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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975
(22 and 23 February 2001)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on 22 February 2001 ^{*/}**

^{*/} 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 documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Transport Division (Fax: + 41-22-917-0039; E-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm). During the meeting, missing documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill in the attached registration form (also available from the Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the UN/ECE Transport Division, either by fax (+ 41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please contact the UN/ECE secretariat (91-72453).

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4. Activities and administration of the
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) will hold its ninety-seventh session, in conjunction with the present session of the Administrative Committee, from 20 to 23 February 2001, starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 20 February 2001 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The UN/ECE Working Party will consider a large number of issues in relation to the revision of the TIR Convention and its application. Therefore, representatives of all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975, are strongly recommended to participate also in the sessions of the UN/ECE Working Party. The agenda as well as other relevant documents for the session of the UN/ECE Working Party may be obtained directly from the UN/ECE secretariat or down-loaded from the relevant UN/ECE web site (see page 1).

* * *

It is recalled 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 purposes of taking decisions." As of 1 December 2000 the number of States, Contracting Parties to the Convention is sixty-three.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/60).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with annex 8, article 3 of the Convention and in line with established practice, the Administrative Committee may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

3. STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

The Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975. A list of Contracting Parties to the Convention as well as of countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established is contained in the annex to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify these listings.

The complete text of the latest amendments to the Convention that have entered into force on 17 February 1999 (Phase I of the TIR revision process) is contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1 and is available at the secretariat in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Detailed information on the status and the functioning of the Convention, including the complete and permanently updated text of the Convention is available on the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm), including the TIR Handbook which is available, at present, in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

4. ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall report on its activities at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

Following the decision of the Administrative Committee, at its twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), that the TIRExB should report on its activities at each of its sessions and that efforts should be made to make, at least, the reports of the sessions of the TIRExB available to all Contracting Parties, possibly in the three working languages of the Administrative Committee, the UN/ECE secretariat has reproduced the report of the TIRExB at its sixth session (23-25 May 2000) which had already been submitted as an advance copy to the twenty-ninth session of the Administrative Committee for approval (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/1).

All reports of the TIRExB are also available at and can be down-loaded from the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

Further information on recent activities of the TIRExB will be provided by the Chairman of the TIRExB during the session.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider these reports and may wish to provide guidance on future activities to be undertaken by the TIRExB.

(ii) Example of an Authorization Agreement

The TIRExB, at its seventh session (12 and 13 October 2000) considered an example of an authorization agreement between competent authorities and national guaranteeing associations prepared by the TIR Secretary. The TIRExB felt that such an example, in line with the relevant provisions of the revised Convention, could provide an example for the legal act between guaranteeing associations and the national Customs authorities, particularly for those countries that had only recently acceded to the Convention. The example should include the rights and obligations of national guaranteeing associations in accordance with Article 6 and Annex 9 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/1).

The Administrative Committee may wish to review a revised example of an authorization agreement prepared by the TIR Secretary which will be considered by the TIRExB at its eighth session (23 and 24 January 2001) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/2).

(iii) Regional TIR Seminar for countries in Western Asia

The Administrative Committee may wish to take note of the results of a Regional TIR Seminar that has been held at Amman (Jordan) on 31 October and 1 November 2000. The Seminar was organized by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) and the TIR secretariat, in close co-operation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UN/ESCWA) and the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance of Jordan.

The Seminar was attended by nearly 100 experts and Government officials from 14 countries in the Middle East region as well as from regional and international organizations, including the International Road Transport Union (IRU). At the end of the Seminar a recommendation was adopted by consensus which is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/4.

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval (in principle) of the final accounts for the year 2000

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee. Furthermore, the agreement concluded between the IRU and the UN/ECE for the year 2000 on the transfer of funds to the TIR Trust Fund, established by the UN/ECE in accordance with a decision of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, paras. 30 and 31), provides for the submission of an annual report to the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2).

In order to provide full transparency about the functioning and financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, the UN/ECE secretariat has provided the Administrative Committee, at its twenty-ninth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paras. 30 and 31), with an overview of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 31 July 2000 together with an estimate on the expenses foreseen for the remainder of 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/10). These figures and forecasts are still valid as of 1 December 2000.

The UN/ECE secretariat endeavours to transmit an advance report (Informal Document) on the accounts of the TIRExB for 2000 to the present session of the Administrative Committee for approval in principle.

As the competent Finance Services of the United Nations will most likely not be able to formally finalize the accounts for 2000 by mid-February 2001, the report on the complete and final accounts will be transmitted, as in the past, to the session of the Administrative Committee in October 2001 for formal approval.

In this context, the Administrative Committee may wish to note that the accounts of the TIR Trust Fund are exclusively subject to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the Financial Regulations, Rules and Directives of the United Nations and will be audited according to the schedule set by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

(ii) Budget and cost plan for the year 2001

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that the budget and the cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2001 has been approved by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-ninth session on the basis of a proposal made by the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paras. 32-35; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/11 and Corr.1).

The required funds for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2000 have been transmitted by the IRU to the TIR Trust Fund on 17 November 2000.

(iii) Election of members of the TIRExB

The Administrative Committee may wish to note that, in accordance with Annex 9, Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the term of office of each member of the TIRExB shall be two years. Since the present members of the TIRExB had been elected at its spring session in 1999, the Administrative Committee must, at its forthcoming session in spring 2001, proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of the TIRExB.

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 9 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall be composed of nine members, each from different Contracting Parties to the Convention. They shall be elected by the Administrative Committee by a majority of Contracting States present and voting. Board members should be competent and experienced in the application of the TIR procedure both at the national and international levels. They should represent the interests of all Contracting Parties to the Convention and not the specific interests of any one individual Government or organization (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, annex).

In order to ensure an efficient voting procedure at its forthcoming spring session, the Administrative Committee, at its twenty-ninth session confirmed its decisions taken earlier in this respect, in particular:

- the comment adopted on 26 June 1998 to the Rules of Procedure of the TIRExB on “representation”, with the exception of paragraph (c) as its provisions relate only to the initial election of Board members and were thus no longer appropriate (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, annex and Corr.1);
- the procedure for the election of members of the TIRExB adopted on 26 February 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, paras. 31 and 34).

In this context, the Administrative Committee had authorized the UN/ECE secretariat to issue, well before the session of the Administrative Committee during which elections of TIRExB members would take place, a document containing the approved election procedures and soliciting candidates willing to stand for election as members of the TIRExB. Four weeks before the session during which the election will take place, the UN/ECE secretariat will circulate a list of candidates which have been nominated by their respective Governments or organizations being Contracting Parties to the Convention. No further candidates may be nominated for election at the relevant session following issuance of the above list by the UN/ECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paras. 24-27).

In accordance with the approved election procedure and on the basis of the list of nominated candidates which will be circulated by the secretariat on 22 January 2001 to all Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Administrative Committee may wish to proceed with the election or re-election of the nine members of the TIRExB.

5. AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS

(a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2001

Following the conclusion of an Agreement between the IRU and the UN/ECE as mandated by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-ninth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 42) and the fulfilment of the relevant conditions by 17 November 2000, the IRU is authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2001.

The Administrative Committee may wish to endorse the relevant UN/ECE-IRU Agreement as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3.

(b) Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2002

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention, the TIRExB shall supervise the centralized printing and distribution to the associations of TIR Carnets which may be performed by an agreed international organization as referred to in Article 6 of the Convention.

The Administrative Committee, at its twenty-sixth session, decided that, at its annual spring session, it will authorize international organizations to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the following year in accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention under the condition that:

- the concerned international organization declares in writing its acceptance of this authorization within 30 days following the decision of the Administrative Committee;
- on the basis of the relevant decisions of the Administrative Committee at its annual autumn session (adoption of the budget for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, etc.), the required transfer of funds, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention, will have been effected by the authorized international organization by 15 November each year for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat during the following year (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 20).

In this context, the Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its ninety-eighth session (24 and 25 February 2000), it had authorized the IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for a period of five years as of the year 2001 and to finance, as long as its expenses were not covered by the Regular Budget of the United Nations, the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 29). In a communication received from the Secretary-General of the IRU dated 22 March 2000, the IRU declared its acceptance of the authorization by the Administrative Committee for a period of five years (2001-2005).

In view of the above, the Administrative Committee may wish to confirm its authorization given to the IRU at its ninety-eighth session to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets.

6. REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

(a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its exchange of views on possible difficulties that may have arisen during implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process. The relevant amendments had come into force on 17 February 1999 (Depositary Notification C.N.800.1998.TREATIES-2) and the complete text of these provisions is contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1.

The Administrative Committee may also wish to stress once more that it was very important, in line with Article 38, paragraph 2 and Article 42 bis of the Convention, to inform the TIRExB immediately of any exclusions from the operation of the Convention and of any national control measures planned to be taken by competent national authorities. The Administrative Committee may also wish to be informed of the functioning of the so-called electronic SAFETIR system operated by the IRU on the basis of Article 42 bis of the Convention.

(b) Adoption of amendment proposals under Phase II of the TIR revision process

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-ninth session, it had adopted the complete package of amendment proposals which had been prepared by the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30). These amendment proposals are contained in Annex 3 to the report on its twenty-ninth session together with comments thereto which are contained in Annex 5 to this report (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 46). Following verification, the UN/ECE secretariat has transmitted these amendment proposals to the Legal Office of the United Nations in New York for issuance of a depositary notification to be transmitted to all Contracting Parties to the Convention.

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed by the UN/ECE secretariat on the present status of the amendment procedure.

In this context, the Administrative Committee may also recall that, at its twenty-ninth session, it had endorsed examples of best practices relating to the amended provisions of the Convention as had been prepared by the UN/ECE Working Party. These examples of best practices are contained in annex 7 to the report on its twenty-ninth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 47).

(c) **Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process**

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-ninth session, it had decided, taking into account the views expressed by the UN/ECE Working Party WP.30, to initiate work on Phase III of the TIR revision process which should include a study of the following main elements:

- Revision of the TIR Carnet, including the insertion of additional data elements (I.D. number, HS code, value of goods, etc.);
- Increase in the number of places for loading and unloading under Customs seal;
- Possibilities for the reduction of the legally required delays for notification of non-discharge of TIR Carnets;
- Use of new technologies in TIR operations also with a view to reducing the delay in notification of non-discharge (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paras. 51-53).

The Administrative Committee may wish to be informed of progress made in the preparation of Phase III and to provide guidance on the approach to be taken in order to arrive at tangible solutions in due course.

7. OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

To date the UN/ECE secretariat has not received any other proposals for amendments to the Convention. Any amendment that may be submitted in due time before the session will be circulated.

8. APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

Identification number of the TIR Carnet holder

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-ninth session, it had adopted, as an interim measure, a recommendation on the introduction of an identification number of the TIR Carnet holder in the TIR Carnet, including relevant coding lists for Contracting Parties and national associations. The adopted recommendation is contained in annex 2 of the report of the Administrative Committee at its twenty-ninth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59).

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider the application of the recommendation.

The Administrative Committee may also wish to consider any other issues or problems that have arisen in the application of the Convention and may decide on activities to resolve them.

9. INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF TIR FOCAL POINTS

In accordance with resolution No. 49, the secretariat has established and maintains an international directory of TIR focal points that could be addressed in case of inquiries in relation to the TIR procedure. The directory contains names and addresses of persons as well as other useful information on Customs administrations and national associations dealing with the TIR procedure. The distribution of the directory is restricted to Customs authorities, national associations and the TIR Department of the IRU.

A new hard-cover version of the directory will be available at the session and/or may be obtained as of mid-February 2001 from the secretariat. The permanently updated directory may be consulted on the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm). The required password for access to this web site may be obtained from the secretariat.

10. TIR HANDBOOK

The Working Party may wish to note that a limited number of copies of the 1999 TIR Handbook are available for delegations during the session. This TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and the TIR Administrative Committee. Hard-cover versions of the TIR Handbook are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

The complete text of the TIR Handbook is also available on the TIR web site in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

11. TIR Web Site

The TIR secretariat, with the technical support of the UN/ECE secretariat, maintains a TIR web site which provides up-to-date information on the administration and application of the TIR Convention (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm). The site contains in particular the complete text of the TIR Handbook in the Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish languages (an Arabic version is under preparation) and the latest information on national control measures introduced by Customs authorities (What's new?) as well as detailed information on all TIR Focal Points who may be contacted regarding questions on the application of the Convention at the national level.

The TIR web site also contains all documents and reports issued in connection with the sessions of the Administrative Committee and the UN/ECE Working Party WP.30. These documents may be viewed and downloaded (PDF format) in English, French and Russian.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

The UN/ECE secretariat has made the necessary arrangements to hold the forthcoming autumn session of the Administrative Committee on 25 and 26 October 2001.

The Administrative Committee may wish to confirm the date of its next session.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

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

13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the TIR Convention, 1975, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report on its twenty-seventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available for adoption in all working languages.

Annex**Contracting Parties****Countries with which a TIR transit
operation can be established**

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Afghanistan | - |
| Albania | - |
| Algeria | - |
| Armenia | - |
| Austria | Austria |
| Azerbaijan | Azerbaijan |
| Belarus | Belarus |
| Belgium | Belgium |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | - |
| Bulgaria | Bulgaria |
| Canada | - |
| Chile | - |
| Croatia | Croatia |
| Cyprus | Cyprus |
| Czech Republic | Czech Republic |
| Denmark | Denmark |
| Estonia | Estonia |
| Finland | Finland |
| France | France |
| Georgia | Georgia |
| Germany | Germany |
| Greece | Greece |
| Hungary | Hungary |
| Indonesia | - |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| Ireland | Ireland |
| Israel | - |
| Italy | Italy |
| Jordan | Jordan |
| Kazakhstan | Kazakhstan |
| Kuwait | Kuwait |
| Kyrgyzstan | Kyrgyzstan |
| Latvia | Latvia |
| Lebanon | - |

Contracting Parties

(continued)

Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Yugoslavia

European Community

Countries with which a TIR transitoperation can be established (continued)

Lithuania
Luxembourg
-
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
-
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
-
-
The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
-
Ukraine
United Kingdom
-
-
Uzbekistan
-



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE - GENEVA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Date:

Title of the Conference

TIR Administrative Committee 30. session

Delegation/Participant of country, Organization or Agency)

Participant: Name Mr. ' Mrs. ' Ms. '

First name(s)

Participation Category

| | |
|--|---|
| Head of delegation ' <input type="checkbox"/> | Observer (organization) ' <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delegation Member ' <input type="checkbox"/> | NGO ' <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Observer Country ' <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Please specify below) ' <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| | |
| <u>Participation from 19 to 23 October 2000</u> | |

In which language do you prefer to receive documents

English ' French ' Russian '

Official position (in own country):

Passport No :

Validity until:

Official telephone No:

Telefax N :

E-mail address:

Permanent official address:

Address in Geneva:

Accompanied by spouse Yes ' No '

Family name (spouse)

First Name (spouse)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| On issue of ID Card | |
| Participant signature: | <input type="text"/> |
| Spouse signature: | <input type="text"/> |
| Date : | <input type="text"/> |

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| Security Use Only | |
| Card No issued: | <input type="text"/> |
| Initials, UN Official | <input type="text"/> |

