



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

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

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:**Activities of the TIR Executive Board****Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for
2023–2024****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. With a view to improving transparency and efficiency among the TIR bodies, the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB), at the beginning of each two-year period of its mandate, 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 programme of work for the period 2023–2024, may wish to take note of the recommendations of the former composition of the Board, as follows:

- Elaboration of legal provisions aimed at standardizing simplification procedures, such as authorized consignor and consignee or subcontractors;
- Support the geographical expansion of the TIR Convention;
- Further develop the intermodal implementation of the TIR system;
- Further improve the eTIR procedure;
- Continue the work started by the former composition of the Board, in particular training and support activities, increasing the competitiveness of the TIR system and adapting the TIR and eTIR procedures to modern business, logistics and transport requirements. (see Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 6, Annex II).

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 its functions according to 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 AC.2;
- (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 TIR 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 good practice on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention.

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

IV. Programme of work: activities and outputs expected in 2023–2024

7. The following constitutes the programme of work of TIRExB for the period 2023–2024. It includes several activities to be undertaken and possible outputs to be achieved. However, TIRExB, during its term of office, 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 carried out by the TIR secretariat that do not require the direct involvement of the Board.

- 1. To support the application of the TIR Convention including amendment proposals that would increase the competitiveness of the TIR system**
 - Prepare amendment proposals to the Convention, inter alia on the basis of requests from both customs and the private sector, that would make the Convention more competitive and, where possible, innovative;
 - Organize or participate in 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, into amendment proposals;
 - When required, draft recommendations or examples of good practice on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention.

- 2. To promote the geographical expansion of the TIR system**
 - Support the preparation, in cooperation with the private sector, of a roadmap on the geographical expansion of the TIR system in new regions i.e. Africa, Latin America, Middle East, including short – medium – long terms objectives with timeframes / activities / resources required to ensure systematic and consistent efforts to geographically expand the TIR system and transmit the roadmap, including recommendations, to AC.2, with clear focus on the rapid implementation of eTIR.
 - Consider cooperation with international and regional organizations including multilateral development banks of strategic importance for the implementation of the proposed roadmap, inter alia by means of technical meetings, or Memoranda of Understanding.
 - Support the preparation of a study to showcase the benefits for national economies of the implementation of the TIR system, in particular for least developed countries (LDCs).

- 3. Support the adaptation of the TIR and eTIR procedures to modern business, logistics and transport requirements**
 - Consider amendment proposals to the TIR Convention that would further facilitate the intermodal application of the TIR Convention.

- 4. To support the implementation of the eTIR procedure**
 - Provide guidance on questions related to the eTIR procedure, if required by means of proposing amendments, Explanatory Notes or comments to the relevant parts of the TIR Convention or of the eTIR specifications.
 - Promote the implementation of the eTIR procedure by Contracting Parties, inter alia, organizing friends of TIRExB Chair meetings with selected heads of customs administrations or at meetings of other international organizations (e.g. World Customs Organizations).
 - Consider possible financing mechanism for the operations of the eTIR international system with the aim to facilitate discussions on the matter by AC.2.
 - Support the development and maintenance of the eTIR international system;
 - Support the maintenance of version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications and preparation of version 4.4;
 - When required, consider and provide feedback on eTIR-related applications developed by the TIR secretariat;
 - When required, amend and improve the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) to ensure it adequately supports the eTIR procedure.

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;
 - Update and distribute the TIR Handbook in the six official United Nations languages.
 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.
 7. **To supervise the functioning of the TIR international guarantee system**
 - Conduct a survey on customs claims and the TIR guarantee levels covering the years 2019–2022, conduct an analysis of the data and transmit the results to AC.2.
 8. **To facilitate the exchange of information between competent authorities of contracting parties, national guaranteeing associations, IRU, 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**
 - Within available resources and following requests from customs and the private sector, expand the scope of ITDB to include additional services that further facilitate the implementation of the TIR and eTIR procedures by both customs and the private sector.
 9. **To supervise the national/regional customs control measures introduced in the framework of the TIR Convention**
 - Analyze national/regional customs control measures introduced in contracting parties to the TIR Convention, and provide considerations and, possibly, guidance.
 10. **Management of the TIR budget**
 - Consider how to create 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 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.
 11. **Self-evaluation**
 - At the end of its term of office, prepare a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the Board's achievements in relation to its programme of work and mandate as well as a self-evaluation, including, inter alia, agreed recommendations on future activities to next composition of the Board, and submit both for endorsement to AC.2.
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