



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 November 2012

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 7 February 2013

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:

Proposals to modify the format, representation and election procedure of the TIR Executive Board

Proposal on an equitable geographical representation in the TIR Executive Board

Transmitted by the Government of Iran (Islamic Republic of)

I. Background

1. At its fifty-fifth session, the Committee considered Informal document No. 7 (2012) in which the Government of Iran (Islamic Republic of) proposed, in order to better reflect the global nature of the Convention, to increase the size of TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) from 9 to 15 members as well as to apply to the composition of the Board new criteria of geographical representation which would combine the principles of equitable geographical distribution among various regions and the degree of participation of countries in the TIR Convention. The Committee expressed its interest to further study the proposals by Iran (Islamic Republic of). To facilitate future considerations, in view of the availability of Informal document No. 7 (2012) in English only, the Committee requested the secretariat to re-issue it as an official document in all languages (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/111, paras. 25 and 26). In line with this request, the present document reproduces Informal document No. 7 (2012) for consideration by the Committee.

II. Proposal by the Government of Iran (Islamic Republic of)

2. The current composition of the TIRExB does not reflect the global coverage of the Convention. In fact this concern is not new and was one of the concerns of Contracting Parties since the initial elections of the Board. Looking back to the report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975 (AC.2) when the initial election of members of the TIRExB was conducted, shows that AC.2 has had

preliminary discussions on this issue and groupings have also been established for the initial elections.

3. One of the main established criteria for the elections was as follows: “The composition of the TIRExB should, to the extent possible, reflect the geographical coverage of the TIR and its impact on the Contracting Parties, being important countries of origin, transit or destination for TIR operations”. Needless to say that at that time, the coverage of TIR Convention was very limited, compared to today. Unfortunately, for any reason, this principle was neglected during the succeeding elections. Today after 14 years, the fact is that the composition of the Board needs to be reviewed based on the principle of geographical distribution as one of the established principles of the United Nations and as reflected in the report of AC2 in 1998. The importance of this principle is underlined if we note that the composition of the Board in recent years has been quite unbalanced and indicates that almost all members of the Board have been from one continent, while the other regions are unrepresented or underrepresented in this body.

4. The equitable geographical distribution is an established principle within the United Nations and all other international bodies and this body is not an exception. Therefore it is essential that this ignored principle be applied to the TIRExB in order to reflect the global coverage of the TIR convention. As proposed in February of 2012 meeting, the modalities and groupings of the TIRExB could be discussed and studied through an ad hoc group to be established by AC.2, however in order to facilitate the process of discussion and upon request of some delegations, the Islamic Republic of Iran prepared a proposal on the format of the TIRExB as follows:

(a) Number of members:

Since 1998 the number of countries that have acceded to the Convention has increased and the Convention now has a global coverage. Therefore it seems that the number of 9 members may not adequately cover the global nature of the Convention. The other issue is that participation of all 9 members of TIRExB is not guaranteed due to the unprecedented and extraordinary situations and sometimes the real participation decreases due to these situations. In this context it seems that the increase of the numbers of the members could be a suitable solution. Maybe increasing the number of members to a maximum of 15 could be a solution.

(b) Geographical representation:

In order to ensure the representation of all geographical regions, we need first to identify and recognize different groupings. In this context it is important to give each region a chance to be represented with the minimum of one member in the Board. The other members could be allocated to the regions based on their quantity and contribution to the Convention. To this end further to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, the groups like Asia-Pacific Group, African Group and Latin America and the Caribbean Group could be recognized and considered as TIR Conventions groupings. However for the elections of the TIRExB we need also to consider the other criteria. The main other criteria is the active participation of countries within TIR Convention. In this context the number of TIR Carnet issued for each Contracting Party could be a pragmatic way to find out which countries are the most active members of the Convention. Based on these two criteria, the 15 members of the TIRExB could be composed as following:

- 3 members from those contracting parties which have the maximum number of TIR carnet issued as of December of the previous year,
- Minimum of one member from each recognized above-mentioned groupings (total 4),

- 4 other members from the group with most Contracting Parties,
 - 3 other members from the next group with most Contracting Parties,
 - 1 other member from the next groups with most Contracting Parties.
5. This formulation could have the following benefits:
- all geographical regions would have representation in the Board,
 - the regions with more Contracting Parties would have more members in the Board,
 - the active members of the Convention with the most TIR Issued Carnet would have a separate quota in the Board,
 - and last but not the least there would be no need for undertaking any election and the groupings themselves would nominate their candidates based on their internal mechanism.
-