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Geneva, 8 October 2014

Item 7 (d) (ii) of the provisional agenda

Revision of the Convention:

Phase III of the TIR revision process – Computerization of the TIR procedure –

Draft Joint Statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure

Draft Joint Statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure

I. Background

1. At its previous session, the Administrative Committee considered the draft joint statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2014/6, which was prepared by the secretariat for endorsement by Contracting Parties. The Committee reiterated its support towards computerization in principle, taking into account the foreseen benefits of additional ease, safety and security, but due to the lack of consensus regarding certain parts of the statement, the Committee was not in a position to adopt the text as proposed. Consequently, the secretariat was requested to prepare a new draft for endorsement at the present session, taking into account the comments received from various delegations (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/119, paras. 20–25).

2. The Committee may wish to recall that the main objective of the Joint Statement is to express a common vision of Contracting Parties towards computerization of the TIR procedure, as developed by the UNECE Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1). As the eTIR Reference Model contains concrete technical details of the eTIR project and, the work on the legal aspects of the introduction of eTIR is advancing, there is a clear need for strong political support by Governments to accelerate the implementation of the eTIR project. The revised draft text of the joint statement is contained in the Annex, with deletions marked in ~~strike-through~~ and new text marked in **bold** text.

GE.14-09828 (E)



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Annex

Joint Statement on the computerization of the TIR procedure

Endorsed in Geneva, on 8 October 2014 ~~in the English, French and Russian languages, the three versions being valid~~

We, the representatives of the Contracting Parties at the session of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975, on ~~12 June~~ **8 October 2014**,

Recognizing the significance of economic globalization and the role of transport and border crossing facilitation as a prerequisite for more efficient international trade and competitiveness,

Aware of the essential need for modern, efficient, and coordinated functions of both customs and transport operations at border crossings,

Conscious of the need to foster transport and border crossing facilitation by further enhancing of the existing legal framework offered by the TIR Convention,

*Welcoming Noting*¹ the decision of the ECE Inland Transport Committee of February 2014 to urge Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention to accelerate efforts to complete and launch the computerization of the TIR procedure,

Noting Welcoming the progress made towards the finalization of the electronic TIR (eTIR) Reference Model,

Aware of the need to develop an appropriate legal framework that will **also** allow the TIR procedure to function ~~both on paper and~~ electronically,

Dedicated to further facilitating legitimate trade and transport **and** protecting government revenues ~~from illicit transport, thus ensuring safety and security and, at the same time, enhancing the transparency of the TIR system,~~

Emphasizing the importance of a systematic electronic exchange of information between customs administrations to further improve risk ~~assessment procedures,~~ **management and controls,**

Considering the need to allow a step-by-step introduction of a computerized TIR procedure,

Convinced that the computerization will not only improve the TIR system but also allow it to expand beyond its current frontiers,

Recognizing that, in times where customs administrations have or are in the process of computerizing all customs procedures, the TIR Convention would become even more attractive if computerized,

1. *Invite* all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 to support the computerization of the TIR system by:

(a) **Constructively contributing to the development of a legal framework that would enable progressive implementation of a computerized TIR procedure**

¹ All changes marked in the statement, with the exception of new paragraph (d) on page 3 and an additional sentence in paragraph (c) on page 3, are comments provided by the European Union (see Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2014) No. 10).

~~Considering the eTIR Reference Model and all relevant international standards when computerizing the management of TIR operations at the national level;~~

(b) Considering the eTIR Reference Model and all relevant international standards when computerizing the management of TIR operations at the national level; Constructively contributing to the development of a legal framework that would enable progressive implementation of a computerized TIR procedure;

(c) Actively making efforts towards finalization and implementation of the eTIR by means of an integrated approach, taking into account all technical, legal, administrative and financial aspects and, thus,² demonstrating-realizing the benefits of a computerized TIR procedure;

(d) Providing, to the extent possible, support to those Contracting Parties that wish to implement computerization by means of exchange of information and technical know-how³.

2. *Invite* other United Nations Member States to join and implement the TIR Convention and in this way support customs transit facilitation, ensuring that the TIR Convention remains an effective, efficient transport and border crossing facilitation tool ~~throughout the world.~~

² The sentence “by means of [...] thus” was added taking into account comments by the delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of).

³ This is added following the comment from the delegation of the Russian Federation, see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/119, para. 24.