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**Economic Commission for Europe****Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975****Eighty-first session**

Geneva, 11 October 2023

Item 4 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda

**Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:****Activities of the TIR Executive Board:****Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board****Report of the ninety-sixth session of the TIR Executive Board  
(TIRExB)****I. Attendance**

1. The TIR Executive Board (TIRExB, also referred to hereafter as the Board) held its ninety-sixth session on 12 April 2023 in Geneva with, exceptionally, the possibility to connect virtually.
2. The following members of TIRExB were present: Mr. M. Ayati (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Mr. M. Ciampi (Italy), Mr. E. Khakimov (Uzbekistan), Mr. P. J. Laborie (European Commission), Mr. H. R. Mayer (Austria), Mr. A. Şenmanav (Türkiye) and Ms. C. Zuidgeest (Netherlands).
3. Ms. T. Rey-Bellet attended the session as observer, representing the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

**II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)***Documentation:* Informal document TIRExB/AGE/2023/96

4. TIRExB adopted the agenda of the session in Informal document TIRExB/AGE/2023/96, with the addition of agenda item 10.A (c) "Status report of consultancies".

**III. Election of the Chair (agenda item 2)**

5. TIRExB recalled and confirmed that, at the short meeting of the newly elected TIRExB on 9 February 2023, Mr. M. Ciampi (Italy) was elected Chair for the biennium 2023–2024.

#### **IV. Adoption of the report of the ninety-fifth session of TIRExB (agenda item 3)**

*Documentation:* Informal document TIRExB/REP/2022/95 draft

6. TIRExB adopted the report of its ninety-fifth session, including the proposed amendments, as contained in Informal document TIRExB/REP/2022/95 draft and requested the secretariat to submit it to the TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2) for endorsement.

#### **V. Programme of work 2023–2024 (agenda item 4)**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 6 (2023)

7. TIRExB considered the draft programme of work for the biennium 2023–2024 contained in Informal document No. 6 (2023). It requested the secretariat to prepare a revision of the programme of work to reflect a number of comments made by members of the Board, in particular regarding the inclusion, in the programme of work, of the preparation of provisions aimed at creating a legal basis within the TIR Convention or within the Rules of Procedure of TIRExB to formalize the decision taken by AC.2 at its twenty-eighth session, which authorized TIRExB to decide, upon a proposal by the TIR Secretary, on modifications to the detailed budget line allocations within the approved budget for the efficient operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat. TIRExB further requested the secretariat to circulate the revised programme of work among the members of the Board for comments. The Board decided that it would provide its comments on the revised programme of work as soon as possible but no later than 5 May 2023.

8. TIRExB aims at finalizing its programme of work at its next session, on the basis of eventual comments by its members. TIRExB will then mandate the secretariat to submit it to AC.2 for endorsement at its 2023 autumn session.

#### **VI. Computerization of the TIR procedure (agenda item 5)**

##### **A. Interconnection of national customs systems with the eTIR international system**

9. TIRExB took note of the latest developments concerning the interconnection of the eTIR international system with national customs systems, in particular that:

- Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan are already interconnected with the eTIR international system and finalized the conformance tests;
- Pakistan and Tunisia are finalizing the conformance tests;
- Türkiye has started an interconnection project.

10. The Board also noted that Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan still need to be interconnected with the eTIR international system in order to launch eTIR corridors through the region and that the secretariat is preparing letters from the Executive Secretary of ECE to the heads of the customs administrations of the three countries as well as looking for funds to, possibly, provide some assistance for the interconnection projects.

11. The Board further took note that the fourth session of the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) would take place on 6–7 June 2023, in conjunction with the one-hundred-and-sixty-third session of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), as requested by TIB.

##### **B. International TIR Data Bank**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 1 (2023)

12. The Board was informed about developments related to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and other related information technology projects, managed by the TIR secretariat. The Board took note of the status of data in ITDB, in particular, of the 1,164 web application users, 29,663 authorized holders, 273 stamps and seals and 2,854 customs offices. The Board also took note of the web service usage for the past years and of the deployment in production of the eTIR Mobile apps in 21 languages.

## **VII. Adaptation of the TIR procedure to modern business, logistics and transport requirements (agenda item 6)**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 25 (2022).

13. The Board recalled that, at its previous session, it had decided to revert to Informal document No. 25 (2022), containing draft guidelines for the use of the TIR and eTIR procedures for intermodal transport, in order to thoroughly review its content and update / validate the case studies / scenarios.

14. For the sake of efficiency, the Board decided that the members should provide their comments on the draft guidelines to the secretariat after the session and before 30 April 2023.

## **VIII. Settlement of disputes between contracting parties, associations, insurance companies and international (agenda item 7)**

### **Regular checks on TIR transports at certain border crossing points**

*Documentation:* Informal documents Nos. 18 (2022) and 22 (2022)

15. The Board recalled that, at previous sessions, it considered Informal documents Nos. 18 (2022) and 22 (2022), transmitted by IRU, presenting regular checks of TIR transports at certain border crossing points and, respectively, additional evidence about those checks.

16. IRU informed TIRExB that, while the situation had improved at the Gürbulak-Bazargan border crossing, regular physical checks seemed to continue at borders crossing points between Azerbaijan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) as well as Azerbaijan and Türkiye. IRU recalled that almost 100% of transports to Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Türkiye are accompanied by TIR-EPD messages. The Board further noted that some of the physical controls seem to be due to the fact that new TIR Carnet holders could be considered by risk assessment systems as constituting a higher risk level.

17. IRU stressed that while IRU can establish the percentage of TIR transports entering Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Türkiye, respectively, which is accompanied by TIR-EPD messages, it would be useful if Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Türkiye could provide statistics on the rates of physical controls for all entering transports and specifically for transports performed under TIR.

18. The Board also noted that, due to the earthquake and its aftermath, a visit to the Gürbulak-Bazargan border crossing point, planned for 6 March 2023, had to be postponed to April–May 2023.

19. TIRExB mandated the secretariat to contact the customs administration of Azerbaijan to raise its awareness of this issue and ask for inputs.

## **IX. Supervision of the centralized printing and distribution of the TIR Carnets, including the monitoring of the price of TIR Carnets (agenda 8)**

*Documentation:* Informal documents WP.30/AC.2 (2023) Nos. 4 and 5 and Informal document No. 7 (2023)

20. TIRExB took note of the annual number of TIR Carnets distributed to national issuing associations, broken down by type, as contained in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 5.

21. TIRExB took note of the 2023 distribution prices of TIR Carnets (i.e., as charged by IRU), as presented in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 4.

22. Furthermore, TIRExB considered Informal document No. 7 (2023), containing the data of the 2023 TIR Carnet prices received so far, as well as their analysis. Regretting that only 36 associations had provided data, TIRExB requested the secretariat to send a reminder to those associations that had not yet complied with the provisions of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 3 (vi) and prepare a revised document for its next session.

## **X. Supervision of the functioning of the TIR international guarantee system (agenda 9)**

23. TIRExB requested the secretariat to prepare the survey on customs claims and the guarantee level for the period 2019–2022, on the basis of the previous survey on the matter, with a view to distribute it to customs administrations by 30 June 2023, with a deadline to respond by 30 October 2023.

## **XI. Miscellaneous (agenda item 10)**

### **A. Activities of the secretariat**

#### **1. Follow-up actions to previous decisions by TIRExB.**

24. TIRExB took note that no follow-up actions were pending.

#### **2. Organization of TIR related events.**

25. TIRExB took note that the secretariat is in contact with the customs administration of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The objective is to organize a two-day technical meeting, with the participation of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan, as well as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, if the funding allows, possibly in the second half of June 2023. The two-day technical meeting would be aimed at promoting the operationalization of eTIR in Central Asia. TIRExB expressed interest in actively contributing to the event. The secretariat requested members of the Board to provide their availability during the period.

26. TIRExB requested the secretariat to be involved as early as possible in the organization of TIR related events, ideally at least a month in advance, to maximize the chances of active participation of its members.

#### **3. Status report of consultancies.**

*Documentation:* Informal document No. 5 (2023)

27. Regarding the various consultancies described in Informal document No. 5 (2023), TIRExB took note that:

- A consultant had started working on the preparation of the eTIR national application, which is planned to be finalized by the end of July 2023.

- Another consultant had started working on the eTIR data model in GEFEG.FX with the aim to prepare the revised tables contained in the eTIR functional and technical specification in all the ECE working languages.
- The consultant who will be preparing the publication of the guidelines for the use of the TIR and eTIR procedures for intermodal transport will be hired after the Board will have sent its comments on the draft and they will be incorporated in a revised version, probably towards the end of summer 2023.
- The consultant who will work on legal issues and the financing of the TIR secretariat has not yet been hired.

## **B. Other matters**

28. Under this agenda item, TIRExB noted with satisfaction that Iraq had ratified the TIR Convention on 27 March 2023, becoming the seventy-eighth contracting party to the TIR Convention, 1975.

## **C. Restriction in the distribution of documents**

29. TIRExB decided to keep documents issued in relation to the current session restricted.

## **D. Date and place of next session**

30. The Board took note that the ninety-seventh session of the Board is scheduled to take place on 5 June 2023.

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