



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

Geneva, 13–14 October 2021

Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board**TIRExB programme of work for the period 2021–2022****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. With a view to improving transparency among the TIR bodies, at the beginning of each two-year period of its mandate, the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) develops a work programme and presents it to the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) for endorsement. The Chair periodically reports to AC.2 on its activities and the results achieved within the work programme.

2. TIRExB, while considering the work programme, may wish to take into account the recommendation of the former composition of the Board, as follows:

“TIRExB recommends the next composition to continue focusing on issues such as, but not limited to:

(a) promote full computerization (i.e. eTIR international system, International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)) and focus on questions that may rise from the functioning of the eTIR system;

(b) intermodal use of the TIR procedure;

(c) introduction of further simplifications to TIR System parallel to development of modern techniques and business needs;

(d) continue to follow the implementation of TIR procedure during pandemic and to assess to what extent TIRExB’s involvement may be necessary for measures to be applied by contracting parties to ensure unhindered and smooth TIR transport during the pandemic.”

II. Overall aims

3. Supervision of and support in the application of the TIR Convention at the national and international levels (Annex 8, Article 1**bis** of the Convention).

III. Mandate

4. TIRExB fulfils the functions it is entitled to according to the Annex 8, Article 10 of the TIR Convention, as follows:

- (a) supervise the application of the Convention, including the operation of the guarantee system, and fulfil the functions entrusted to it by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) supervise the centralized printing and distribution to the associations of TIR Carnets which may be performed by an agreed international organization as referred to in Article 6;
- (c) coordinate and foster the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of contracting parties;
- (d) coordinate and foster the exchange of information between competent authorities of contracting parties, associations and international organizations;
- (e) facilitate the settlement of disputes between contracting parties, associations, insurance companies and international organizations without prejudice to Article 57 on the settlement of disputes;
- (f) support the training of personnel of customs authorities and other interested parties concerned with the TIR procedure;
- (g) maintain a central record for the dissemination to contracting parties of information to be provided by the international organizations as referred to in Article 6, on all rules and procedures prescribed for the issue of TIR Carnets by associations, as far as they relate to the minimum conditions and requirements laid down in Annex 9;
- (h) monitor the price of TIR Carnets.

5. The Board understands that its mission for the supervision of the TIR system includes the following:

- Monitor the application of the TIR Convention, including identifying national/regional customs control measures introduced in contracting parties to the TIR Convention;
- Consider opportunities and, when necessary, proposals to strengthen the TIR Convention, taking into account the changing conditions of the customs transit regime;
- Identify possible weaknesses in the legal basis of the TIR Convention which could make it prone to fraud and recommend appropriate solutions;
- When required, draft recommendations and/or examples of best practice on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention.

6. The resource requirements for this programme of work are administered according to its specific procedure in line with the Annex 8 of the TIR Convention.

IV. Programme of work: activities and outputs expected in 2021–2022

7. The following constitutes the programme of work of TIRExB for the period 2021–2022. It includes several activities to be undertaken and possible outputs to be achieved. However, TIRExB, during its term, should be flexible and adaptive in order to address and consider any unforeseen issue that might arise. Furthermore, it does not include programme areas in which the Board is reactive (e.g. facilitating the settlement of disputes) and some on-going activities as part of its mandate carried out by the TIR secretariat, which do not require the direct involvement of the Board (e.g. maintenance of ITDB).

- 1. To provide support in the application and revitalization of the TIR Convention including amendment proposals that would increase the competitiveness of the TIR system**
 - Prepare amendment proposals to the Convention following requests, wishes and considerations from both the customs and the private sector that would make the Convention more competitive if not innovative;
 - Organize session(s)/workshop(s) in order to discuss the challenges that the TIR system is facing, collect ideas and proposals and try to convert them if feasible, to amendment proposals;
 - Follow the implementation of the TIR procedure during the COVID-19 pandemic and assess to what extent the involvement of the Board may be necessary for measures to be applied by contracting parties to ensure unhindered and smooth TIR transport as well as to evaluate if amendments to the Convention are needed to address such crisis in the future on top of the force majeure provision that exists today.
- 2. To promote the geographical expansion of the TIR system**
 - Following the recommendations in the TIR Carnet decline study, organize workshops that would promote the geographical expansion of the TIR system in new regions such as Africa, Latin America and the Middle East;
 - If considered feasible, prepare concise and well-documented policy reviews on the benefits that the TIR system would bring in these specific geographical regions, having analyzed the challenges and status of border crossing facilitation policies/measures/agreements in each of them.
- 3. To adapt the TIR procedure to modern business, logistics and transport requirements**
 - Following the recommendations agreed in the study on intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention, prepare a workshop dedicated to intermodal transport having invited all international and national non-governmental organizations responsible for intermodal transport in several regions and customs authorities in order to create awareness in the market about the intermodal aspects of TIR and the benefits that it could bring;
 - Prepare a concise and well-documented policy review paper, dedicated to the intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention, analyzing the different intermodal transport scenarios and the benefits that the implementation of TIR/eTIR could bring;
 - Consider any other amendment proposals to the TIR Convention that would further facilitate the intermodal aspects of the TIR Convention including the transportation of e-commerce parcels.
- 4. To facilitate the implementation of the eTIR international system and its interconnection with national customs systems**
 - Support the development and maintenance of the eTIR international system.
 - Organize workshops that promote the eTIR international system, create awareness about its operating values and principles as well as the benefits that it could bring to all stakeholders involved, both for contracting parties and also for countries that have not acceded to TIR Convention yet;
 - Consider and provide guidance on questions that may rise from the actual implementation of the eTIR international system and its interconnection with national customs systems that should be reflected in the technical specifications of the system;
 - Following the recommendations of the TIR Carnet decline study towards a sustainable future for the eTIR international system and the preparation of a study that addresses all possible issues connected with the sustainability of the system, contribute in the preparation of this business plan and express its views, wishes and considerations that would ensure a sustainable future for eTIR operations;
 - Supervise and promote ITDB as an integral part of the eTIR international system.

- 5. To support training activities on the application of the TIR Convention, mainly in Contracting Parties where difficulties are experienced or might be expected in this area**
 - Organize and substantially contribute to regional and national workshops and seminars on the application of the TIR Convention, if needed;
 - Finalization of the new eTIR web site and preparation of the eTIR e-learning platform as part of the web site;
 - Update and distribute the TIR Handbook in the six official United Nations languages, taking into account the decreasing need for print resources;
 - Taking into account the need to empower women as addressed by Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality, prepare a concise and well-documented policy review on the role of women and gender equality in transportation of goods in general and in the TIR system in particular.

 - 6. To supervise the centralized printing and distribution of the TIR Carnets, including the monitoring of the price of TIR Carnets**
 - Monitor the annual number of TIR Carnets distributed to national issuing associations, broken down by type;
 - Monitor the distribution price of TIR Carnets (i.e. as charged by IRU) on the basis of information to be reported by IRU annually or when modified;
 - Monitor the national issuing prices of TIR Carnets, as provided by national associations, in line with the Annex 9 Part I, paragraph 3 (vi), publish them on the TIR website and conduct annually an analysis of the data on the prices;
 - If necessary, revise the survey for the collection of the TIR Carnet prices and the methodology to conduct the analysis of the TIR Carnet prices.

 - 7. To supervise the functioning of the TIR international guarantee system**
 - Conduct a survey on Customs claims and the TIR guarantee level covering the years 2017–2020, conduct an analysis of the data and transmit the results to AC.2;

 - 8. To increase transparency and facilitate the exchange of information between competent authorities of Contracting Parties, national guaranteeing associations, IRU, the holders and other Governmental and non-governmental organizations. To coordinate and foster the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of Contracting Parties**
 - Monitor the implementation of the agreed expansion of the scope of ITDB, depending always on the time and efforts required to accomplish these tasks, to include, inter alia, certificates of approval as well as access of the TIR Carnet holders and measures on further streamlining the information provided on the status of the holders;
 - Prepare an ITDB governance document to clarify the access rights, user management etc. and submit to AC.2 for approval.

 - 9. Self-evaluation**
 - At the end of the term, prepare a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the achievements of the Board, compared to outputs described above, during its 2021–2022 term of office in relation with its programme of work and mandate, for endorsement by AC.2.
-