6
		4.	National and regional TIR workshops and seminars	25	6
	B.	Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat		26–32	6
		1.	Status report on the accounts for the year 2021	26	6
		2.	Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat	27–32	6
VI.	Revision of the Convention (agenda item 5)			33–37	7
	A.	Am	nendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party.	33	8
	B. Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board			34–36	7
	C.	Aco	cepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption	37	8
VII.	eTI		genda item 6)	38–39	8
VIII.	Aut	horiz			
		func	40	8	
	Pro	longa	40	8	

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/161

IX.	Authorization to conclude an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union (agenda item 8)	41–42	9
X.	Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and		
	the International Road Transport Union (agenda item 9)	43	9
XI.	Other business (agenda item 10)	44–47	9
	A. Date of next session	45	9
	B. Restriction on the distribution of documents	46	9
	C. List of decisions	47	9
XII.	Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)	48	10
Annex			
	List of decisions taken at the seventy-ninth session of the Administrative Committee		11

I. Attendance

1. The Committee held its seventy-ninth session on 9 February 2023 in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Union were present. Representatives of Brazil attended the session as observers. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The Committee noted that the required quorum for the purposes of taking decisions – of at least one-third of the States which are contracting parties (according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention) – was attained.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

2. The Committee adopted the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/160 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/160/Add.1), with, at the request of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), the addition of, under agenda item (4) (b) (ii), the issue of the future financing of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat and, under agenda item 10, the issue of problems in the application of the TIR Convention in the territory of the Russian Federation.

III. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

3. In accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure and established practice, the Committee elected Mr. E. Khakimov (Uzbekistan) as Chair for its sessions in 2023. Contracting parties were strongly encouraged to nominate candidates for the post of Vice-Chair in order to facilitate any future election process.

IV. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975 (agenda item 3)

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. Detailed information on the status of the Convention and on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

V. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (agenda item 4)

A. Activities of the TIR Executive Board

1. Election of members of the TIR Executive Board

5. The Committee recalled that, at its previous session, it had mandated the ECE secretariat to solicit candidates for TIRExB membership for the term 2023–2024 in October 2022, to close the list of candidates on 12 December 2022 at midnight, Geneva time, and, on 14 December 2022, to issue the official list of candidates for distribution to all contracting parties (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/159, paragraph 18). The procedures for the nomination and election were contained in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 1.

www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary notification.html.

The Committee noted that the secretariat had proceeded accordingly and that the names of the candidates had been circulated by the secretariat on 14 December 2022 (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 2 – restricted).

6. In accordance with the approved election procedure and on the basis of the list of nominated candidates, the Committee proceeded with a secret ballot.

The following results were obtained and confirmed by the TIR Secretary: Registered votes:

Valid votes: 55 Invalid votes: 0 Blank votes: 0

7. The following seven persons obtained a majority of votes of the contracting states present and voting and were elected as members of TIRExB for a term of office of two years (in English alphabetical order of their last names):

Mr. Mostafa AYATI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Mr. Marco CIAMPI (Italy)

Mr. Elyor KHAKIMOV (Uzbekistan)

Mr. Pierre-Jean LABORIE (European Commission)

Mr. Hugo Richard MAYER (Austria)

Mr. Anil ŞENMANAV (Türkiye)

Ms. Caroline ZUIDGEEST (Netherlands)

- 8. The Committee recalled that the members of TIRExB were elected in their personal capacity, with the mandate to work towards the sustainability of the TIR procedure. The Committee also stressed that the respective Governments should finance the work of their members of TIRExB (Explanatory Note 8.13.1–2 of the Convention) and should ensure their participation in all sessions of the Board.
- 9. In order to fill the two remaining position(s), the Committee decided to hold another round of elections at an additional session, to be held in the week of 5–9 June 2023, subject to confirmation and mandated the secretariat to make the necessary arrangement to accommodate the session. To that end, the Committee recalled Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 1, containing the approved election procedure and soliciting candidates willing to stand for election of the two remaining posts as members of TIRExB for the term 2023-2024, which will be revised accordingly and re-issued by the secretariat. 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 28 March 2023, midnight CET. No further candidates may be nominated following expiry of this deadline. On 30 March 2023, 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.

2. Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board

- 10. The Committee endorsed the report of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its ninety-second session (June 2022) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/1.
- 11. At its ninety-fourth session (December 2022), the Board discussed, inter alia, the current status of the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and agreed with a proposal by the secretariat to include optional geographic coordinates for the customs offices in ITDB.
- 12. The Board discussed various amendment proposals by IRU and decided to:
 - Send to AC.2 the proposed revision of the comment to Article 3 of the TIR Convention regarding the TIR procedure and postal items;

- Send to AC.2 the proposed amendments to Annex 3, paragraph 4 and Annex 4, Model
 Certificate of Approval of a road vehicle, page 4, paragraph 3, prolonging the validity
 of the certificate of approval from two to three years.
- Postpone any decision related to the inclusion of a new Explanatory Note to Annex 3, paragraph 2 to after WP.30 would have received and considered the results of the forthcoming survey on the certificate of approval for TIR vehicles.
- Send to AC.2 the proposed inclusion of a new paragraph 6 in Annex 4, Model Certificate of Approval of a Road Vehicle (page 4), which aims at ensuring that the certificate of approval should be accepted until the last date of validity and remains valid until the end of any transport started before that date. The Board also agreed that, further to this amendment, no Explanatory Note would be required.
- 13. The amendment proposals will be officially submitted to AC.2, for consideration at its October 2023 session.
- 14. TIRExB discussed and approved the improved wording of a new Explanatory Note 8.10 (e) and an amendment to Explanatory Note 0.6.2 <u>bis-1</u> and requested the secretariat to transmit both proposals to AC.2, for consideration at its October 2023 session. In addition, the Board stated that the original amendment proposal to Explanatory Note 0.6.2 <u>bis-1</u>, as contained in TIRExB Informal document No. 9 (2021), while less clear, was also acceptable and requested the secretariat to include it in the document to be transmitted to AC.2.
- 15. With regard to the issue transmitted by AC.2 on 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 was of the view that nothing in the TIR Convention seems to prevent the addition (in the next version of the eTIR specifications) of a pair of messages to allow holders and issuing associations to check the status of the holder directly in the applications that they use to order/use and issue eGuarantees. The Board requested the secretariat to transmit its conclusions to AC.2 and advise both AC.2 and the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) to assess how to take maximum advantage of the addition of the new pair of messages.
- 16. At its ninety-fifth session (which took place on Monday 6 and Wednesday 8 February 2023), the Board welcomed and approved, pending a few amendments, the ITDB data governance and requested the secretariat to transmit it to AC.2 for endorsement.
- 17. The Board approved four examples of best practice on:
 - the application of the concept of authorized consignee and consignor;
 - the procedure of authorization of holders;
 - and the procedure for the approval of vehicles.
- 18. The Board requested the secretariat to transmit the four examples of best practice to AC.2 for endorsement and, ultimately, inclusion in the next revision of the TIR Handbook.
- 19. The Board considered a letter it had received from the State Custom Service of Ukraine, highlighting complications related to the communications between the State Custom Service Ukraine and the custom administrations, national associations and carriers registered in Belarus and the Russian Federation, about TIR operations in the territory of Ukraine that could not be terminated as well as technical questions related to the functioning of the SafeTIR system. The Board took note that IRU was facilitating communication between stakeholders on this file. The Board thanked IRU for its technical assistance and agreed with the technical answers provided by IRU on the alternative proofs of termination and on the functioning of the SafeTIR system. The Board stressed that it only deals with technical issues. In conclusion, the Board mandated the secretariat to prepare a response letter, which would include the technical explanations related to the alternative proofs of termination and the functioning of the SafeTIR system.
- 20. Furthermore, acknowledging the vacancy of one Information System Officer's post within the secretariat and the resources required to ensure the timely completion of various projects, TIRExB agreed, upon request from the TIR Secretary, to redeploy US\$ 50,000 from

the budget line "Professional grade staff" to the budget line "Consultant fees and travel", in addition to the US\$ 30,000 already available. The Board did this in line with the decision taken by AC.2 at its twenty-eighth session, which authorized TIRExB to decide, upon a proposal by the TIR Secretary, on modifications to the detailed budget line allocations within the approved budget for the efficient operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat. The Board also pointed out that this procedure was introduced more than twenty years ago. For the sake of transparency, it would be better to create a formal legal basis within the TIR Convention or within the Board's Rules of Procedure. Therefore, the Board suggested that the next composition of the Board should work towards including this procedure in Annex 8 of the TIR Convention, possibly as an Explanatory Note, or in the Rules of Procedure.

- 21. Finally, the Board considered and approved the quantitative and qualitative assessment of the achievements of the Board in relation to its program of work as well as the consolidated replies and proposals from its self-evaluation. At the request of the Board, the assessment has been summited to the Committee at the current session for endorsement (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 6).
- 22. Under this agenda item, the Committee took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 4, containing the IRU TIR Carnet prices for 2023 and Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 5, with the number of TIR Carnets distributed by IRU between 2001 and 2022 as well as the distribution, in 2022, of the various types of TIR Carnet per association.
- 23. The Committee endorsed Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 6, containing a review of the activities of TIRExB during its 2021–2022 term of office.

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

24. The Committee was informed about developments related to ITDB and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat. Please refer to the paragraphs of the WP.30 report at its 162nd session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/324) for the relevant information, to be inserted in the final report.

4. National and regional TIR workshops and seminars

25. The Committee recalled that, on 8 February 2023, the secretariat organized, under the auspices of AC.2, and in close collaboration with WP.30, a workshop dedicated to training new contracting parties and interested countries in correctly applying the provisions of the TIR Convention. The agenda of the workshop has been circulated as document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2023/5-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/2. The secretariat further informed the Committee about an upcoming workshop on the benefits of the TIR Convention, on 1 and 2 March 2023, to be held in collaboration with the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Djibouti.

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

1. Status report on the accounts for the year 2022

26. 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 were not able to formally finalize the accounts for 2022 by February 2023 and that, therefore, the report on the complete and final accounts would be transmitted, as in the past, to the next session of the Committee in 2023 for formal approval.

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

27. The Committee recalled that the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023 had been approved by the Committee at its previous session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/159, paragraph 31). The Committee was informed about the transfer of the required funds for the year 2023 by IRU to the TIR trust fund (Informal

document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 3). The Committee noted that the IRU letter mentions, by mistake, 14 November 2021 as date of transfer, whereas the correct date was 14 November 2022. At its previous session, the Committee also approved the amount per TIR Carnet (\$2.15 (rounded) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/159, paragraph 32).

- 28. In addition, the Committee recalled the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/145, paragraph 57 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24, Annex II).
- 29. Due to the absence of the audit report and management letter for the year 2022, the Committee decided to revert to this issue at its next session.
- 30. Under this agenda item, the Committee also recalled that, at its previous session (October 2022), it 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, 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 the Committee at its present session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/159, paragraph 27).
- 31. IRU delivered a presentation, elaborating on the accumulation of deficits in recent years. The secretariat informed the Committee that it intends to hire a legal expert in order to assess, for the future how to deal with the issue of accrued deficits or surpluses.
- 32. In a first reaction to a request from various national associations, during the 162nd session of WP.30, on problems faced by the private sector, further to the financing by the private sector of the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat through an amount per TIR Carnet, the secretariat informed the Committee that it intends to also use the services of the hired legal expert to, in close consultation with the Executive Office of ECE, fine-tune the implementation of the current ECE/IRU Agreement and to propose options that pave the way for TIRExB and the TIR secretariat to receive additional funds, in parallel to the current mechanism by means of an amount per TIR Carnet.

VI. Revision of the Convention (agenda item 5)

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

33. Under this agenda item, the Committee took note that, for the time being, no amendment proposals have been transmitted by the Working Party for consideration.

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

- 34. The Committee recalled that, under agenda item 4 (a) (ii), the Chair of TIRExB had reported that, with regard to the issue, transmitted by AC.2, on 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 was of the view that nothing in the TIR Convention seems to prevent the addition (in the next version of the eTIR specifications) of a pair of messages to allow issuing associations to check the status of the holder directly in the applications that they use to order/use and issue eGuarantees. The Board had requested the secretariat to transmit its conclusions to AC.2.
- 35. The Committee confirmed the assessment by TIRExB (and, previously, the Technical Implementation Body (TIB)) that nothing in the TIR Convention seems to prevent the addition (in the next version of the eTIR specifications) of a pair of messages to allow holders and issuing associations to check the status of the holder directly in the applications that they use to order/use and issue eGuarantees. It further mandated the secretariat to prepare a

proposal for the inclusion of those messages in version 4.4. of the eTIR specification for consideration by, at first, TIB and, at a later stage, the contracting parties bound by Annex 11.

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

C. Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption

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

VII. eTIR (agenda item 6)

- 38. 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;
- (b) the outcome of the third session of TIB, which took place on 19 and 20 December 2022 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/6), in particular:
 - TIB approved minor changes to version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications, e.g, to make the total gross weight (at declaration level) optional in all messages and restrict all weights measurements to kilograms (in line with box 11 of the TIR Carnet);
 - TIB agreed with the inclusion of a number of changes and new features in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications;
 - TIB mandated the secretariat to prepare a number of concrete proposals for consideration at its next session and for inclusion in version 4.4. of the eTIR specifications.
- 39. The delegation of the Russian Federation requested the secretariat to ensure that the (French and) Russian version of the report be made available at the earliest convenience, so that it could be duly studied by concerned national IT services before endorsement of the report by the Committee at its October 2023 session.

VIII. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system (agenda item 7)

Prolongation of the authorization

40. The Committee recalled that, at its seventy-seventh session (February 2022), it formally 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).

IX. Authorization to conclude an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union (agenda item 8)

41. The Committee recalled that, at its previous session, it mandated the secretariat to proceed with signing the new ECE/IRU Agreement for the years 2023–2025 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/4) with a view to continue financing the operation of

TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2023 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/159, para. 46).

42. The Committee was informed that the new ECE/IRU Agreement for the years 2023–2025 has been signed on 15 November 2022.

X. Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union (agenda item 9)

43. The Committee considered and endorsed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/3, containing the annual work plan for the year 2023 of the P3 Information Systems Officer staff member, hired against the funds provided by IRU under the MoU.

XI. Other business (agenda item 10)

44. Under this agenda item, the Committee took note of an issue, raised by the delegation of Türkiye at the 162nd session of WP.30, about problems faced by Turkish transporters in the territory of the Russian Federation, transporting goods under the TIR procedure whose customs value exceeded the guarantee amount of 60,000 euros. According to the information received, Russian customs would terminate the TIR procedure at the customs office of entry en route and, despite the provision of Article 4 of the TIR Convention, only allow further transport under use of a national transit procedure. In reply, the delegation of the Russian Federation, stated that the guarantee amount in the territory of the Russian Federation is and remains at 60,000 euros, due to the risks related to the transport of high value goods under cover of the TIR procedure as it applies today. He requested competent authorities to inform transporters accordingly, so that they would be able to take the appropriate measures when transporting high value goods to and through the territory of the Russian Federation.

A. Date of next session

45. The Committee tentatively decided to hold its additional (eightieth) session in the week of 5 to 9 June 2023, subject to confirmation and subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.

B. Restriction on the distribution of documents

46. The Committee decided that there would not be any restriction in the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session, apart from Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 2, which had been issued as restricted document (for Government officials only).

C. List of decisions

47. The list of adopted decisions will be attached as annex to the final report.

XII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

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

Annex

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

Reference in final report (para.)	Short description of decision	Actor
2	The Committee adopted the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/160 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/160/Add.1)	Committee
3	The Committee elected Mr. E. Khakimov (Uzbekistan) as Chair for its sessions in 2023.	Committee
7	The Committee elected seven persons, having obtained a majority of votes of the contracting states present and voting as members of TIRExB for a term of office of two years.	Committee
9	In order to fill the two remaining position(s), the Committee decided to hold another round of elections at an additional session, to be held in the week of 5-9 June 2023, subject to confirmation and mandated the secretariat to make the necessary arrangement to accommodate the session.	Committee/secretar iat
10	The Committee endorsed The Committee endorsed the report of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its ninety-second session (June 2022) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/1.	Committee
23	The Committee endorsed Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 6, containing a review of the activities of TIRExB during its 2021-2022 term of office.	Committee
35	The Committee confirmed the assessment by TIRExB (and, previously, the Technical Implementation Body (TIB)) that nothing in the TIR Convention seems to prevent the addition (in the next version of the eTIR specifications) of a pair of messages to allow holders and issuing associations to check the status of the holder directly in the applications that they use to order/use and issue eGuarantees. It further mandated the secretariat to prepare a proposal for the inclusion of those messages in version 4.4. of the eTIR specification for consideration by, at first, TIB and, at a later stage, the contracting parties bound by Annex 11.	Committee/secretar iat
43	The Committee considered and endorsed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/3, containing the annual work plan for the year 2023 of the P3 Information Systems Officer staff member, hired against the funds provided by IRU under the MoU.	Committee
45	The Committee tentatively decided to hold its additional (eightieth) session in the week of 5 to 9 June 2023, subject to confirmation and subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.	Committee/secretar iat Deadlines: Agenda: by 26 March 2023
		Documents: by 10 March 2023

10