



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

Geneva, 13 and 14 October 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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

to be held virtually and in-person at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 13 October 2021 and finishing around 1 p.m. on 14 October 2021, Room TPS 1, subject to confirmation.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975.
3. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:
 - (a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board:
 - (i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board;
 - (ii) Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2021–2022;
 - (iii) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat;
 - (iv) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars.
 - (b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat:
 - (i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2020;

* 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.

** 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=EMIMsn 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/35309/ 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) Interim financial statement for the year 2021;
 - (iii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat;
 - (iv) Budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2022.
- 4. Revision of the Convention:
 - (a) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party;
 - (b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board;
 - (c) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption.
- 5. eTIR.
- 6. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system.
- 7. Authorization for concluding an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union.
- 8. Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat.
- 9. Other business:
 - (a) Date of next session;
 - (b) Restriction on the distribution of documents;
 - (c) List of decisions.
- 10. Adoption of the report.

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.2/154). 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 is seventy-six.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/154

2. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

The Committee will be informed about changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of contracting parties. The Committee may wish to be informed that the TIR Convention has seventy-seven contracting parties and that the TIR system is operation in sixty-five countries. In particular, the Committee may wish to recall that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, issued the following depositary notifications (a) C.N.513.2020.TREATIES-XI.A.16, of 4 November 2020, informing of the submission of various proposals to amend the body and annexes of the TIR Convention, 1975, including those that make the electronic submission of data to ITDB obligatory. In accordance with the provisions of Article 59 (3) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 4 February 2022, unless an objection has been communicated to the Secretary-General not later than by 4 November 2021; (b) C.N.158.2021.TREATIES-XI.16, of 3 June 2021, communicating that certain errors in the English, French and Russian texts of Annex 11, as contained in Annex I to the report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975, at its seventy-second session held

in Geneva on 5 and 6 February 2020 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/147) and circulated in depositary notification C.N.71.2020.TREATIES-XI.A.16 of 25 February 2020 (reissued on 26 February 2020), had been brought to his attention. Objections to these corrections should be communicated to the Secretary-General no later than by 1 September 2021. More detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

3. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board

(a) Activities of the TIR Executive Board

(i) Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and in line with the decision of the Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14 and 15), the secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its eighty-fifth (October 2020), eighty-sixth (December 2020), eighty-seventh (February 2021) and eighty-eight (April 2021) sessions, for information and endorsement by the Committee (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/9, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/10, ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/11 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/12, respectively). More information about recent activities of TIRExB as well as about various considerations and decisions taken at its eighty-ninth (July 2021) and ninetieth (October 2021) sessions will be provided orally by the Chair of TIRExB.

Under this agenda item, the Committee may also wish to take note of the prices of TIR Carnets for the years 2012 to 2021, as communicated to TIRExB per the requirements of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 3 (vi) of the TIR Convention, and the analysis of the 2021 prices, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/13

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/9; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/10;
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/11; ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/12;
ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/13

(ii) Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2021–2022

In line with the established practice, the Committee will be invited to approve the programme of work of TIRExB for 2021–2022 in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/14 and provide guidance on future activities and priorities of the work of TIRExB.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/14

(iii) International databases and electronic tools managed by the TIR secretariat

The Committee will be informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other information technology projects managed by the TIR secretariat, if any.

(iv) National and regional TIR workshops and seminars

The Committee will be informed about TIR workshops and seminars conducted and/or planned, if any.

¹ www.unece.org/tir/tir-depositary_notification.html.

(b) Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat**(i) Status report on the accounts for the year 2020**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Committee. The Committee may wish to note that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations have formally finalized the accounts for 2020. The Committee will be invited to formally approve the status report on the accounts for 2020 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/15.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/15

(ii) Interim financial statement for the year 2021

In line with standing practice, the Committee may wish to take note of the provisional interim statement for 2021 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/16.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/16

(iii) Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its seventy-fourth session (February 2021), it was informed that, due to ongoing internal consultations at ECE about certain provisions in the engagement letter, the audit report and management letter for the year 2020 would now be submitted to its October 2021 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/151, para. 27). Under this agenda item, the Committee is invited to formally take note of the audit certificate of 2020, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/17 and note the number of TIR Carnets distributed in 2020 as well as resulting excess amount or deficit.

In addition, the Committee may wish to recall the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/145, para. 57 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24, Annex II), according to which:

"...

(8) IRU maintains a separate account detailing the number of TIR Carnets distributed and the related amounts, referred to in Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 1, received;

(9) The IRU independent external auditor produces an audit certificate providing an opinion of the above-mentioned account for the year in question showing the amount transferred and the total amount actually invoiced (15 January);

(10) The difference between the two amounts will need to be adjusted a posteriori;

(11) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if the amount invoiced was more than initially transferred by IRU, the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, will be informed and IRU shall transfer the excess to the UNECE named bank account (before 15 March). This amount will be reflected in the UNECE TIR accounts to be taken into account for the next budget year;

(12) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if the amount invoiced was less than initially transferred by IRU, the Administrative Committee will reflect this amount in the amount per TIR Carnet to be applied in the next budget year to compensate the difference and ensure the financing of the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat. If the amount invoiced is less than initially transferred by IRU to ensure the funding of the operation of

TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the last year of the ECE/IRU agreement, or on the termination of the same, the difference will be absorbed by IRU without recourse."

In view of the above, the Committee will be invited to approve the appropriate action according to items 11 or 12 of the above procedure.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/17

(iv) Budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2022

With reference to the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/145, para. 57 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24, Annex II), the Committee may wish to recall the following steps:

(a) The ECE secretariat prepares a budget proposal for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, based on activity-based budgeting principles (August);

(b) TIRExB establishes the budget proposal (September);

(c) The ECE secretariat prepares a document comprising the budget proposal established by TIRExB for approval by the TIR Administrative Committee and sends a copy thereof to IRU for information (September);

(d) The ECE secretariat requests IRU to provide an operational forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in the forthcoming year (September);

(e) IRU provides the TIR Administrative Committee with its forecast of the number of TIR Carnets it expects to distribute in the forthcoming year, for the consideration of the latter (September-October);

(f) The TIR Administrative Committee approves the budget and the net amount to be transferred by IRU and takes note of the forecast established by IRU. The TIR Administrative Committee shall approve the amount per TIR Carnet, as referred to in Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 1, taking into account the calculation by the ECE secretariat on the basis of the forecast provided by IRU (September-October);

(g) IRU transfers the net amount approved by the Committee to the ECE named bank account (mid-November).

The Committee will be informed about the activities of the ECE secretariat and IRU under items (a) – (e). Under item (f), the Committee will be invited to approve the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2022 as well as the net amount to be transferred by IRU, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/18. The Committee may also wish to take note of the forecast of the number of TIR Carnets IRU expects to distribute in 2022 (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2021) No. 9). The Committee may wish to approve the amount per TIR Carnet, taking into account the calculation by the ECE secretariat, which will be expressed in Swiss francs following the transfer of the above amount to the ECE named bank according to the prevailing United States dollar – Swiss franc exchange rate on the day of the transfer.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/18; Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2021) No. 9

4. Revision of the Convention

(a) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party

Under this agenda item, the Committee is invited to recall that, further to the adoption of various amendment proposals to the provisions of the Convention, there are certain (new or updated) comments that have been adopted by the Working Party and, consequently, need to be endorsed by the Committee. These concern: (a) comment to Article 18; (b) comment to

Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.8.3; (c) comment to Annex 6, Explanatory Note 0.49; and (d) comment to Annex 9, Part II “Model Authorization Form (MAF)”.

The Committee is invited to endorse the various comments, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/19 and decide that they will be applicable only as of the moment that the corresponding amendment proposals to the Convention enter into force. Within the context of its discussions, the Committee may wish to be informed that discussions on the text of a comment to Article 18 are still ongoing in the Working Party and, consequently, will be submitted for endorsement at a future session of the Committee.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/19I

(b) Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its seventy-fourth session (February 2021), it was informed that experts participating in the informal preparatory meeting for the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) (3 and 4 November 2020) had considered a document, submitted by IRU, presenting an analysis of the messages exchanged in the framework of the eTIR specifications. The experts were of the view that this issue should be first discussed by AC.2 in the framework of its consideration of providing IRU access to ITDB (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2021/1, para. 50). Against this background, the Committee considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/4. In the absence of a clear opinion, the Chair invited delegations to carefully study the document, so that the Committee could revert to the issue at the next session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/151, para. 33)

With the knowledge that, at that same session, “the Committee confirmed the scope of access to ITDB that it had granted in 2018, being the most limited form of access (with read-only access, limited to the status of active holders (active or temporarily or permanently excluded), without providing the reason for the exclusion” (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/151, para. 32), the Committee is invited to revisit document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/4.

The Committee may wish to take note that, for the time being, no further amendment proposals have been transmitted by TIRExB for consideration.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/4

(c) Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption

The Committee may wish to take note that, for the time being, there are no outstanding accepted amendment proposals pending formal adoption by the Committee.

5. eTIR

The Committee will be informed about the latest developments in the field of computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR). In particular:

(a) the outcome of the second and third meetings of the Group of Experts on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) that took place on 25–28 May 2021 and 13–15 September 2021, respectively;

(b) the latest developments in eTIR interconnection projects and other developments in operationalizing eTIR.

6. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system

Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system is granted subject to the provisions of Article 6.2 bis, Annex 8, Article

10 (b) and Explanatory Notes 0.6.2 bis-2 and 8.10 (b). The Committee may wish to recall its previous decision (at its sixty-ninth session, February 2019) to authorize IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets and to organize the functioning of the guarantee system for the period 2020–2022 inclusive (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/141, para. 37) and that a decision for the next period should be taken at the session of the Committee in February 2022. Against this background, the Committee is invited to start discussing the renewal of the authorization as well as the period of validity of such a renewal of authorization.

7. Authorization for concluding an agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union

The Committee may wish to recall that the present UNECE-IRU Agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24) expires at the end of 2022 and should be renewed. As in the past, the Committee should approve, at its session in February 2022, a new draft agreement and provide the secretariat with the mandate to conclude the new agreement with a view to continuing to finance the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2023. The Committee is requested to mandate the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with IRU and the competent United Nations services, a new draft agreement covering, preferably, the same period of time as the authorization, as contained in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2021) No. 10.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24; Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2021) No. 10

8. Audit of the accounts of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat

The Committee may wish to recall that, at its seventy-fifth session (June 2021), it supported, with the exception of the delegation of the Russian Federation, the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECE and IRU and requested the secretariat to transmit it to the Executive Commission (EXCOM) of ECE for information. With this decision, the Committee considered recommendation No. 6 of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) as approved and implemented (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/153, para. 10).

With this, all OIOS recommendations, aimed at the Committee, have been adequately addressed. The secretariat will brief the Committee of further developments, if any.

9. Other business

(a) Date of next session

The ECE secretariat has made tentative arrangements to hold the seventy-seventh session of the Committee in the week of 7–11 February 2022, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing COVID pandemic and the United Nations liquidity crisis.

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

The Committee may wish to decide whether there should be any restriction on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

(c) List of decisions

The secretariat will prepare a list of draft decisions that will be circulated among delegations prior to the session. The list of adopted decisions will be attached to the final report.

10. Adoption of the report

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