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Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Eightieth session

Geneva, 9 June 2023

Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention on its eightieth session

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I. Attendance

1. The Committee held its eightieth session on 9 June 2023 in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Union were present. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). The Committee noted that the required quorum for the purposes of taking decisions – of at least one-third of the States which are contracting parties (according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention), was attained.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

2. The Committee adopted the agenda of the session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/162).

III. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975 (agenda item 2)

3. The Committee was informed about changes in the status of the Convention and in the number of contracting parties. In particular, the Committee noted that, on 27 March 2023, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, has issued the following depositary notification: C.N.92.2023.TREATIES-XI.A.16, informing that, on 27 March 2023, Iraq has deposited its instruments of accession to the TIR Convention, 1975. In accordance with its Article 53, paragraph 2, the Convention will enter into force for Iraq on 27 September 2023. With the accession of Iraq, the TIR Convention will have seventy-eight contracting parties. Since the activation of the system for Qatar, TIR operations can be established with sixty-five countries. Detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.¹

IV. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (agenda item 3)

Activities of the TIR Executive Board

Election of members of the TIR Executive Board

4. The Committee recalled that, at its previous session, it had elected seven members of TIRExB for the term of office 2023–2024. The Committee further recalled that, in order to fill the two remaining positions, it had decided to hold another round of elections at an additional session, to be held in the week of 5–9 June 2023, subject to confirmation and mandated the secretariat to make the necessary arrangement to accommodate the session. To that end, the Committee recalled Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 1, containing the approved election procedure and soliciting candidates willing to stand for election of the two remaining posts as members of TIRExB for the term 2023–2024, which would be revised accordingly and re-issued by the secretariat. The secretariat informed the Committee that the

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

call for candidates would be circulated, as in the past, via email² to all heads of customs administrations of contracting parties, delegates of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975 (AC.2), TIR focal points and to the permanent missions of contracting parties to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The deadline by which nominations would need to be received by the ECE secretariat was 28 March 2023, midnight CET. No further candidates may be nominated following expiry of this deadline. On 30 March 2023, the ECE secretariat would circulate a list of candidates who had been nominated by their respective governments or organizations, being contracting parties to the Convention.

5. The Committee noted that the secretariat had proceeded accordingly and that the names of the candidates had been circulated by the secretariat on 30 March 2023 (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 7 – restricted).

6. In accordance with the approved election procedure (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 1/Rev.1) and on the basis of the list of 4 nominated candidates, the Committee proceeded with a secret ballot.

7. The following results were obtained and confirmed by the TIR Secretary:

Registered votes: 66

Valid votes: 66

Invalid votes: 0

Blank votes: 0

8. The following candidate obtained a majority of votes of the contracting states present and voting and was elected as member of TIRExB for a term of office of two years, 2023–2024:

- Mr. Joviddon SHARIPOV (Tajikistan)

9. The Committee recalled that the member of TIRExB was elected in their personal capacity, with the mandate to work towards the sustainability of the TIR procedure. The Committee also stressed that the respective Government should finance the work of their member of TIRExB (Explanatory Note 8.13.1–2 of the Convention) and should ensure their participation in all sessions of the Board.

10. Due to lack of time, absence of simultaneous translation after the programmed ending time of the meeting and despite a general support to holding immediately a second round of elections for the remaining position, the Committee decided to defer the election of the ninth member of TIRExB to its eighty-first session on 11 October 2023. The Committee further decided to limit the list of candidates to those already nominated and which could not reach a majority of votes from the contracting states present and voting.

11. The final member of TIRExB remained unelected, due to insufficient votes received from the contracting states present and voting. The Russian and Belarus delegates proposed to postpone the voting to the October meeting of AC.2. After a count of votes, the AC.2 decided to hold a further byelection at its next meeting on Wednesday, 11 October 2023. Furthermore, it was agreed by the AC.2 that a further solicitation of candidates would not be made and that the three remaining candidates not elected would stand in the byelection at the October 2023 session of AC.2.

V. Other business (agenda item 4)

A. Date of next session

12. The Committee tentatively decided to hold its eighty-first session on Wednesday, 11 October 2023, subject to confirmation and subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.

² Email was sent out on 15 February 2023.

B. Restriction on the distribution of documents

13. The Committee decided that there would not be any restriction in the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session, apart from Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2023) No. 7, which had been issued as restricted document (for Government officials only).

VI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 5)

14. Due to a lack of time, the Committee was not in a position to adopt the report of its eightieth session (June 2023) at the end of the meeting as per general practice. Consequently, the Committee may wish to exceptionally adopt the report of its eightieth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/163) at its eighty first session (October 2023).
