



Economic Commission for Europe

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Technical Implementation Body

Seventh session

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Report of the Technical Implementation Body on its seventh session

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I. Attendance

1. The Technical Implementation Body (TIB) held its seventh session on 4 June 2024 in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Latvia, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, United States of America and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Union, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) were also present.

2. In the absence of a quorum,¹ the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) mandated the secretariat to use the silence procedure, as per Rules 26 and 27 of its Rules of Procedure. TIB stressed the importance of government representatives of contracting States to be present during the rollcall to avoid having to revert to the silence procedure at future sessions.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

3. TIB adopted the agenda of the session, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/13.

III. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

4. Recalling that Mr. P. Arsic had been elected chair for the session of 2024, TIB took note that there were no nominations for the position of vice-chair. TIB reiterated its invitation to all delegations to nominate candidates for the position of vice-chair for the last session of 2024 as well as for the positions of Chair and vice Chair for 2025. TIB also expressed its gratitude to Ms. L. Jacobs (Belgium) for her valuable contributions to the work of TIB, inter alia, as Chair and vice-Chair, and wished her success in the continuation of her career.

IV. Adoption of the report of the sixth session (agenda item 3)

5. TIB adopted the report of its sixth session, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/12.

V. eTIR international system (agenda item 4)

A. Progress report on the development of the eTIR international system and the International TIR databank

6. TIB welcomed the status report on the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) delivered by the secretariat. It was informed about the current status of data recordings and usage figures in ITDB (1,181 web application users, 30,263 authorized TIR Carnet holders, 295 customs stamps and seals records and 2,754 customs offices operational for TIR procedures). It was further informed about the recent achievements by the TIR secretariat, in particular, the finalisation of the eTIR National Application API and the eTIR NA language support extension. It was also informed of the implementation of a proof of concept for the ITDB API to allow national customs systems to update TIR Carnet holder and customs office records via web services in response to the request from the Uzbek customs authorities, for which it mandated the secretariat to start tests with volunteer customs authorities.

¹ Fourteen Contracting States to the TIR Convention bound by Annex 11 had official governmental representatives present. Official representation of at least nineteen Contracting States was required to reach the quorum.

B. Progress report on the connection of national customs systems to the eTIR international system

7. TIB took note that the secretariat secured funds from United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) budget and used them to hire national consultants for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. So far the secretariat received draft reports from the consultants working on the interconnection of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and the draft report for Tajikistan will soon follow. Furthermore, TIB noted that, further to the installation of the eTIR National Application (NA) on premises as a standalone application and three days of training delivered by the secretariat, Iran became the sixth country to be interconnected with the eTIR international system along with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Pakistan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan. Further to India announcement during the last AC.2 session about the country's willingness to interconnect their national customs system, the secretariat provided the customs authority with a road map detailing the steps to be followed and is awaiting confirmation by the government.

VI. eTIR conceptual, functional and technical specifications (agenda item 5)

A. Version 4.3

8. TIB considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/3, presenting rules and conditions to implement the restriction on amendment to the declaration data as well as a possible solution regarding the code list for the TransportEquipment.Size and type.

9. TIB agreed with the rules and conditions presented in chapter II.C of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/3 in order to limit amendments to the declaration data and decided they could wait for version 4.4. to be included in the eTIR specifications.

10. TIB agreed in principle with the amendment of the TransportEquipment.Size and type, coded attribute as proposed in chapter III.C of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/3 but decided to revert to this proposal at its next session with information on ISO code list 6346 and its possible publication in the eTIR XSDs.

B. Version 4.4

1. Concrete amendment proposals

11. TIB considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4, containing concrete amendment proposals related to the issues which TIB, at previous sessions, considered important for inclusion in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications. TIB reviewed them individually and took the following decisions:

(a) Requirements of the Eurasian Customs Union

Languages for text fields

12. Recalling that the secretariat has received draft reports from the consultants working on the interconnection projects for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (see para 7), TIB welcomed a proposal from the secretariat to use the relevant information from those reports, once finalized, to prepare a document exploring how to bridge the gaps which prevent countries, which are members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), to interconnect with the eTIR international system and, possibly, identify solutions. After consultation with the countries of the EAEU, the document could be considered by TIB, possibly at its next session.

13. At the same time, TIB reiterated its invitation to the countries which are members of the EAEU to contact the secretariat to jointly analyze the requirements they would like to have included in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications and prepare a concrete list of amendment proposals.

(b) Access to TIR transport data by holders

14. TIB noted that AC.2, at its February session, did not have time to consider the issue and will therefore revert to it, at the earliest, at its October 2024 session.

(c) Procedure for drawing samples and additional control types

15. TIB requested a change to the proposal to model the procedure described in Explanatory Note 0.21-3 of the TIR Convention, as contained in chapter II.C of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4, in order to ensure better alignment with the actual provision of Explanatory Note 0.21-3, i.e., that results of controls undertaken on samples drawn should not be recorded.² TIB requested the secretariat to present an amended proposal for its next session.

(d) Loading and unloading places

16. TIB agreed with the proposal to harmonize information related to loading and unloading places, as described in chapter II.D of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4 and requested the removal of the DeliveryDestination class at ConsignmentItem level.

(e) Declaration acceptance date and time

17. TIB agreed with the inclusion of the AcceptanceDateTime attribute in messages E6, I6, I7 and I15, as described in chapter II.E of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4.

(f) Refusal to start a TIR operation

18. TIB agreed, pending approval by AC.2, with the inclusion of the new rule³, as described in chapter II.F of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4, in the TIROperation class of the E6, I6 and I15 messages.

2. New proposals

19. TIB considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/5, containing the following potential amendments to be included in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications:

(a) Sequence number of TIR operations

20. TIB agreed to discuss this issue at its next session on the basis of a written proposal by the secretariat.

(b) Unicity of customs office code

21. TIB noted that TIRExB did not have time to deal with this issue at its last session and that the secretariat was of the view that the issue could be separated in two (a. the lack of country information in the declaration/operation eTIR messages and b. the global unicity of customs office identifier). TIB agreed to revert to those issues at future sessions.

22. Regarding the World Customs Organization (WCO) recommendation to prefix national customs codes with the UN/LOCODE, TIB noted that it is highly improbable that the member States of the European Union and the countries having joined the Common transit convention would change their customs office codes. TIB further noted that the ECE trade division will possibly provide TIB, at its next session, with information on the completeness and accuracy of the UN/LOCODES when it comes to customs offices.

² IF (CONTROL.Type, coded) = "002"
THEN (EMPTY (CONTROL.CONTROLRESULTS)
ELSE (NOT EMPTY (CONTROL.CONTROLRESULTS)

³ Number and Name: R0XX

Description: Operations which customs have refused to start must not be counted when considering the number of operations covered by a Guarantee.

(c) Use of the accompanying document in non-interconnected countries

23. TIB took note of the procedural details related to the use of the accompanying document in non-interconnected countries and decided to continue discussing the technical aspects of the procedure at its next session in order to, possibly, assess the changes required to version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications to enable the use of this procedure. It further requested Türkiye to underline the technical parts of the proposal which are relevant for TIB.

3. Proposals by governments

24. TIB took note that Governments had not submitted any new proposals.

VII. Other business (agenda item 6)

Date and place of the next sessions of TIB

25. TIB took note that the date for the eighth session had to be changed and that it is now tentatively scheduled for 8 October 2024. Furthermore, TIB agreed with the dates tentatively scheduled for 2025, i.e., from 12 to 14 March 2025 for the ninth session, and 22 and 23 September 2025 for the tenth session.

VIII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 7)

26. TIB agreed with the list of tentative decisions to be circulated under the silence procedure, as presented in Annex. TIB further noted that, after the closure of the silence procedure and taking into account its outcome, the secretariat, in consultation with the chair, will prepare the draft report for the session and submit it for adoption at the next session.

Annex

List of decisions taken at the seventh session of the Technical Implementation Body

No.	Agenda item	Reference in final report (para.)	Short description of decision
1	-		In the absence of a quorum, the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) mandated the secretariat to use the silence procedure, as per Rules 26 and 27 of its Rules of Procedure.
2	1		TIB adopted the agenda of the session, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/13.
3	2		TIB reiterated its invitation to all delegations to nominate candidates for the position of vice-chair for the last session of 2024 and well as for the positions of Chair and vice Chair for 2025.
4	3		TIB adopted the report of its sixth session, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/12.
eTIR specifications, version 4.3			
5	5(a)		TIB agreed with the rules and conditions presented in chapter II.C of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/3 in order to limit amendments to the declaration data and decided they could wait for version 4.4. to be included in the eTIR specifications.
6	5(a)		TIB agreed in principle with the amendment of the TransportEquipment.Size and type, coded attribute as proposed in chapter III.C of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/3 but decided to revert to this proposal at its next session with information on ISO code list 6346 and its possible publication in the eTIR XSDs.
eTIR specifications, version 4.4			
7	5(b)(i)		TIB reiterated its invitation to the countries which are members of the EAEU to contact the secretariat to jointly analyze the requirements they would like to have included in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications and prepare a concrete list of amendment proposals.
8	5(b)(i)		TIB requested a change to the proposal to model the procedure described in Explanatory Note 0.21-3 of the TIR Convention, as contained in chapter II.C of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4, in order to ensure better alignment with the actual provision of Explanatory Note 0.21-3, i.e., that results of controls undertaken on samples drawn should not be recorded ⁴ . TIB requested the secretariat to present an amended proposal for its next session
9	5(b)(i)		TIB agreed with the proposal to harmonize information related to loading and unloading places, as described in chapter II.D of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4 and requested the removal of the DeliveryDestination class at ConsignmentItem level.
10	5(b)(i)		TIB agreed with the inclusion of the AcceptanceDateTime attribute in messages E6, I6, I7 and I15, as described in chapter II.E of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4.

⁴ IF (CONTROL.Type, coded) = "002"
 THEN (EMPTY (CONTROL.CONTROLRESULTS))
 ELSE (NOT EMPTY (CONTROL.CONTROLRESULTS))

<i>No.</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>
11	5(b)(i)		TIB agreed, pending approval by AC.2, with the inclusion of the new rule ⁵ , as described in chapter II.F of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2024/4, in the TIROperation class of the E6, I6 and I15 messages.
12	5(b)(ii)		TIB agreed to discuss this issue at its next session on the basis of a written proposal by the secretariat.
13	5(b)(ii)		TIB noted that TIRExB did not have time to deal with this issue at its last session and that the secretariat was of the view that the issue could be separated in two. TIB agreed to revert to those issues at future sessions.
14	5(b)(ii)		TIB took note of the procedural details related to the use of the accompanying document in non-interconnected countries and decided to continue discussing the technical aspects of the procedure at its next session in order to, possibly, assess the changes required to version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications to enable the use of this procedure. It further requested Türkiye to underline the technical parts of the proposal which are relevant for TIB.
15	6		TIB took note that the date for the eighth session had to be changed and noted that it is now tentatively scheduled for 8 October 2024. Furthermore, TIB agreed with the dates tentatively scheduled for 2025, i.e., 12-14 March 2025 for the ninth session and 22-23 September 2025 for the tenth session.
16	7		TIB agreed with the list of tentative decisions to be circulated under the silence procedure.

⁵ Number and Name: R0XX

Description: Operations which customs have refused to start must not be counted when considering the number of operations covered by a Guarantee.