



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
14 November 2018

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

#### Sixty-ninth session

Geneva, 7 February 2019

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session\*, \*\*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday,  
7 February 2019, Room XII

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975.
4. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:
  - (a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board:

---

\* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website [www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html). During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

\*\* The full text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as well as a complete list of contracting parties to the TIR Convention, are available on the UNECE website: [www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs](http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs). Delegates are requested to register online at: [uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=0fyKc8](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=0fyKc8) at the latest one week prior to the session. Prior to the session, delegates who do not hold a long-term access badge should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).



- (i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board;
  - (ii) Election of members of the TIR Executive Board;
  - (iii) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat;
  - (iv) Survey on customs claims;
  - (v) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars.
- (b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat:
  - (i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2018;
  - (ii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat.
- 5. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system.
- 6. Authorization for concluding an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).
- 7. Revision of the Convention:
  - (a) Amendment proposals to the Convention with regard to the maximum level of guarantee per TIR Carnet;
  - (b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party;
  - (c) Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board;
  - (d) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption;
  - (e) Recommendation to Annex 3 on a code system to report defect remarks in the certificate of approval.
- 8. Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure.
- 9. Best practices:
  - Example agreement.
- 10. Other business:
  - (a) IRU external audit report and related matters;
  - (b) Date of next session;
  - (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
  - (d) List of decisions.
- 11. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/140). The Committee will be informed that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, "a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the States which are contracting parties is required for the purpose of taking decisions". The number of States which are contracting parties to the convention is seventy-three.

#### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/140

### 2. Election of officers

In accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure and established practice, the Committee should elect a Chair and possibly a Vice-Chair for its sessions in 2019.

### 3. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

The Committee will be informed about changes in the status of the convention and in the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Committee may wish to be informed that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, issued the following depositary notifications: (a) C.N.543.2018.TREATIES-XI.A.16 of 31 October 2018, informing of the accession of Argentina to the TIR Convention on 31 October 2018. The TIR Convention will enter into force for Argentina on 30 April 2019. With the accession of Argentina, the TIR Convention now has seventy-five contracting parties; (b) C.N.556.2018.TREATIES-XI.A.16 of 9 November 2018, informing of the entry into force on 3 February 2019 of amendments to Article 1 (q), Article 3, paragraph (b), Article 6, paragraph 2, Article 11, paragraph 3 and Article 38, paragraph 1 of the TIR Convention; (c) C.N.557.2018.TREATIES-XI.A.16 of 9 November 2018, informing of an objection by Kazakhstan to a proposal to amend Article 2 of the TIR Convention. As a consequence of this objection, the said amendment proposal shall be deemed not to have been accepted and shall have no effect whatsoever, as stipulated by Article 59, paragraph 4. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.<sup>1</sup>

### 4. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board

#### (a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board

##### (i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the convention and in line with the decision of the Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), the secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its seventy-seventh (June

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary\\_notification.html](http://www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html).

2018) and seventy-eighth (October 2018) sessions, for information and endorsement by the Committee (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/2). More information about the recent activities of TIRExB as well as about various considerations and decisions taken at its seventy-ninth (December 2018) and eightieth (February 2019) sessions will be provided orally by the Chair of TIRExB.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/1, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/2

**(ii) Election of members of TIR Executive Board**

The Committee may wish to recall 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 2017, the Committee must, at its present session, proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of TIRExB. The Committee, at its previous session, decided to follow the established procedure for the election at the current session on the basis of 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 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/131, para. 12).

The Committee, therefore, authorized the ECE secretariat to solicit candidates by early November 2018, to close the list of candidates on 14 December 2018 and, on the next working day, 17 December 2018, to issue the official list of candidates for distribution to all contracting parties (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 27).

The procedures for the nomination and election are in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 1. In accordance with the approved election procedure and on the basis of the list of nominated candidates which will be circulated by the secretariat to all contracting parties on 17 December 2018 (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 2), the Committee may wish to proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of TIRExB in accordance with established practice.

**Documentation**

Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 1, Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2019) No. 2

**(iii) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat**

The Committee will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, if any.

**(iv) Survey on customs claims**

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 2017–2018 term of office, TIRExB launched the survey for the years 2013–2016. The Committee might wish to consider the consolidated results of the survey as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/3. In this context, the Committee might wish to recall that, for every claims survey, TIRExB is obliged to instruct the TIR secretariat to send numerous reminders to obtain replies and that, despite those reminders, still not all contracting parties feel compelled to respond. Consequently, the Committee is invited to urge contracting parties, once more, to respond timely to future claims surveys to ensure their relevance as a supervisory tool for TIRExB.

**(v) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars**

The Committee will be informed about TIR workshops and seminars conducted and/or planned.

**(b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat****(i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2018**

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. As the competent Finance Services of the United Nations will not be able to formally finalize the accounts for 2018 by the time the Administrative Committee meets in February 2019, the report on the complete and final accounts will be transmitted, as in the past, to the next session of the Committee in 2019 for formal approval.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also be informed by the secretariat about the follow-up to the decision of AC.2 at its sixty-fourth session to request the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), to carry out an audit of the accounts of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat.

**(ii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat**

The Committee may wish to recall that the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2019 were approved by the Committee at its previous session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 34). The Committee will be informed about the transfer of the required funds for the year 2019 by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to the TIR Trust Fund. At its previous session, the Committee also approved the amount per TIR Carnet (\$ 1.23 (rounded), see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 39).

In addition, the Committee may wish to recall the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89, para. 38 and Annex II), according to which

"...

(8) IRU<sup>2</sup> maintains a separate account detailing the number of TIR Carnets distributed and the related amounts received;

(9) IRU auditor produces an audit certificate providing an opinion of the above-mentioned account for the year in question showing the amount transferred and the total amount actually invoiced (15 January);

(10) The difference between the two amounts will need to be adjusted a posteriori;

(11) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if there is an excess (i.e. more was received than initially transferred), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, will be informed and IRU shall transfer the excess to the UNECE named bank account before 15 March. This amount will be reflected in the UNECE TIR accounts to be taken into account for the next budget year;

(12) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if there is a deficit (i.e. less was received than initially transferred), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, and on the proposal of IRU, shall approve the appropriate action, which shall be either:

(a) a recalculation of the amount per TIR Carnet referred to in Annex 8, Article 13.1, or

(b) the deficit will be recorded in the IRU account referred to above and shall, on the basis of a proposal from IRU as endorsed by the Administrative Committee, be subsequently adjusted."

In view of the above, the Administrative Committee will be informed of the audit certificate for the year 2018 and will be invited to approve the appropriate action according to items 11 or 12 of the above procedure.

#### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/89

### **5. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system**

Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system is granted subject to the provisions of Article 6.2 bis, Annex 8, Article 10 (b) and Explanatory Notes 0.6.2 bis-2 and 8.10 (b).

The Committee may wish to recall its previous decision to authorize IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets and to organize the functioning of the guarantee system for the period 2017–2019 inclusive (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/129, para. 21) and that a decision for the next period should be taken at the present session. In this context, the Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it decided to agree to prolong the authorization for provisionally a period of 3 years (2020–2022), subject to official confirmation at its current session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/39, para. 41).

The Committee is invited to take a formal decision about the prolongation of the authorization of IRU for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system as of the year 2020.

---

<sup>2</sup> International Road Transport Union

## **6. Authorization for concluding an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).**

The Committee, at its previous session, recalled that the present UNECE–IRU Agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2016/3) expires at the end of 2019 and should be renewed. Against this background, the secretariat was requested to prepare a new draft agreement covering, preferably, the same period as the authorization (tentatively the years 2020–2022 inclusive), for consideration at its current session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/129, para. 42). Thus, the Committee is invited to consider and approve a new draft agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/4) and to provide the secretariat with the mandate to conclude the new agreement with a view to continue financing the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2020.

### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/4

## **7. Revision of the Convention**

### **(a) Amendment proposals to the Convention with regard to the maximum level of guarantee per TIR Carnet**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it had confirmed that it would only revert to this issue once the findings of the Working Party would be available (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, paras. 43 and 44).

### **(b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-sixth session (October 2017), it considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2017/6, transmitted by TIRExB on a revised proposal for a new Explanatory Note to Article 49 of the Convention, so as to widen the scope of greater facilities that contracting parties may grant to transport operators, in particular, but not limited to, authorized consignor and consignee. The Committee noted that the Explanatory Note was designed to allow those contracting parties that so wish, to provide certain facilities that would be subject to stringent and extensive additional conditions and requirements. Unable to make any progress, the Committee decided to request WP.30 to assess the proposal and see if further improvements could be made (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/135, paras. 38–40).

Against this background, the Committee may wish to note that the Working Party, at its 150th session (October 2018), in the absence of any comments from contracting parties on the issue at stake, noted the continued interest of several countries to grant operators greater facilities in accordance with Article 49 of the convention, expressing their support for the proposal by TIRExB for a new Explanatory Note to Article 49 to that end (see document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2018/5, para. 8). Thus, the Working Party decided to submit the proposal to AC.2 for consideration and, possibly, adoption at its current session. The Working Party encouraged contracting parties, which are not interested in the application of these facilities, to not block the adoption process, as they are not obliged to introduce such facilities on their territories if they do not wish so (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/300, para. 24).

Further to the decision by the Working Party, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/5 for consideration and, possibly, adoption by the Committee.

### **Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/5

**(c) Amendment proposals to the Convention prepared by the TIR Executive Board**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it started consideration of proposals by TIRExB, introducing the mandatory submission of data to the ITDB, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/12. In the context of its discussions, the Committee also took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2018) No. 7 by IRU that contains its proposals to amend the TIRExB proposals. At the session, the Committee felt that it was time to eliminate the paper work and make full use of the electronic means in communicating with TIRExB. Several contracting parties expressed their appreciation for the work by TIRExB and stated their readiness to adopt the proposals in their current form.

The representative of IRU called upon competent authorities to pay attention to the status checks with the ITDB during actual TIR transports. IRU requested that the absence of data in the ITDB should not constitute grounds for the refusal of acceptance of TIR Carnets and that customs authorities should, in such case, consult additional data as the data validation from the ITDB is not yet mandatory. Additionally, he was of the view that sharing information about exclusions should be limited to the actors mentioned in Article 38, para. 2 (i.e. country of residence, national association, TIRExB) and claimed that TIR Carnet holders were denied the use of TIR Carnets by third countries. Accordingly, IRU requested that its amendment proposals, contained in Informal Document No. 7 (2018), be incorporated in the amendment proposals drafted by TIRExB. IRU further requested to be granted access to the ITDB so that it could also contribute to its proper application. With regard to the amendment proposals submitted by IRU, the secretariat and various contracting parties drew attention to the difference between the submission of data to the ITDB – the object of the amendment proposals by TIRExB – and checking the data in the ITDB, to which the IRU proposals relate. The Committee underlined that the use of the ITDB to validate the authorization was not yet mandatory, despite being a precondition for eTIR, which means it will be done for every TIR operation in the eTIR system. The Committee concluded that there would be merit in further consideration of the problems encountered during the TIR procedure and requested TIRExB to consider the issue and report its findings to the next session of the Committee and have the issue also tabled at the forthcoming session of WP.30. Moreover, the Committee requested the secretariat to grant IRU access to the ITDB. Contracting parties were invited to submit comments or suggestions to the secretariat no later than by 22 November 2018, if any. Against the background of its discussions, the Committee called upon all contracting parties to fulfil their legal obligation to transmit the particulars of each authorized person (or whose authorization has been withdrawn) to TIRExB, pursuant to the provisions of Annex 9, Part II, article 4 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, paras. 47–51).

Against this background, the Committee may wish to continue its consideration of the proposals drafted by TIRExB and be informed about the findings of TIRExB at its seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions as well as of the Working Party at its 151st session on the proposals by IRU.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/12

**(d) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption**

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to recall that, so far, it has accepted proposals to amend Article 6, paragraph 1, Explanatory Note 0.6.2 and Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1, adjusting the existing wording to include the term “customs authorities or

other competent authorities”, as well as proposals to amend Article 18 and to add a new Explanatory Note 0.18.3.. The secretariat was requested to prepare a new document, listing all accepted amendment proposals so that the Committee, at its current session could proceed with their formal adoption and consecutive transmission to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation among all TIR contracting parties (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 52).

Further to this request, the secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6 for formal adoption by the Committee.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6

**(e) Recommendation to Annex 3 on a code system to report defect remarks in the certificate of approval**

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixty-first session (June 2015), it had decided to adopt a Recommendation on a code system to report defect remarks in the certificate of approval. The Committee decided that the Recommendation would come into effect on 1 October 2015 and would be reviewed two years following that date, together with the possibility of converting the Recommendation into amendment proposals to Annex 3 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/125, para. 13). At its previous session, the Committee invited delegations to enquire with their competent authorities about national experiences, if any, with recommendation and report back to the Committee at its current session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, paras. 54 and 55).

The Committee is invited to start its consideration of the item.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/125

**8. Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure**

The Committee will be informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure. In particular:

(a) the outcome of the twenty-ninth session of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Technical and Conceptual Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure (GE.1) (Rotterdam (The Netherlands), 14 and 15 November 2018);

(b) the latest developments in the eTIR pilot projects and other developments towards the full computerization of the TIR procedure.

Against the background of progress made by the Working Party in finalizing and adopting the text of draft Annex 11 of the convention, the Committee is invited to consider and, possibly, also adopt document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7, containing the required amendments to introduce eTIR in the legal text of the TIR Convention, 1975.

**Documentation**

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2019/3-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/7

## 9. Best practices

### Example agreement

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, it accepted the updated text of the example agreement, as contained in Chapter 6.2 of the TIR Handbook (document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/13), pending final endorsement (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 58).

The Committee is invited to formally endorse document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/13.

### Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2018/13

## 10. Other business

### (a) IRU external audit report and related matters

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its previous session, further to the statement made by the Chair of TIRExB when reporting on the Board's activities at its seventy-eighth session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, paras. 18–25), the delegation of the European Union proposed that TIRExB explore the possibility of inviting external experts from the audit services of the customs administrations of TIRExB members to support the Board in further assessing the IRU external audit report. The delegation of Turkey did not support this proposal at this stage and expressed that it would like to hear the opinion of other contracting parties before taking a decision (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/139, para. 59).

The Committee is invited to continue its considerations of the item.

### (b) Date of next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the seventieth session of the Committee on 17 October 2019. The Committee may wish to confirm this date.

### (c) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

### (d) List of decisions

Following a decision by the Committee, a list of decisions will be attached to the final report.

## 11. Adoption of the report

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the convention, the Committee will adopt the report of its sixty-ninth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available at the end of the session for adoption in all working languages.