



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61
14 March 2001

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR
Convention, 1975

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
TIR CONVENTION, 1975 ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION
(22 and 23 February 2001)**

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Attendance	1-5
Adoption of the Agenda	6 and 7
Election of officers	8
Status of the TIR Convention, 1975	9-12
Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)	13-32
(a) Activities of the TIRExB	13-21
(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB	13-17

CONTENTS (cont'd)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
(ii) Example of an authorization agreement	18 and 19
(iii) Regional TIR Seminar for countries in Western Asia	20 and 21
(b) Administration of the TIRExB	22-32
(i) Approval (in principle) of the final accounts for the year 2000	22-25
(ii) Budget and cost plan for the year 2001	26 and 27
(iii) Election of members of the TIRExB	28-32
Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets	33-37
(a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2001	33-35
(b) Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2002	36 and 37
Revision of the Convention	38-43
(a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process	38 and 39
(b) Adoption of amendment proposals under Phase II of the TIR revision process	40 and 41
(c) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process	42 and 43
Other proposals for amendments to the Convention	44
Application of the Convention	45-47
International directory of TIR focal points	48 and 49

CONTENTS (cont'd)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
TIR Handbook	50 and 51
TIR Web Site	52 and 53
Other business	54 and 55
(a) Date of next session	54
(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents	55
Adoption of the report	56

* * *

Annex: Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Committee held its thirtieth session at Geneva on 22 and 23 February 2001.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Austria; Azerbaijan; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Ireland; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; European Community.
3. The following State was represented as observer: Yugoslavia.
4. The following international organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).
5. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/60.

6. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/60).
7. The Administrative Committee reiterated that, in accordance with annex 8, Article 1 of the Convention, competent administrations of States referred to in Article 52, paragraph 1 of the Convention which were not Contracting Parties to the Convention or representatives of international organizations could participate as observers in its sessions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 3 of the Convention and in line with established practice, the Administrative Committee elected Mr. I. Parts (Estonia) as Chairman and Mr. O. Fedorov (Ukraine) as Vice-Chairman.

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, annex 1; Informal Document No. 4 (2001).

9. The Administrative Committee was informed that the Convention had currently 64 Contracting Parties, including the European Community.

10. The Administrative Committee endorsed the list of Contracting Parties to the Convention as well as the list of countries with which a TIR transit operation could be established as contained in the annex to this report.

11. 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).

12. The representative of the IRU informed the Administrative Committee that it was foreseen that the number of TIR Carnets used in the year 2001 would be in the order of 2.3 million.

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIREXB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/5; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/3.

13. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision of the Administrative Committee, taken at its twenty-seventh session, 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 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), the

UN/ECE secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIRExB at its sixth and seventh sessions (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/5).

14. The 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).

15. The Chairman of the TIRExB informed the Administrative Committee on recent activities which had been undertaken by the TIRExB on the interpretation of legal provisions, issues relating to the practical application of the Convention and the functioning of the international guarantee system.

16. In order to provide full transparency about the activities of the TIR secretariat in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of the Terms of Reference of the TIRExB (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, annex 3), the representatives of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine requested the preparation of a report on the matter. Such a report could be considered at the forthcoming session of the Administrative Committee together with the final accounts for the year 2000 (see also para. 24) and the draft budget for the year 2002.

17. The Administrative Committee approved the activities of the TIRExB as well as the reports at its sixth and seventh sessions.

(ii) Example of an Authorization Agreement

Documentation : TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/1.

18. The Administrative Committee noted that the TIRExB is preparing an example of an authorization agreement and an undertaking between competent authorities and national guaranteeing associations. Such an example, in line with the relevant provisions of the revised Convention, should provide guidance on 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, para. 13).

19. The Administrative Committee, taking note of a first draft of such an example authorization agreement as prepared by the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/2), decided to review the example agreement, possibly at its autumn session and once the TIRExB had finalized its work in this respect.

(iii) Regional TIR Seminar for countries in Western Asia

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/4.

20. The Administrative Committee welcomed the organization and the results of a Regional TIR Seminar that has been held at Amman (Jordan) on 31 October and 1 November 2000. The Seminar had been 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. It 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 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.

21. The Administrative Committee felt that similar Regional TIR Seminars might be organized by the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat also in other regions, such as Central Asia and the Transcaucasus region. It therefore welcomed the offer of the representative of Azerbaijan to host another Regional TIR Seminar in his country.

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/10;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59.

22. The Administrative Committee recalled, that, 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).

23. The Administrative Committee also recalled that, 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).

24. As the final accounts for 2000 have not yet been established by the competent Finance Services of the United Nations, the report on the complete and final accounts will be transmitted, as in the past, to the October session of the Administrative Committee for formal approval.

25. In this context, the Administrative Committee noted 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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/11 and Corr.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

26. The Administrative Committee recalled 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).

27. The Administrative Committee was informed by the UN/ECE secretariat that the balance of the required funds for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2001 in the order of US\$ 600,000 have been transmitted by the IRU to the TIR Trust Fund on 17 November 2000.

(iii) Election of members of the TIRExB

Documentation: Informal Document No.1 (2001); Informal Document No.6 (2001); TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51.

28. The Administrative Committee noted 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 proceeded with the election or re-election of the nine members of the TIRExB.

29. In this context the Administrative Committee recalled 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. The Administrative Committee reconfirmed that the 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).

30. The Administrative Committee also recalled and reconfirmed its decisions on an efficient voting procedure taken at its twenty-ninth session and summarized in Informal Document No. 1 (2001) transmitted on 15 December 2000 to all Contracting Parties to the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, paras. 24-27).

31. In accordance with the approved election procedure and on the basis of the list of nominated candidates circulated by the UN/ECE secretariat on 22 January 2001 to all Contracting Parties to the Convention (Informal Document No.6 (2001)), the Administrative Committee proceeded on 22 February 2001 with a secret ballot. The following results were obtained and confirmed by the TIR Secretary: Registered votes: 34. Valid votes: 33. Invalid votes: 1.

32. The following nominated nine persons who obtained a majority of votes of the Contracting States present and voting and have received the highest numbers of votes were elected as members of the TIRExB for a term of office of two years (in the English alphabetical order of their last names): Mr. M. AMELIO (Italy); Mr. G.-H. BAUER (Switzerland); Mr. R. EHMCKE (Germany); Mrs. Y. KASIKCI (Turkey); Mr. D. KULEVSKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); Mr. J. MARQUES (European Community); Mrs. H. METAXA-MARIATOU (Greece); Mr. M. OLSZEWSKI (Poland); Mrs. N. RYBKINA (Russian Federation).

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59.

33. The Administrative Committee noted that, 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.

34. The Administrative Committee endorsed the UN/ECE-IRU Agreement for the year 2001 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3.

35. On the basis of the 2.3 million TIR Carnets, as forecasted by the IRU to be used in the year 2001, the Administrative Committee, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 2 of the Convention, determined the amount of the levy on each TIR Carnet to be US\$ 0.29.-.

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53.

36. The Administrative Committee recalled that, 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.

37. In this context the Administrative Committee recalled the decision, taken at its twenty-eighth session, to authorize 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). Since the Secretary-General of the IRU, in a communication to the UN/ECE secretariat dated 22 March 2000, has declared that the IRU accepted this authorization, the Administrative Committee, in accordance with its decision taken at its twenty-sixth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 20) confirmed its authorization given to the IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the year 2002 and until the year 2005.

REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5; ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1.

38. The Administrative Committee stressed that Contracting Parties were expected to fully comply with the provisions of the revised convention. In this context, it was recalled that competent authorities of Contracting Parties are required to transmit to the TIRExB, within the stipulated time frames, the following information (refer also to TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5):

- (a) A certified copy of the written agreement or any other legal instrument between the competent authorities (Customs) and the national association as well as any modifications thereto;
- (b) a certified copy of the insurance or financial guarantee contract as well as any modifications thereto;
- (c) a copy of the annually to be renewed insurance certificate;
- (d) the particulars of each person authorized to use TIR Carnets;
- (e) a complete list of all persons authorized to use TIR Carnets, as per 31 December each year.

39. The Administrative Committee also stressed 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.

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

Documentation: Informal Document No.2 (2001); TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59.

40. The Administrative Committee recalled 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) under Phase II of the TIR revision process. 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 by the UN/ECE secretariat, these amendment proposals have been transmitted by the Legal Office of the United Nations in New York to all Contracting Parties in depositary notification C.N.36.2001.TREATIES-1 dated 12 February 2001. Other amendment proposals,

adopted by the Administrative Committee at the same session, are contained in depositary notification C.N.37.2001.TREATIES-2 dated 12 February 2001 (Informal Document No. 2 (2001)).

41. In this context, the Administrative Committee recalled 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**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/194.

42. The Administrative Committee was informed of the results of the first session of the Ad Hoc group of Experts on the Computerization of the TIR Convention which has been convened on 19 February 2001 in Geneva. It encouraged the UN/ECE Working Party WP.30 to continue its work on Phase III with a view to finalizing the TIR revision process as soon as possible.

43. The Administrative Committee agreed that the activities to be undertaken during Phase III of the TIR revision process should be separated into short-term priorities (revision of the TIR Carnet increase in the number of loading and unloading places, etc.) and into long-term priorities (use of new technologies).

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

44. The Administrative Committee noted that no other proposals for amendments to the Convention have been submitted.

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

Identification number of the TIR Carnet holder

Documentation: Informal Document No.3 (2001); TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59.

45. The Administrative Committee recalled 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 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 2).

46. On the basis of Informal Document No.3 (2001), containing examples of possible ID-numbers of authorized TIR Carnet holders, the Administrative Committee considered the application of the recommendation which would become applicable as of 1 April 2001.

47. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to provide clarifications on the application of the ID-number by TIR Carnet holders, national associations and Customs authorities.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF TIR FOCAL POINTS

Documentation: Restricted UN/ECE document; (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

48. The Administrative Committee noted that, 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 authorities 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.

49. The Administrative Committee welcomed the issuance of a new hard-cover version of the directory. 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.

TIR HANDBOOK

Documentation: UN/ECE Publication; (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

50. The Working Party noted that as of 15 February 2001 the Arabic version of the TIR Handbook was now available on-line on the TIR web site. The 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.

51. The TIR Handbook is now available on the TIR web site in the Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish languages
www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm.

TIR WEB SITE

Documentation: Informal Document No.5 (2001); (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

52. The Administrative Committee noted that 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). In addition to the TIR Handbook, the site contains the latest information on national control measures introduced by Customs authorities (What's new?), information on all TIR Focal Points who may be contacted regarding questions on the application of the Convention at the national level as well as relevant documentation issued in the context of the Administrative Committee, the UN/ECE Working Party WP.30 as well as of other related Ad Hoc groups. These documents may be viewed and downloaded (in PDF format) in English, French and Russian.

53. The Administrative Committee took also note of Informal Document No.5 (2001) transmitted by Estonia proposing modifications to be made to a comment to Article 3 of the Convention. It invited the UN/ECE Working Party WP.30 to consider these proposals and to report back to the Administrative Committee at its next session.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

54. The Administrative Committee decided to hold its next session on 25 and 26 October 2001 in conjunction with the autumn session of the UN/ECE Working Party WP.30 (22-26 October 2001).

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

55. The Administrative Committee decided that there should be no restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session, with the exception of the international directory of TIR Focal Points.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

56. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the TIR Convention, 1975, the Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirtieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat.

Annex**STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975**

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established ^{*/}</u>
Afghanistan	-
Albania	Albania
Algeria	-
Armenia	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	Israel
Italy	Italy
Jordan	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Kuwait	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
Latvia	Latvia
Lebanon	Lebanon

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.

Contracting Parties

(cont'd)

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 transit

operation can be established (cont'd) -^{*/}

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

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.