



Economic Commission for Europe**Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Eighty-first session**

Geneva, 11 October 2023

Item 4 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:**Activities of the TIR Executive Board:****Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board****Report of the ninety-third session of the TIR Executive Board
(TIRExB)****I. Attendance**

1. The TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) held its ninety-third session on 10 October 2022 in Geneva with the possibility of online participation.
2. The following members of TIRExB attended the session: Mr. M. Ayati (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Mr. M. Ciampi (Italy), Mr. R. Kabulov (Uzbekistan), Mr. P. J. Laborie (European Commission), Mr. H. R. Mayer (Austria), Ms. P. Yalcin Bastirmaci (Türkiye) and Ms. C. Zuidegeest (Netherlands).
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/2022/93

4. TIRExB adopted the agenda of the session in Informal document TIRExB/AGE/2022/93.

**III. Adoption of the report of the ninety second session of
TIRExB (agenda item 2)***Documentation:* Informal document TIRExB/REP/2022/92 draft

5. TIRExB adopted the report of its ninety-second session with a few amendments to Informal document TIRExB/REP/2021/92 draft.

IV. Budget proposal and cost plan of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2023 (agenda item 3)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/8, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/10 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/15

6. 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.

7. Furthermore, 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.

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

A. Interconnection of national customs systems with the eTIR international system

8. The Board took note of the latest developments of the eTIR international system, in particular an eTIR conformance tests workshop held on 7 October 2022, to which 6 countries and the IRU have been invited, and the appointment of conformance tests coordinators for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Pakistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and IRU.

9. The Board further took note that the third session of the Technical Implementation Body would take place on 19-20 December 2022.

B. International TIR Data Bank

10. The Board took note of the current status of data recorded in the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB), i.e., 1 161 web application users, 30 599 authorized holders, 271 stamps and seals, 2 783 customs offices, and of the web service usage for the past years. The Board also took note of the latest improvements of ITDB related applications, in particular 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 TIR Carnet holder staff and customs officers. The Board also took note that, in Uzbekistan, the procedure of authorization of transport companies to use the TIR system has been fully computerized.

VI. Support in the application and revitalization of the TIR Convention including amendment proposals that would increase the competitiveness of the TIR system (agenda item 5)

Documentation: Informal documents Nos. 13 (2022), 14 (2022), 19 (2022) and 20 (2022).

11. The Board recalled that, at its last two sessions, it considered, first, several amendment proposals, submitted by IRU in Informal document No. 13 (2022) and, then, an analysis by the secretariat of the various amendment proposals, contained in Informal document No. 14 (2022).

12. The Board considered Informal document No. 19 (2022), containing additional inputs as well as a summary of the decisions taken so far for each proposal, including concrete amendment proposals. The Board requested more time to study the wording proposed for a new explanatory note to Annex 3 paragraph 2 and requested the secretariat to slightly amend the wording of a new explanatory note to Article 12.

13. Regarding the inclusion of best practices on the implementation of the concepts and authorized consignee and consignor, the Board considered Informal document No. 20 (2022), transmitted by IRU, containing a revision of the examples of national practices originally presented in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/5. One member of the Board stressed that the descriptions of the various procedures were not fully comparable, e.g. what happens in case of partial loading, and pointed at a possible need to further clarify the role of authorized consignee and consignor in handling the TIR Carnet. The Board welcomed the offer of IRU to revise the document for the next session, possibly highlighting the differences between the various procedures. The Board noted that the member states of the European Union are still discussing the implementation of the concept of authorized consignor and will bring the outcome of their deliberations to the attention of the Board. Finally, the Board also welcomed a proposal by IRU to include in the TIR Handbook best practices on the implementation of the concept of subcontractor and agreed to consider a document to be prepared by IRU at one of its future sessions.

VII. Support training activities on the application of the TIR Convention (agenda item 6)

14. The Board took note that the courses on TIR and eTIR were now available on the LearnITC eLearning platform.¹ Regarding the preparation of the TIR Handbook, the secretariat informed the Board that it will be published in 2023 and that on top of a pdf version it intends to produce a more interactive online version. In addition to best practices on the concepts of authorized consignee, consignors and subcontractors, the Board welcomed the idea to also include best practices on the procedure of authorization of holders as well as vehicle approval and welcomed the proposal of IRU to present drafts at one of its future sessions.

VIII. Adaptation of the TIR procedure to modern business, logistics and transport requirements (agenda item 7)

15. The Board took note that a TIRExB workshop on the intermodal aspects of the TIR procedure will take place on 17 October 2022. The Board was informed that the program of the workshop was finalised and very experienced speakers from customs authorities and private sector had been invited to intervene. The workshop would take place in the framework of the working party on intermodal transport (WP.24). Furthermore, the Board recalled its consideration of Informal document No. 16 (2022), containing the draft structure and content of future guidelines for the usage of the TIR and eTIR procedures for intermodal transport. The Board was informed that the secretariat will prepare the first draft of those guidelines for consideration at its next session in December.

IX. Settlement of disputes between contracting parties, associations, insurance companies and international organizations (agenda item 8)

A. Draft new Explanatory Note to Article 6, paragraph 2 of the TIR Convention

Documentation: Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2021) No. 6, Informal documents Nos. 9 (2021), 11 (2022) and 21 (2022).

16. The Board recalled that, at its previous session, it referred to earlier discussions on Explanatory Notes 8.10 (e) and 0.6.2 bis-1 (on the basis of Informal document WP.30/AC.2

¹ <https://learnitc.unece.org/login/index.php>

(2021) No. 6, Informal documents Nos. 9 (2021) and 11 (2022)) and took note of an improved wording for new Explanatory Note 8.10 (e), as presented in Informal document 21 (2022).

17. The Board welcomed the improved wording for the new Explanatory Note 8.10 (e) and agreed to slightly improve the wording of an amendment to Explanatory Note 0.6.2 bis-1. Considering that the new wording of both amendments was not only providing a clearer process to be followed but was also removing repetitions and avoiding possible diverging legal interpretations, it requested the secretariat to prepare a document for its next session containing the improved wording of both explanatory notes with the aim of finally agreeing on them, so that the findings of the Board could be transmitted to the Committee for consideration at its February 2023 session.

B. Letter by the government of Uzbekistan on customs claims

Documentation: Informal document Nos. 4 and 7 (2021)

18. The Board noted that more claims had been resolved and agreed with the proposal from Mr. R. Kabulov to remove this item from its future agendas.

X. Prices of TIR Carnets (agenda item 9)

Documentation: Informal document Nos. 17 (2022)

19. The Board confirmed that questions of the survey on TIR Carnet prices can remain unchanged and mandated the secretariat to launch the survey for 2023 before the end of 2022.

XI. Issues transmitted by the Administrative Committee (agenda item 10)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/4

20. The Board considered an issue transmitted by the Committee to the Board 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 (originally proposed by IRU in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/4) and who should register eGuarantees in the eTIR international system, further to their issuance by issuing associations (issue raised by the delegation of Türkiye at the seventy-sixth session of the Committee of the TIR Convention).

21. Whereas a majority of the members seemed to be aligned with the position expressed by TIB at its second session, i.e. that the centralized registering of eGuarantees in the eTIR international system, after they have been issued by associations by means of a common application, seemed to be in line with the provisions of Article 6 paragraph 3 of the TIR Convention, the Board, taking into consideration the doubts expressed by one of its members, decided to postpone this discussion to its next session and to continue its considerations based on a presentation of the application used by associations to issue eGuarantees, to be organized by IRU.

XII. Miscellaneous (agenda item 11)

A. Activities of the secretariat

22. The secretariat informed the Board that it is planning to organize, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa, a workshop on the TIR Convention and eTIR in Djibouti in December 2022. The aim of the workshop is to promote the accession to the TIR Convention and the use of the eTIR international system, by the eight member States of IGAD, i.e. Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Furthermore, the secretariat

informed the Board that it is collaborating with the customs authorities of Uzbekistan to promote interconnecting the national customs systems of the neighbouring countries of Uzbekistan with the eTIR international system. A high-level meeting, aimed at agreeing on a concrete action plan to establish an eTIR corridor, will be organized in Samarkand (Uzbekistan), probably in early December 2022, inviting the customs authorities of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

B. Other matters

Documentation: Informal document No. 18 (2022) and 22 (2022)

23. The Board recalled that, at its previous session, it had considered Informal document No. 18 (2022), transmitted by IRU, about regular checks on TIR transports at certain border crossing points and had requested IRU for additional evidence on the actual cases.

24. The Board considered the additional evidence contained in Informal document No. 22 (2022), transmitted by IRU. In her reaction, Ms. P. Yalcin Bastirmaci (Türkiye) noted that various reasons can lead to physical checks, such as the absence of advance information prior to the presentation at the borders or suspicions related to the transport operators. Mr. M. Ayati (Iran, Islamic Republic of) stated that, according to the latest information he had, in Gürbulak (Türkiye) as well as in Bilasuvar and Astara (Azerbaijan), trucks are generally sent for additional inspection and that unloading and reloading not only comes at a cost but also causes damages to the goods. He further stated that, at those customs offices, no difference seems to be made between the TIR procedure and other procedures, despite the fact that the TIR system ensures higher security, and that advance data is sent by holders by means of the TIR-EPD application. He stressed that, since the survival of the TIR system is currently at stake, finding solutions for such issues, especially in key corridors using the TIR system, should be a priority. The Board recommended that the parties involved should first discuss the various cases among themselves, possibly with evidence of the use of TIR-EPD, when available.

25. Furthermore, the Board took note that the government of Uzbekistan was organizing a workshop in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) dedicated, inter alia, to the use of simplified procedures and the development of an eTIR corridor between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

26. 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.

C. Restriction in the distribution of documents

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

D. Date and place of next session

28. The Board decided to conduct its ninety-fourth session on 5 and 6 December 2022, in Geneva and online, and requested the secretariat to make appropriate arrangements.
