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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and
Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Ninth session

Bratislava (Slovakia), 7-8 March 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINTH SESSION

**to be held at the Hotel Marrols, Bratislava
starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 7 March 2006**

Note by the secretariat

1. Adoption of the agenda ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/1
 2. Follow-up to the one-hundred-and-twelfth session of the WP.30
 3. Activities of the informal ad hoc Expert Group
 - (a) Results of the eTIR questionnaire ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/2
 - (b) Reference Model of the TIR procedure TRANS/WP.30/2005/32-
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2005/18
- Annexes
- (c) Future projects for the Reference TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2/Rev.1

Model of the TIR Procedure

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/3

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/4

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/1

4. Other business
5. Date and place of next session
6. Report

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Annex 1: Open issues

Annex 2: Decisions related to the open issues

ANNOTATIONS

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The informal ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (hereafter referred to as: 'Expert Group') may wish to adopt its agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/1).

2. FOLLOW-UP TO THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-TWELFTH SESSION OF THE WP.30

2. The Expert Group may wish to discuss the outcome of the discussion on computerization of the TIR procedure that took place at the one-hundred-and-twelfth session of the WP.30. It may wish, if necessary, to consider appropriate ways of continuing its future work in line with the general ideas expressed by the Working Group. The Expert Group may wish to consider the outcomes of discussions on specific documents under agenda item 3.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP

(a) Results of the eTIR questionnaire

3. At its sixth session, the Expert Group welcomed a proposal from the secretariat to undertake a survey to gather information from Customs administrations on existing systems and on their needs and constraints regarding the eTIR system. The results of the survey should be presented to the Expert Group at one of its future sessions. IRU offered its assistance in drafting the survey (ExG/COMP/2004/24, para. 8).

4. To this end, the secretariat drafted a questionnaire, which was sent to Director-Generals of Customs (with a copy to the TIR Customs Focal Points) on 28 February 2005. The deadline for replying to the questionnaire was set at 1 April 2005. At its seventh session, the Expert Group used the preliminary results of the questionnaire contained in document ExG/COMP/2005/3 to finalize the first chapter of the Reference Model and to assess the future requirement of the eTIR project. The Expert Group also requested the secretariat to continue requesting answers to the questionnaire from those countries which had not yet replied, in particular countries from outside the European Community.

5. At its eighth session, the Expert Group took note of the updated results of the questionnaire contained in document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/4 and welcomed the idea of receiving amended results, in particular the answers from the Russian Federation, as well as other answers that would be received before mid-February 2006. Document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/2 contains the amended results for consideration by the Expert Group.

(b) Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

6. Because, at its eighth session, the Expert Group did not request any change or insertion in the Reference Model, the secretariat has not issued a new version. Nevertheless, in order to

present the first chapter of the Reference Model to the WP.30, the secretariat has submitted, at the request of the Expert Group, version 1.5a of the Reference Model for translation (reference TRANS/WP.30/2005/32-TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2005/18). The Expert Group may wish to take note of and comment on the various language versions of the Reference Model, as well as consider any possible comments from WP.30 and amend the Reference Model accordingly.

Annexes

Issues: 63

7. At its seventh session, the Expert Group considered the proposal described in point 4 of document ExG/COMP/2005/5 (issue 63) and welcomed the proposal from the UNTDED/ISO7372 Secretary to organize a working session between the secretariats of UNTDED/ISO7372, IRU and UNECE to align Annex 4 of document ExG/COMP/2002/10 with the UNTDED.

8. At its eighth session, the Expert Group took note that it had not yet been possible to organize this working session and agreed to postpone the discussion to its next meeting. The Expert Group also requested the secretariat to invite the WCO secretariat to attend the working session. It may now wish to be informed of the outcome of the working session which is tentatively scheduled for 6 February 2006.

(c) Future projects for the Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Issue: 41, 64, 65

9. At its one-hundred-and-eleventh session, the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport took note of Informal document No. 9 (2005), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the European Commission, containing a description of the main principles for the eTIR system. The Working Party, noting that the informal document had only been issued a few days before the meeting in the English version only, nevertheless expressed the view that the guidelines contained in the document concerning the future of the eTIR project were clear and the Working Party supported that the Ad hoc Expert Group on Computerization should follow the guidelines contained in Informal document No. 9 (2005) for its future discussions. The Working Party took note of remarks made by the IRU (for more details see TRANS/WP.30/222, paras. 33-35).

10. At the eighth session, experts from Customs authorities extensively discussed document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 prepared jointly by the secretariat and the European Commission, taking into account the guidelines provided by the Working Party. They updated the document and requested the secretariat to prepare and distribute a revised version. The experts from the IRU informed the Group that they, as well as the experts from national associations, were not in the position to provide comments during the session because the document had only been distributed a week before the meeting. They informed the group that they would provide consolidated written comments for discussion by WP.30 at its next session. The Expert Group may wish to consider document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/4 containing the comments from the IRU and the national associations.

11. Furthermore, the Expert Group may wish to reconsider the different ways in which the eTIR system could allow for the exchange between Customs authorities of advance cargo information / prior notification (issue 65). In order to do so, it may wish to consider the outcome of the discussion on document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/1, which has been submitted by the secretariat to WP.30 at the request at the Expert Group.

12. Finally, the Expert Group mandated the secretariat to continue its work on the basis of the revised document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 and to draft for its ninth session a document on the possible steps that would lead to a fully computerized eTIR system. The Expert Group may wish to discuss document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2006/3 containing a possible step leading to a fully computerized eTIR system.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

13. The Expert Group may wish to be informed of other activities of interest for the computerization of the TIR procedure, such as the European Community TIR/NCTS pilot project, the results of the WCO DMPT meeting that took place from 23 to 25 January 2006 or the developments of the ITDB projects.

5. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

14. The Expert Group may wish to decide on possible dates and location for its next session.

6. REPORT

15. In the course of the session, the secretariat will keep track of all issues raised and decisions taken (validated) by the Expert Group. These will be reflected in a list of issues and decisions to be annexed to the draft report that will be issued and circulated shortly after the meeting. The report will also be submitted for endorsement to the Working Party.

Annex 1 – Open issues

| No | Subject | Description | Date | Source | Related decision(s) | Solved |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 41 | Chapter 2 | Following WP.30 decision regarding the step-by-step approach for the development of the project, ExG underlines the necessity to elaborate a detailed description of the final product in order to be able to split the work into various steps. | 1-2 Mar. 04 | ExG (Geneva) | 78, 94, 100, 108, 109, 60 | |
| 63 | Annexes | Add an Annex as described in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 point 4. | 17 Jan. 05 | IRU | 98, 106 | |
| 64 | 2. E-Business Requirements | Proposal: alternative Chapter 2, E-Business Requirements of the Reference Model (document ExG/COMP/2005/7). | 17 Jan. 05 | IRU | 105 | |
| 65 | Intro to Chapter 2 | The ExG wonders what is the best option to provide advance cargo information (push or pull information?) | 14-15.Nov.05 | ExG (Geneva) | 107 | |

Annex 2 – Decisions related to the open issues

| Decision. No | Issue No | Description | Date | Source | Version¹ |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 60 | 41 | ExG requests the secretariat to take on board the various views expressed during the session and to prepare a draft specification of the eTIR Project, describing the various steps to be undertaken in order arrive at the final objective of computerization of the TIR Carnet life cycle. | 1-2 Mar. 04 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 78 | 41 | ExG requests the secretariat to prepare a document for its next session taking account of its comments. Collaboration with EU in the preparation of the document is foreseen. | 28-29 Jun. 04 | ExG (Warsaw) | |
| 94 | 41 | ExG will provide the secretariat with written comments on document ExG/COMP/2004/23. The comments will be provided together with concrete alternative proposals and should be submitted long enough in advance to allow the secretariat to prepare documents for the forthcoming session. | 26-27 Oct. 04 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 98 | 63 | ExG welcomed the offer of the UNTDED/ISO7372 Secretary to organize a working session between the secretariat of UNTDED/ISO7372, IRU and UNECE to align the annex 4 to doc ExG/COMP/2002/10 with the UNTDED. | 26-27 May 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 100 | 41 | ExG requested the secretariat to work in collaboration with the European Commission to provide for its next session a document combining the ideas from the Commission's presentation and elements of document ExG/COMP/2004/23. | 26-27 May 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 105 | 64 | ExG decides to revert to doc ExG/COMP/2005/7, if necessary, for the elaboration of Chapter 2 of the Reference Model. | 14-15 Nov. 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 106 | 63 | ExG requests the secretariat to try to include WCO in the discussion. | 14-15 Nov. 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 107 | 65 | ExG requests to submit a short document to WP.30 on the various options that would allow for the exchange of advance cargo information | 14-15 Nov. 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 108 | 41 | ExG requests the secretariat to submit the revised version of document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 to WP.30 for consideration | 14-15 Nov. 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |
| 109 | 41 | ExG mandates the secretariat to continue its work on the basis of the revised document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2 and to draft a document on the possible steps that would lead to a fully computerized eTIR system. | 14-15 Nov. 05 | ExG (Geneva) | |

¹ This column indicates in which version the results of the decision will be included into the Reference model for the first time.



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Date 7-8 March 2006, Bratislava

UNECE-WP.30 - Ninth Session of Informal ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

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Participant

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