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Administrative Committee for the TIR
Convention, 1975

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
TIR CONVENTION, 1975 ON ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
(6 and 7 February 2003)**

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ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Committee held its thirty-fourth session in Geneva on 6 and 7 February 2003.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Afghanistan; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Yugoslavia; European Community (EC).
3. The following international organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).
4. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNECE

5. The Contracting Parties to the Convention expressed concern about the removal of the TIR Secretary from his post and declared that there was no responsibility of the TIR Secretary for the recent crisis. The Contracting Parties had expressed great satisfaction with the work of the TIR secretariat.
6. The Executive Secretary of the UNECE recalled her opening statement at the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), in which she had underlined the importance of the existence of an efficient functioning of the Convention, in particular focusing on the future of work of securing the TIR system and avoiding or minimizing the risk on the system. In this context, she had thanked the Russian Federation and the IRU for having avoided a breakdown of the system through reaching an agreement concerning outstanding claims. The Executive Secretary also expressed her support of defining the roles and responsibilities of the various partners in the TIR procedure and, in this context, supported the conclusions of the group of "Friends of the Chairman". The Executive Secretary also ensured that the UNECE secretariat will continue to service the Administrative Committee and the TIRExB efficiently. In this context, she also referred to her right and responsibility to manage the staff of the secretariat.

7. Several delegations pointed out that it is the sole competency of the Contracting Parties to decide on questions of interpretation of the Convention. As far as Article 11, paragraph 3 of the Convention is concerned, the UNECE secretariat did not consult with the Contracting Parties as should have been done. The Contracting Parties wished that, in future they would be granted the opportunity through the competent bodies of the Convention, working efficiently and with professionalism, of ensuring the good functioning of the Convention in an atmosphere of transparency and confidence.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 1.

8. The Administrative Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the UNECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68), with the addition of the following item under point 14 of the agenda:

- Decree No. 1132 issued by the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation.

9. 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

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 2.

10. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 3 of the Convention and in line with established practice, the Administrative Committee elected Mr. R. Sen (Turkey) as Chairman and Mrs. M. Ogren (Sweden) as Vice-Chairman.

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; <http://tir.unece.org>.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 3.

11. The Administrative Committee was informed of the situation concerning the geographical scope and the number of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. It noted that, with the accession of Mongolia coming into force on 1 April 2003, the Convention would have 65 Contracting Parties, including the European Community.

12. The Administrative Committee endorsed the list of Contracting Parties to the Convention, of countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established and of national associations issuing TIR Carnets and providing guarantee coverage as contained in annex 1 to this report [will be added to the final report].

13. Detailed information on the status and the functioning of the Convention, including all relevant Depositary Notifications as well as the complete and continuously updated text of the Convention is available on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

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.2/2003/1; <http://tir.unece.org>.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (a) (i).

14. The Chairman of the TIRExB reported on the recent activities of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as well as on the outcome of the fifteenth (October 2002) and sixteenth (February 2003) sessions of the TIRExB. All adopted reports of the TIRExB are available and can be downloaded from the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

15. The Administrative Committee endorsed the reports of the TIRExB at its fourteenth session held in June 2002 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/1, and approved the activities of the TIRExB.

(ii) Access and use of the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/2; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (a) (ii).

16. The Administrative Committee endorsed the report on the electronic security and encryption procedures planned to be applied for on-line access to the ITDB (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/2), prepared by the TIR Secretary following the request of the Administrative Committee made at its thirty-third session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67).

(iii) Joint TIR secretariat/IRU Taskforce on Safe TIR

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (a) (iii).

17. The Administrative Committee welcomed the activities undertaken by the joint TIR secretariat/IRU Task Force on SafeTIR with a view to further improving the functioning of the so-called electronic Safe TIR system operated by the IRU on the basis of the Recommendation of the Administrative Committee of 20 October 1995 and Article 42 bis of the Convention. The TIRExB and the IRU were requested to continue this work on a priority basis.

(iv) New web page on the UNECE TIR web site on Customs offices approved for TIR operations

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/12; <http://tir.unece.org>.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (a) (iv).

18. The Administrative Committee took note of a new site on the UNECE website providing detailed information on Customs offices authorized to accomplish TIR operations (<http://tir.unece.org>). It invited Contracting Parties not yet linked to the website to contact the secretariat to establish such a link.

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval (in principle) of the final accounts for the year 2002

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/4; Informal document No. 4 (2003).

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (b) (i).

19. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB should submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

20. 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 UNECE secretariat provided the Administrative Committee, at its thirty-third session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 24-26), with an overview of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 30 June 2002 together with an estimate on the expenses foreseen for the remainder of 2002 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/4).

21. As the final accounts for 2002 had been established by the competent Finance Services of the United Nations, the Administrative Committee took note of these accounts and decided to approve them in principle (Informal document No. 4 (2003)). The complete and final accounts for the year 2002 will be transmitted, as in the past, to the session of the Administrative Committee in September 2003 for formal approval.

22. 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 2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/5.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (b) (ii).

23. The Administrative Committee recalled that the budget and cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2003 had been approved by the Administrative Committee at its thirty-third session on the basis of a proposal made by the TIR Secretary.

24. The Administrative Committee noted that the required funds for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2003 had been transmitted by the IRU to the TIR Trust Fund on 3 December 2002.

(iii) Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat

Documentation: TRANS/2002/16; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (b) (iii).

25. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at earlier sessions, it had decided to continue the initial funding arrangements for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention and to make efforts to have the costs for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat included into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of the next United Nations budget cycle (2004-2005) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, paras. 41 and 42; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 36; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, paras. 23-25).

26. The Administrative Committee took note of the procedures to be followed and measures to be taken by Contracting Parties to allow for inclusion of these costs into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of 2004.

(iv) Election of members of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/66; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51 and Corr.1, Informal Documents No. 1 and 2 (2003).

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 4 (b) (iv).

27. The Administrative Committee noted that, in accordance with Annex 8, 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 2001, the Administrative Committee proceeded with the election or re-election of the members of the TIRExB.

28. 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).

29. The Administrative Committee also recalled and reconfirmed its decisions on an efficient voting procedure taken at its thirty-third session and summarized in Informal Document No. 1(2003) transmitted on 13 December 2002 to all Contracting Parties to the Convention.

30. In accordance with the approved election procedure and on the basis of the list of nominated candidates circulated by the secretariat on 10 January 2003 to all Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Administrative Committee proceeded on 6 February 2003 with a secret ballot. The following results were obtained and confirmed by the Secretary:

Registered votes: 38

Valid votes: 38

Invalid votes: 0

31. 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 English alphabetical order of their last names):

Amelio, Mario (Italy)
Bagirov, Shahin (Azerbaijan)
Bauer, Georges-Henri (Switzerland)
Boxström, Rolf (Finland)
Fedorov, Olexandr (Ukraine)
Kaşıkçı, Yildiz (Turkey)
Marques, Joaquim (European Commission)
Metaxa-Mariatou, Helen (Greece)
Rybkina, Natalia (Russian Federation).

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS

(a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2003

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/3; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 5 (a).

32. The Administrative Committee noted that, following the conclusion of the required Amendment to the Agreement between the IRU and the UNECE as mandated by the Administrative Committee at its thirty-third session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 45 and 46) and upon the timely fulfilment of the relevant conditions (see paragraph 21 above), the IRU is authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2003.

33. The Administrative Committee endorsed the Amendment to the UNECE-IRU Agreement concluded on 14 November 2002 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/3. The complete text of the underlying UNECE-IRU Agreement covering the period 2001-2005, as endorsed by the Administrative Committee at its thirtieth session, is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/3 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, para. 34).

34. In this context, the Administrative Committee confirmed the view of the UNECE WP.30 that it is the sole competency of the TIR Administrative Committee to decide the budget for the TIRExB and the size of the levy on the TIR Carnet to be collected to finance its budget. In the view of the Administrative Committee, the IRU only acts as an intermediary for the transfer of the necessary funds.

(b) Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2004

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

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 5 (b).

35. 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 national associations of TIR Carnets which may be performed by an agreed international organization as referred to in Article 6 of the Convention.

36. 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). The Secretary-General of the IRU, in a communication dated 22 March 2000 has declared that the IRU accepted this authorization.

37. The Administrative Committee, considering the reservation made by the IRU in the Amendment to the Agreement for the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets for 2003, decided to give the IRU an authorization to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the year 2004 and until the year 2005 on the condition that the reservation in the Amendment to the Agreement made by the IRU was lifted as soon as possible. The Administrative Committee decided to revert to the authorization again at its thirty-fifth session in September 2003. In this context, the proposal submitted by Turkey for the one-hundred-and-third session of the UNECE WP.30 on Customs Questions affecting Transport concerning an alternative procedure for collecting the levy on the TIR Carnet could be considered (Informal document No. 3 (2003)).

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE GUARANTEE SYSTEM

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/66; TRANS/WP.30/2002/18.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 6.

38. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 bis of the Convention which entered into force on 12 May 2002, an international organization, as referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Convention, shall be authorized by the Administrative Committee to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international guarantee system provided that it accepts this responsibility.

39. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its thirty-third session, it agreed with the reasons put forward and the proposals on this subject made by the secretariat in the provisional agenda (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/66) and decided to follow the same procedure as adopted for the authorization to print and distribute TIR Carnets, the TIR Carnet being the basis for an international Customs document and, at the same time, proof of the required guarantee coverage.

40. The Administrative Committee also recalled that it authorized the IRU, on a temporary basis, to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international TIR guarantee system as of 1 January 2003 until and including the year 2005, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 bis of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 41 and 42).

FUNCTIONS AND ROLES OF THE TIREXB, THE TIR SECRETARIAT AND THE IRU

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/9; TRANS/WP.30/R.179, Informal Document No.1 (2003) of the Working Party (WP.30).

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 7.

41. The Administrative Committee took note of the report of the Chairman of UNECE WP.30 providing the conclusions of the meeting of the “Friends of the Chairman” that took place in January 2003. The Administrative Committee endorsed the initiative and supported the report of the meeting, in particular, the three-stage approach proposed in the conclusions.

42. In relation to the existing agreement between the UNECE and the IRU, the Administrative Committee decided, at the recommendation of the UNECE WP.30, to give the UNECE secretariat a mandate to revise this agreement immediately after the session of the TIR Administrative Committee in February 2003 on the understanding that this mandate would be based on the provisions of the Convention and that it would respect the competences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. The Administrative Committee agreed that the group of “Friends of the Chairman” should consider the draft of the revised agreement. The revised agreement shall be signed provisionally by the UNECE and the IRU until its formal adoption by the TIR Administrative Committee.

43. As to the clarifications of roles and responsibilities, the Administrative Committee endorsed the decision of the Working Party, which had requested the secretariat to prepare for its next session an official document on the basis of the documents considered by “Friends of the Chairman”, including the document containing the views of the Chairman. In this context, the Working Party had invited Contracting Parties to submit written contributions to the secretariat as soon as possible, in order that these could also be made available for its next session.

REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

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

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

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 8 (a).

44. The Administrative Committee continued the exchange of views about possible difficulties that might arise in the application of the provisions that have come into force under Phase I of the TIR revision process, particularly with regard to controlled access to the TIR procedure in accordance with Annex 9, Part II of the Convention (ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1).

45. The Administrative Committee reiterated that all Contracting Parties were expected to fully comply with the provisions of the Convention, also with regard to the transmission to the TIRExB, within the stipulated time frames, of the information contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5 (see also TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 8 (a)).

(b) Implementation of Phase II of the TIR revision process

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2002/18; ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.21.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 8 (b).

46. The Administrative Committee was informed by the secretariat of its efforts to monitor the implementation of the amendments under Phase II of the TIR revision process at the national level that had come into force on 12 May 2002.

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

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/204; ExG/COMP/2002/10.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 8 (c).

47. The Administrative Committee was informed of progress made in the preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process within the UNECE WP.30, particularly with regard to the computerization of the TIR procedure (e-TIR). It took note of the outcomes of the second session of an UNECE *ad hoc* expert group on this subject that was held on 14 and 15 November 2002 in Prague, at the invitation of the Czech Customs authorities, as contained in the document ExG/COMP/2002/10.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(a) Draft amendments on a control system for TIR Carnets

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2003/5; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/37.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 9 (a).

48. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its thirty-third session, it had invited the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) to consider ways and means of improving the performance of the SafeTIR system, and, in particular, the insertion of relevant provisions into the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 53-56).

49. The Administrative Committee took note of the considerations made by the WP.30 based on amendment proposals transmitted by the Government of Latvia (TRANS/WP.30/2003/5). The Administrative Committee expressed its support for the amendment process agreed by the WP.30.

(b) Draft amendments on the inclusion and attribution of voting rights to Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIO)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/8; TRANS/WP.30/200; TRANS/WP.30/198; TRANS/WP.30/2001/15; TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/8, Informal document No.3 (2003).

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 9 (b).

50. The Administrative Committee recalled its discussion of the amendment proposals at its thirty-third session, based on a report and explanations provided by the representative of the European Community (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/8; TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/67, paras. 59 and 60). It also noted that these proposals had been discussed in the Working Party (WP.30) (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 50-54; TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 45-47).

51. The Administrative Committee took note of the modified proposal of the European Commission as presented in the Informal document No.3 (2003).

52. The Administrative Committee also took note of a proposal transmitted by the United States of America. The European Community regretted the late submission of the United States proposal and said it would need to study the proposal in detail. The European Community would report to the June session of the UNECE WP.30.

53. The Administrative Committee noted the situation that the European Community might submit a revised proposal for its forthcoming session.

(c) Inclusion of place and number of seals in the certificate of approval

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/4; TRANS/WP.30/204.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 9 (c).

54. The Administrative Committee discussed a draft Explanatory Note to Article 2, paragraph 1 (b) (Annex 6 to the Convention) as well as comments thereto and to Annex 4 to the Convention which would make the insertion of place and number of seals in the certificate of approval of a road vehicle mandatory, in case more than one seal should be required for Customs secure sealing of a load compartment.

55. The Administrative Committee recalled that the UNECE Working Party WP.30, at its session in February 2003, had agreed to the proposal on the basis of the document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2003/4 with some minor modifications.

56. The Administrative Committee adopted the proposal as contained in annex 2 to this report. It noted that the amendment procedure in accordance with Article of the Convention would apply. It decided, in this context, to apply a six-month deadline for objections.

(d) Other amendment proposals

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 9 (d).

57. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its thirty-first and thirty-third sessions, it had adopted amendments to Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.38.1 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/67, paras. 57 and 58) and to Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, paras. 59-61).

58. The Administrative Committee was informed by the delegate of Turkey that her Administration will submit an amendment proposal to the comment on Article 38 in order to avoid the misuse of this Article after the deletion of Explanatory Note 0.38.1.

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

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

(a) Comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/204.

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 10 (a).

60. The Administrative Committee endorsed comments to the provisions of the Convention that have been prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) at its one-hundred-and-third session as contained in annex 3 to this report. These comments relate to (1) trade facilitation and Customs control (Article 47, paragraph 1 of the Convention, see TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 49) and to (2) the model of a TIR plate (Annex 5 of the Convention, see TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 53).

(b) Comment adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 10 (b).

61. The Administrative Committee endorsed a comment that has been adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its fifteenth session (17, 18 and 21 October 2002) as contained in annex 4 to this report. This comment relates to the filling in of voucher No. 2 in the TIR Carnet by the Customs authorities.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF TIR FOCAL POINTS

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 11.

62. The Administrative Committee noted that an updated hard-copy version of the directory will be available before the next session of the Administrative Committee and will presumably include information on the TIR focal point from Mongolia following the accession of Mongolia to the Convention coming into force on 1 April 2003.

63. The Administrative Committee also noted that the continuously updated directory of TIR focal points may be consulted on the UNECE TIR website (<http://tir.unece.org>). The required password for access to these restricted web pages may be obtained from the secretariat.

TIR HANDBOOK

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 12.

64. The Administrative Committee noted that the complete and updated text of the TIR Handbook in the English, French, Russian and Chinese languages are available on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>). A limited number of hard-copy versions of the TIR Handbook in English, French, Russian, Chinese and Italian may be obtained free of charge from the secretariat. A German version of the TIR Handbook will be available shortly after the present session.

TIR WEB SITE

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 13.

65. The Administrative Committee recommended Contracting Parties and other interested users to make use of the continuously updated information provided on the UNECE TIR web site (<http://tir.unece.org>).

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Decree No. 1132 of the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation

66. The Administrative Committee took note of a request from the European Community to study in detail decree No. 1132 issued by the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation. The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a document on this issue for its thirty-fifth session.

(b) Date of next session

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 14 (a).

67. The Administrative Committee decided to hold its next session in Geneva between 24 and 26 September 2003 in conjunction with one-hundred-and-fifth session of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30).

(c) Restriction on the distribution of documents

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 14 (b).

68. The Administrative Committee decided that there should be no restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Mandate and background: Provisional agenda TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/68, item 15.

69. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirty-fourth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Annex 1**STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975**

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established</u> ^{*/}	<u>National associations</u> ^{**/}
Afghanistan	-	-
Albania	Albania	ANALTIR
Algeria	-	-
Armenia	Armenia	-
Austria	Austria	AISÖ
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	ABADA
Belarus	Belarus	BAIRC
Belgium	Belgium	FEBETRA
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-
Bulgaria	Bulgaria	AEBTRI
Canada	-	-
Chile	-	-
Croatia	Croatia	TRANSPORTKOMERC
Cyprus	Cyprus	TDA
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	CESMAD BOHEMIA
Denmark	Denmark	DTL
Estonia	Estonia	ERAA
Finland	Finland	SKAL
France	France	SCT/ACF - AFTRI
Georgia	Georgia	GIRCA
Germany	Germany	BGL - AIST
Greece	Greece	OFAE
Hungary	Hungary	ATRH
Indonesia	-	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	ICCIM
Ireland	Ireland	IRHA
Israel	Israel	IRTB
Italy	Italy	UICCIAA
Jordan	Jordan	SOJFV
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	KAZATO
Kuwait	Kuwait	KATC
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan	KYRGYZ AIA
Latvia	Latvia	LA

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

^{**/} For details, refer to the International Directory of TIR Focal Points administered by the UNECE secretariat (<http://tir.unece.org>).

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975 (cont'd)

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established</u> ^{*/}	<u>National associations</u> ^{**/}
Lebanon	Lebanon	CCIAB
Lithuania	Lithuania	LINAVA
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	FEBETRA
Malta	-	-
Morocco	Morocco	ONT
Netherlands	Netherlands	SCT/TLN - KNV - EVO/SIEV
Norway	Norway	NLF
Poland	Poland	ZMPD
Portugal	Portugal	ANTRAM
Republic of Korea	-	-
Republic of Moldova	Republic of Moldova	AITA
Romania	Romania	UNTRR
Russian Federation	Russian Federation	ASMAP
Slovakia	Slovakia	CESMAD SLOVAKIA
Slovenia	Slovenia	GIZ INTERTRANSPORT
Spain	Spain	ASTIC
Sweden	Sweden	SA
Switzerland	Switzerland	ASTAG
Syrian Arab Republic	Syrian Arab Republic	SNC ICC
Tajikistan	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	AMERIT
Tunisia	Tunisia	CCIT
Turkey	Turkey	UCCIMCCE
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	THADA
Ukraine	Ukraine	AIRCU
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	RHA - FTA
United States of America	-	-
Uruguay	-	-
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	AIRCU
Yugoslavia	Yugoslavia	ATC - YCCI
European Community		

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

^{**/} For details, refer to the International Directory of TIR Focal Points administered by the UNECE secretariat (<http://tir.unece.org>).

Annex 2

AMENDMENT PROPOSALS TO THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 7 February 2003

Amend Annex 6, Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) to Article 2, paragraph 1 (b) of Annex 2 (applies also mutatis mutandis to the provisions of Annex 7):

“Explanatory Note to Article 2, paragraph 1 (b)

2.2.1 (b) Doors and other closing systems”

Add a new subparagraph (f) to 2.2.1 (b):

- (f) In cases where more than one Customs seal are required for Customs secure sealing, the number of such seals shall be indicated in the Certificate of Approval under point 5 (Annex 4 to the TIR Convention, 1975). A sketch or photographs of the road vehicle shall be attached to the Certificate of Approval showing the exact location of the Customs seals

Comment to Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) (f)

Implementation period for the inclusion in the Certificate of Approval of the number and place of seals when more than one Customs seal is required

The provisions of Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) (f), which come into force on [7 August 2003] shall be applicable for road vehicles to be approved for the first time or on the occasion of the biennial inspection and renewal of the approval after entry into force of Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b)(f) where appropriate. As a consequence, as of [7 August 2005], all road vehicles, requiring more than one seal for Customs secure sealing, shall need to be equipped with a Certificate of Approval in line with Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) (f).

{TRANS/WP.30/206, para. 62; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, annex 2}

Delete the Comment on “Number of Customs seals” to Article 2, paragraph 1 (b) (applies also mutadis mutandis to the provisions of Annex 7).

Replace the existing comment on “Number of Customs seals” to Annex 4 of the Convention by the following:

Place and number of Customs seals

In cases where more than one Customs seal are required for Customs secure sealing, the number of such seals shall be indicated in the Certificate of Approval under point 5 (Annex 4 to the TIR Convention, 1975). A sketch or photographs of the road vehicle shall be attached to the Certificate of Approval showing the exact location of the Customs seals. This provision, which comes into force on [7 August 2003], shall be applicable for road vehicles to be approved for the first time or on the occasion of the biennial inspection and renewal of the approval after entry into force of Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b)(f) where appropriate. As a consequence, as of [7 August 2005], all road vehicles, requiring more than one seal for Customs secure sealing, shall need to be equipped with a Certificate of Approval in line with Explanatory Note 2.2.1 (b) (f).

{TRANS/WP.30/206, para. 62; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, annex 2}

Annex 3

**COMMENTS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE TIR HANDBOOK,
prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party on
Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)**

Endorsed by the TIR Administrative Committee on 7 February 2003

Comment to Article 47, paragraph 1

Replace the existing comment to Article 47, paragraph 1, with a new comment to read as follows:

“Trade facilitation and Customs controls

The TIR Convention is a Customs Convention aimed at the Customs transit regime. The objective of Article 47 is to allow for the application of additional restrictions and controls based on national regulations other than Customs regulations. Therefore it should not be used to justify supplementary Customs requirements.

Where Article 47, paragraph 1 becomes applicable, such restrictions and controls will usually lead to delays and extra costs for transport businesses. In recognition of this, such restrictions and controls shall be kept to a minimum and be limited to the cases where the circumstances or the real risks justify them.”

{TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 58; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, annex 3}

Comment to Annex 5

Replace the existing comment to Annex 5 with a new comment to read as follows:

The model of a TIR plate in conformity with Annex 5 is shown below.

White capital letters on blue ground (RAL 5017)

(Characters: 200 mm high; stroke width: at least 20 mm)

An electronic file (encapsulated postscript format – EPS) containing the TIR plate in conformity with Annex 5, as shown above, is available on the TIR web site

(<http://tir.unece.org>) or can be obtained by contacting the TIR Secretary.



{TRANS/WP.30/204, para. 62; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, annex 3}

Annex 4

**Comment for inclusion into the TIR Handbook,
adopted by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) for endorsement by the
TIR Administrative Committee**

Comment to Annex 1

Add the following comment to Annex 1 to the Convention:

*“Filling-in of box 26 of voucher No. 2 and item 3 on the counterfoil No. 2 of the TIR Carnet
It is recommended that only Customs offices of destination and not Customs offices of exit (en
route)*

fill-in the above-mentioned boxes upon unloading.

{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/69, para. 61}”
