



Economic Commission for Europe**Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Seventy-fifth session**

Geneva, 9 June 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the seventy-fifth session****

to be held, virtually and in-person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva in the afternoon of Wednesday 9 June 2021, Room TPS 2, subject to confirmation. The meeting will be convened immediately after the 157th session of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), but starting no later than at 3 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat.
Recommendation No. 6: Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union.
3. Other business:
 - (a) Other matters;
 - (b) Date of next session.
4. Adoption of the report.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the ECE Sustainable Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; email: wp.30@un.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the ECE Border Crossing Facilitation website www.unece.org/trans/bcf/welcome.html. During the meeting, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** The full text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as well as a complete list of contracting parties to the TIR Convention, are available on the ECE website: www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst.html#customs. Delegates are requested to register online at: uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=n7GHJp at the latest one week prior to the session. All in-person attending delegates (including those holding long-duration badge), should register through INDICO badge system: indico.un.org/event/35299/ and obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the ECE secretariat (internal extension 75975). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/152). The Committee will be informed that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, "a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the States which are contracting parties is required for the purpose of taking decisions". The number of States which are contracting parties to the convention and for which the convention has entered into force by 9 June 2021 is seventy-five.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/152

2. Recommendation No. 6: Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat

Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its seventy-fourth session (February 2021), with regard to recommendation No. 6 of the Office of Internal Oversight services (OIOS)¹ on "the apparent conflict of interest arising from the arrangement between ECE and IRU on the eTIR project" the Committee considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/7 by the Ethics Office. The Committee took note of the actions by the secretariat to implement the advice by the Ethics Office, such as (a) assign AC.2 with the function to independently oversee funds allocated to ECE for the purpose of eTIR; and (b) review, revisit and update the existing MoU between ECE and IRU once Annex 11 enters into effect. In addition, ECE should comprehensively review its contractual and administrative arrangements currently in effect as well as any individual transaction with IRU.

In its advice, the Ethics office highlighted the importance of establishing independent oversight over funds allocated to ECE for the purpose of eTIR through the relevant governing bodies, such as AC.2, if not yet done so. The secretariat proposed that AC.2 should perform this independent oversight. Any new extrabudgetary projects on eTIR or on any other activity of the TIR secretariat, except for projects agreed through the United Nations system, should be first discussed and endorsed by AC.2 before being submitted to the ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) for final approval. In addition, the secretariat should, on an annual basis, report to AC.2 about the spending of those funds and the development of the projects. Since OIOS needs concrete evidence of existence of the oversight body (e.g. terms of reference and membership) in order to consider this recommendation implemented and closed, the Committee should decide on accepting this role, based on the provisions of Annex 8 of the TIR Convention which deals, inter alia, with composition, functions and rules of procedure of the Administrative Committee and consider the recommendation implemented and closed.

Furthermore, the Ethics office recommended that the existing MoU between ECE and IRU be revisited, revised and updated, once Annex 11 enters into effect. The secretariat informed the Committee that it had already prepared the draft MoU and shared it with IRU, pending final discussions and agreement. This new MoU will be based on the principles advised by Ethics office meaning:

- Secretariat will no longer report to IRU but only to AC.2;
- Preparation of annual workplans for approval by AC.2;
- Funding of the P3 post based on the same remaining funds but for longer period.

¹ The full OIOS report is available as ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24

The new MoU would be submitted, as official document, to AC.2, if needed and required during an extraordinary session of AC.2 in June 2021, for consideration and endorsement before submitting it to EXCOM for final approval (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2, paras. 55–58).

For OIOS to consider recommendation No. 6 implemented and closed, the Committee should take a decision, stipulating that it has considered and approved the draft MoU, pending final approval by EXCOM. Therefore, the Committee is invited to consider and, possibly, approve the new MoU between ECE and IRU, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/8 and mandate the secretariat to transmit it to EXCOM for final approval.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/7; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/8

3. Other business

(a) Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider any other issues or difficulties in the application of the TIR Convention faced by customs authorities, national associations, the international insurers or IRU, that cannot wait until its October 2021 session.

(b) Date of next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the seventy-fifth session of the Committee in the week of 11–15 October 2021, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing COVID pandemic and the United Nations liquidity crisis.

4. Adoption of the report

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the convention, the Committee will adopt the report of its seventy-fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
