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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**

###### **Twenty-third session**

Brussels, 20–21 November 2013

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

###### **Reference Model of the TIR procedure:**

###### **Contributions of the network of eTIR focal points**

## **Roles and responsibilities of eTIR focal points**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **I. Background**

1. In the light of the importance of the eTIR project and the importance of having the broadest participation in the project, the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30), at its 124th session in February 2010, supported the secretariat's call to organize activities of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1 or Expert Group) at long distance, by means of a network of focal points for eTIR (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/248, para. 22). At its 125th session, WP.30 stressed the importance for every Contracting Party to nominate a focal point for the eTIR project and to inform the secretariat accordingly (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/250, para. 19).

2. In a letter sent to Director-Generals of customs administrations on 27 March 2012, Mrs. Molnar, Director of the UNECE Transport division, encouraged customs administrations to participate in meetings of GE.1 and, at least, to appoint a dedicated eTIR focal point within each national customs administration.

3. At its twenty-second session, GE.1 requested the secretariat to prepare a short document highlighting the roles and responsibilities of eTIR focal points for its next meeting (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2013/10, para. 10). In line with this request the secretariat prepared this document.

## II. Roles and responsibilities of eTIR focal points

4. The network of eTIR focal points was established with the aim to ensure an adequate distribution of information on the eTIR Project at the national level as well as to allow countries which do not directly participate in the meetings GE.1 to provide national inputs to the eTIR Project. For the future, it was also foreseen that eTIR focal points will act as liaisons with the eTIR Project to facilitate the implementation of eTIR at the national level.

5. In line with the above, the secretariat proposes to further clarify the roles and responsibilities of eTIR focal points as follows:

During the inception and elaboration phases, eTIR focal point should:

- Receive requests (including surveys) related to the eTIR project originating from WP.30, its Expert Groups and the secretariat, coordinate with the relevant national experts (including with the colleagues from other ministries if necessary) and reply within deadlines.
- Remain informed of the eTIR project developments, including the eTIR documentation prepared for GE.1 meetings, and provide the relevant feedback if necessary.
- Ensure that the eTIR project's objectives and envisaged implementation are in line with their national strategies towards the computerization of customs procedures, in particular the transit procedure.
- Promote the eTIR project nationally (across ministries) in order to ensure awareness about the project and its inclusion in mid- and long-term national ICT development and maintenance plans.
- Contribute actively to the meetings of GE.1, either by direct attendance or by submitting documents.

6. The roles and responsibilities of eTIR focal points during the construction and transition phases of the project will have to be further defined in the future, but, in summary, on top of the roles defined above, they will be in charge of coordinating the exchange of information between the national teams working on the implementation of eTIR and those responsible for its international aspects.

## III. Further considerations

7. GE.1 may wish to consider this document and (subject to amendments) adopt it and request the secretariat to submit the list of roles and responsibilities of eTIR focal points to WP.30 for further consideration.

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