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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

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON  
CONCEPTUAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTERIZATION  
OF THE TIR PROCEDURE ON ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION  
(28-29 April 2009)**

<b>CONTENTS</b>		<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	ATTENDANCE .....	1-2	2
II.	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1) .....	3	2
III.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2) .....	4	2
IV.	REFERENCE MODEL OF THE TIR PROCEDURE (Agenda item 3) .....	5-11	2
	A. Pending issues .....	5	2
	B. Chapter 3 – Analysis .....	6-10	3
	C. Chapter 4 – Design .....	11	4
V.	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF eTIR (Agenda item 4) .....	12	4
VI.	OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 5).....	13-15	4
	A. WCO transit data model.....	13	4
	B. Other activities of interest .....	14	4
	C. Date and place of next session .....	15	4

## **I. ATTENDANCE**

1. The Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (further referred to as “the Expert Group”) held its sixteenth session on 28 - 29 April 2009 in Geneva.
2. The session was attended by experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Turkey. Experts from the European Community (EC) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) also attended.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/1

3. The Expert Group adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/1 with the inclusion of Informal Documents GE.1 No. 1 and No. 2 (2009) under item 3(b) of the agenda.

## **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2)**

4. The Expert Group re-elected Nurcan Özyazici from Turkey as chairperson of the Expert Group for the present session and requested the secretariat to include the election of officers as an item of the agenda for its next session.

## **IV. REFERENCE MODEL OF THE TIR PROCEDURE (Agenda item 3)**

### **A. Pending issues**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2008/8/Rev.2

5. The Expert Group took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2008/8/Rev.2, containing the clarifications on the method of submission of the Customs declaration as described in Chapter 2 of the eTIR Reference Model and requested the secretariat to include the clarifications as Annex in the eTIR Reference Model.

## **B. Chapter 3 – Analysis**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/13/Rev.2, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/2, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/3, Informal Document GE.1 No. 1 (2009), Informal Document GE.1 No. 2 (2009)

6. The Expert Group welcomed the third revision of Chapter 3 of the eTIR Reference Model, contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/13/Rev.3 and took note of the outcome of the meeting of the drafting group, which had taken place in Belgrade on 28 and 29 January 2009, at the kind invitation of the Serbian Customs administration.

7. The Expert Group first reviewed the sequence and class diagrams contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/13/Rev.3 and welcomed the draft definitions for the terms “declaration” and “advance cargo information”. As a follow-up, the Expert Group revisited the issue of the push and pull approach, originally presented in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/1, in the light of the ideas expressed by the Belgrade drafting group, now reflected in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/2. The Expert Group agreed that, in order to ensure real-time information exchange and to be in a position that all countries involved in a TIR transport would inform the holder of the reception of advance cargo information, pushing the information to the countries involved and requesting an appropriate acknowledgement of the reception of the information with a traceable reference number was the only viable solution for the eTIR system. The Expert Group stressed that this solution did not affect the possibility for Customs to query the eTIR international system at any time, for example when a TIR transport has been rerouted without prior notification.

8. The Expert Group extensively discussed the fall-back scenarios as well as the categorization of the use cases and fall-back elements presented in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/3. It was of the opinion that no functional fall-backs should be envisaged to cover the situation that the eTIR international system is not functioning. Instead, Chapter 4 should describe, as requirement, the highest level of security for the eTIR international system, including the necessary technical fall-backs. Furthermore, the Expert Group was of the view that the introduction of national and international helpdesks as fall-back elements did not seem to be a realistic solution, in particular considering that the eTIR international system will have to meet the highest level of security standards. The Expert Group mandated the secretariat to revise fall-back procedures, taking its remarks and suggestions into account, and present a revised version of the document at its next session.

9. The secretariat introduced all messages presented in Informal Document GE.1 No. 1 (2009), providing clarifications on their structure and design method. The Expert Group expressed great thanks to Mr. Hans Greven from the Dutch Customs authorities for his extensive contribution to the document and provided the secretariat with preliminary comments and proposals to further improve the document.

10. The Expert Group was invited to carefully review the document at home and provide the secretariat with further feedback. The amended messages, rules and conditions as well as the code lists which are specific to the eTIR project will be included in a further revision document on Chapter 3.

**C. Chapter 4 – Design**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/4

11. The Expert Group welcomed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2009/4 providing first considerations on the contents of the Design chapter of the eTIR Reference Model. The Expert Group agreed that, whereas it could deal with some aspects of Chapter 4 itself, with support from the secretariat, other technical aspects of Chapter 4 would most likely require input from external experts. It mandated the secretariat to look into this issue for discussion at its next session.

**V. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF eTIR (Agenda item 4)**

Documentation: Informal Document GE.1 No. 3 (2008)

12. The Expert Group took note and welcomed the in-depth reply from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the questionnaire on the financial implications of the national implementation of eTIR. It decided that reminders would not be sent until Chapter 3 had been finalized, in the hope that by that time sufficient information would be available to allow countries to provide extensive answers to the questionnaire.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 5)**

**A. WCO transit data model**

13. The Expert Group took note of the latest developments regarding the WCO (World Customs Organization) data model and, in particular, the elaboration of the UN/EDIFACT (United Nations Directories for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport) and XML message implementation guidelines of the new Government Cross Border Regulation (GOVCBR) message.

**B. Other activities of interest**

14. No other activities were brought to the attention of the Expert Group.

**C. Date and place of next session**

15. The Expert Group was not in a position to decide on tentative date(s) for its next session and asked the secretariat to propose date(s) at a later stage, probably, once amendments to Chapter 3 would again require plenary discussions. In the meantime, it was agreed that the secretariat would prepare and circulate intercessional documents to the Expert Group and other interested parties for long-distance consultation.

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