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Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board –

Activities of the TIR Executive Board:

TIRExB programme of work for the years 2011–2012

Programme of work 2011–2012

Note by the TIR secretariat

I. Introduction

1. With a view to improving transparency among the TIR bodies, at the beginning of each two-year period of its mandate the TIRExB develops a prioritised work programme and presents it to the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) for endorsement. The Chair periodically reports to AC.2 on its activities and the results achieved within the work programme.

2. The programme below is not exhaustive. TIRExB is sufficiently flexible to enable itself to consider any unforeseen issue that might arise. Furthermore, it does not include some ongoing activities as part of the mandate of TIRExB carried out by the TIR secretariat, which do not require the direct involvement of the Board (e.g. maintenance of the ITDB, etc).

II. Overall aims

3. Supervision of and support in the application of the TIR Convention at the national and international levels (Article 1**bis** of Annex 8 to the Convention).

A. Ongoing activities

1. **To study specific measures (both legal and practical) to combat fraud resulting from the misuse of the TIR procedure**

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Identification of possible weaknesses in the legal basis of the TIR Convention which could make it prone to fraud.

2. To facilitate the exchange of information between competent authorities of Contracting Parties, national guaranteeing associations, IRU and other Governmental and non-governmental organizations. To coordinate and foster the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of Contracting Parties

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Elaborate adequate instruments and find measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and their national associations, and the international organization in order to prevent and combat fraud.
- Taking into account the views of other international governmental and non-governmental bodies, and in consultation with the IRU, identify fraud prevention measures, including risk analysis tools.
- On the basis of information provided by the TIR international guarantee chain, study the situation with regard to the new trends of fraud, the notifications of non-discharge and TIR infringements as a contribution to an "early-warning system" for identification and prevention of fraud.

3. To supervise the national Customs control measures introduced in the framework of the TIR Convention

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Identify national Customs control measures introduced in Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and check their conformity with the provisions of the TIR Convention.
- Address the respective national authorities in order to modify or abolish measures which are in contradiction to the TIR Convention.

4. To supervise the functioning of the TIR international guarantee system

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Monitor constantly the settlement of Customs claims, on the basis of information provided by national Customs authorities and the IRU.
- Conduct a survey on Customs claims and the TIR guarantee level covering the years 2007–2010 (2011)

5. To facilitate the computerization of the TIR procedure

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Facilitate the computerization of the TIR procedure by means of supporting the activities undertaken by the Ad hoc Expert Group on Technical and Conceptual Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1), including but not limited to, the:
 - Finalization of the eTIR Reference Model;
 - Cost/benefit analysis of the eTIR Project.

- Offer its good offices to achieve consensus among all stakeholders on the finalization of the eTIR Project.
- Facilitate the computerization of the TIR procedure by actively contributing to drafting the required legal amendments to the TIR Convention.
- Promote the eTIR Project as part of the Board's training and capacity building activities, including the promotion of the use of EDI standards.
- Encourage IT experts to participate, either as eTIR focal point or as national representatives, in the activities undertaken by the Ad hoc Expert Group on Technical and Conceptual Aspects of the computerization of the TIR procedure.
- Amend and promote the ITDB as one of the components of the future e-TIR components.

6. To support training activities on the application of the TIR Convention, mainly in Contracting Parties where difficulties are experienced or might be expected in this area

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Organize, possibly in cooperation with the IRU, and substantially contribute to regional and national workshops and seminars on the application of the TIR Convention, where possible with particular focus on technical issues such as the approval of vehicles.
- Update and distribute the TIR Handbook in the official UN languages.
- Prepare and distribute, also via Internet, training material on the application of the TIR Convention.

7. To facilitate the settlement of disputes between Contracting Parties, associations, insurance companies and international organizations without prejudice to Article 57

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Analyze and monitor disputes referred to the Board and make recommendations (if necessary) to facilitate their settlement.
- Clarify procedures prior to a suspension of the guarantee on the territory of a Contracting Party.

8. To monitor the application of the EDI control system for TIR Carnets

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Continue activities, in cooperation with IRU, towards the full implementation of an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets, as foreseen by Annex 10 to the TIR Convention.
- Monitor performance and give feedback to the Contracting Parties.
- Study, with the support of IRU, how the EDI control system for TIR Carnets is being used by the national issuing associations for the purposes of fraud prevention.

- 9. To supervise the centralized printing and distribution of the TIR Carnets, including the monitoring of the price of TIR Carnets** *Priority: 2*

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Monitor the annual numbers of TIR Carnets distributed to various Contracting Parties, broken down by type (i.e., 4-, 6-, 14- or 20-voucher TIR Carnets).
- Monitor the price of TIR Carnets at international level (i.e., ex-IRU price) on the basis of information to be reported by IRU annually or when modified.
- Study all the relevant issues concerning the price of TIR Carnets at the "ex-national association" level.
- Approve any proposed modifications to the TIR Carnet layout in advance of its introduction and distribution.
- Conduct a survey on the price of TIR Carnets at the national level (2012)

- 10. To maintain the central record for dissemination to Contracting Parties of information on all rules and procedures prescribed for the issue of TIR Carnets by associations, as far as they relate to the minimum conditions and requirements laid down in Annex 9** *Priority: 2*

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- Input to be provided by IRU in case of changes.

- 11. To provide support on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention** *Priority: 2*

Output expected in 2011 and 2012:

- On request, draft recommendations and/or examples of best practice on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention.
- Review of the example of best practices on inquiry procedures.

B. Activities of a limited duration

- 1. Preparation of an example of best practices on the application of Article 11 of the Convention (recovery of claims from national associations)** *Priority: 2*

Output expected in 2011–2012:

- Draft an example of best practice and submit to the TIR Administrative Committee for adoption.

- 2. Implementation of the multimodal aspects of the TIR procedure** *Priority: 2*

Output expected in 2011–2012:

- Prepare guidelines for the TIR Administrative Committee how to promote the multimodal use of the TIR Carnet.

- 3. Raise visibility of the work of TIRExB** *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2011:

- Identify measures to raise the visibility of TIRExB and its activities.

4. Self-evaluation

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2012

- Prepare a report, providing a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the Board's achievements during its 2011–2012 term of office in relation to its mandates according to TIR Convention and submit to the TIR Administrative Committee for endorsement.
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