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Administrative Committee for the
TIR Convention, 1975

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
TIR CONVENTION, 1975 ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION
(25 and 26 October 2001)**

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Annex 1: Status of the TIR Convention, 1975

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REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The Administrative Committee held its thirty-first session at Geneva on 25 and 26 October 2001.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties: Albania; Algeria; Belarus; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Italy; Jordan; Kuwait; Latvia; Lebanon; Morocco; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; United Kingdom; Yugoslavia; European Community (EC).
3. The following international organization was represented as observer: International Road Transport Union (IRU).
4. The Administrative Committee noted that the required quorum according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention has been attained.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/62.

5. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UNECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/62).

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/15; ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.20; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59.

6. The Administrative Committee was informed that the Convention had currently 64 Contracting Parties, including the European Community. The Administrative Committee endorsed the list of Contracting Parties to the Convention as well as the list of countries with which TIR transit operations could be established as contained in Annex 1 to this report.

7. With regard to amendment proposals adopted by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-ninth session (20 October 2000), the situation is as follows:

8. On 12 February 2001, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has issued the following Depositary Notifications:

Depositary Notification C.N.36.2001.TREATIES-1

9. Amendment proposals adopted by the Administrative Committee comprising all amendment proposals prepared under Phase II of the TIR revision process (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 3). These amendments will come into force 3 months after the expiry of a period of 12 months following the date of issuance of the Depositary Notification during which no objection to the proposed amendments have been raised, i.e. on 12 May 2002. No objections have been lodged so far.

Depositary Notification C.N.37.2001.TREATIES-2

10. Amendment proposals adopted by the Administrative Committee relating to amendments on vehicles and containers with sliding sheets and to Article 3 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 4).

11. The amendments with regard to vehicles and containers with sliding sheets have come into force on 12 June 2001 as stipulated in Depositary Notification C.N.503.2001.TREATIES-4, dated 23 May 2001. Corrections to these amendments are contained in Depositary Notification C.N.688.2001.TREATIES-4, dated 24 July 2001 and are deemed accepted (Depositary Notification C.N.1106.2001.TREATIES-5). These corrected amendments will be contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.20 which will be issued by the UNECE secretariat in due course in English, French, Russian and Spanish. An explanatory note to the effected corrections prepared by the UNECE secretariat is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/15.

12. The amendment proposals with regard to Article 3 of the Convention will come into force 3 months after the expiry of a period of 12 months following the date of issuance of the Depositary Notification during which no objection to the proposed amendments have been raised, i.e. on 12 May 2002. No objections have been lodged so far.

13. Detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on the various Depositary Notifications are available on the UNECE TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm) under "News" and under "Legal Instruments - Depositary Notifications".

ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/6.

14. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall report on its activities at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

15. The UNECE secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIRExB at its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions held in January, February and May/June 2001 respectively for information of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/6).

16. In addition, the Chairman of the TIRExB reported on the outcome of the eleventh session of the TIRExB that was held in Geneva on 18, 19 and 22 October 2001.

17. The Administrative Committee took note of the reports of the TIRExB at its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions.

(ii) Example Agreements

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/7.

18. The Administrative Committee noted that the TIRExB, at its tenth session, has finalized work on example agreements covering (a) the authorization of national associations, granted unilaterally by competent authorities and (b) the written agreement or any other legal instrument, as referred to in Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1 (e) of the Convention, between the national association and the competent authorities (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/7).

19. The objective of these example agreements is to provide guidance on the legal acts to be prepared and concluded between national guaranteeing associations and national Customs authorities, particularly for those countries that plan to or have only recently acceded to the Convention and to harmonize the application of the Convention at the national level. The example agreements address the rights and obligations of the competent authorities and of the national associations as provided for in Article 6 and Annex 9 of the Convention.

20. The Administrative Committee endorsed in principle the work undertaken by the TIRExB in this respect in line with its mandate and requested it to continue the work of enhancing the texts of the example agreement and authorization and also by preparing procedures on best practice for effective communications between Customs authorities and national guaranteeing associations.

(iii) Introduction of new TIR Carnet forms

21. The TIRExB, at its tenth session, had been informed that, due to the replacement of the paper manufacturer for TIR Carnets in September 2001, the IRU would need to modify one of the security elements in the TIR Carnet forms. On that occasion, the IRU also wished to introduce a slightly modified layout of the TIR Carnet containing also additional protective features to impede falsification of TIR Carnets. In line with Annex 8, Article 10, paragraph (a) of the Convention and the Terms of Reference of the TIRExB, the Board approved a revised layout of a new TIR Carnet form which does not affect the legal provisions of the Convention.

22. The Administrative Committee endorsed the decisions of the TIRExB in this respect and noted that the new layout of the TIR Carnet would be introduced together with the new security elements as of December 2001. The old TIR Carnets would still be available and valid until the depletion of stocks, which may last until 2003. The Administrative Committee noted that the IRU is furnishing the Customs authorities of all Contracting Parties utilizing the TIR procedure with sample (specimen) TIR Carnets well in advance of the introduction of the new layout. The TIR secretariat has already distributed to all TIR Focal Points detailed descriptions of the present and new layouts of the TIR Carnet, including protective elements. Relevant information in this respect is also available on the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

(iv) Identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder and access to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13.

23. The Administrative Committee recalled that the TIRExB had been instructed to establish and maintain an international data bank on authorized TIR Carnet holders, accessible to all Contracting Parties. The International TIR Data Bank (ITDB), operated by the TIR secretariat, contains, at present, information on more than 32,000 persons authorized to utilize the TIR system. Following the adoption on 20 October 2000 of the Recommendation by the Administrative Committee on the introduction of an identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder in the TIR Carnet and its general application as of 1 April 2001, the TIRExB, at its tenth session, decided to provide off-line access to the information contained in the ITDB.

24. As a first step, access to the ITDB is limited to authorized TIR Customs focal points only, i.e. to Customs officials who are registered by the TIR secretariat and who are responsible for contacts between Customs authorities, the TIR secretariat, national associations and the IRU on the application of the TIR procedure. Customs focal points may obtain so-called "contact information" of authorized TIR Carnet holders (ID number of the TIR Carnet holder, name of person(s)/enterprise, business address, name and telephone, fax number and/or e-mail address of contact point of the person(s)/enterprise). The objective of the data provided is to facilitate inquiry procedures by Customs authorities. At a later stage, wider access, possibly on-line, to the ITDB will be considered.

25. The Administrative Committee considered and approved the approach taken so far by the TIRExB to provide access to the ITDB, as a first step for inquiry procedures only. The Administrative Committee also endorsed in principle the approach and technical solutions proposed by the TIRExB as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13 on administrative procedures and on a cautious step-by-step use of the ITDB by authorized Customs authorities only. It also agreed, in principle, that information on the exclusion of TIR Carnet holders, in accordance with Article 38 of the Convention, should not be provided for the time being.

26. The Administrative Committee requested the TIRExB and the TIR Secretary to keep it regularly informed of all measures taken in providing access to the ITDB.

(v) **Approved Customs offices for TIR operations**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/12.

27. The Administrative Committee noted that the TIRExB has studied ways and means to establish and maintain an international data bank of approved Customs offices for accomplishing TIR operations available on-line for all interested parties. While the publication of authorized Customs offices is an obligation for all Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 45 of the Convention, it is often difficult for the transport industry to obtain such information, particularly from outside the country concerned.

28. The Administrative Committee agreed with the TIRExB that, as proposed in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/12, the TIR secretariat should establish, as a first step, a web site as part of the already existing UNECE TIR web site, providing links to Customs sites containing relevant information on Customs offices approved for TIR operations in the Contracting Parties to the Convention. At a later stage, additional information available at the TIR secretariat could be added on the basis of standard data elements.

(vi) **National and regional TIR Workshops and Seminars**

29. The Administrative Committee was informed that the TIR secretariat, in cooperation with the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan, has organized a national TIR training workshop on 24 to 26 April 2001 in Tashkent. In cooperation with the Federal Customs Administration of Yugoslavia, the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat have also organized a national TIR training workshop for senior Customs officials at Belgrade on 25 and 26 July 2001 with the objective of providing for a re-introduction of the TIR system in Yugoslavia before the end of 2001.

30. Following the successful conclusion of the Regional Seminar in Amman (Jordan) in November 2000 for countries of the Middle East and in line with the views expressed by the Administrative Committee at its thirtieth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, paras. 20 and 21), the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat have also organized a second Regional Seminar for the countries of Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and the Black Sea region in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 2 and 3 October 2001.

(vii) Information provided by the TIR Secretary

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/8.

31. Following the considerations of the Administrative Committee, at its thirtieth session, on the activities of the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, para. 16) and as requested by the TIRExB at its tenth session, the Administrative Committee took note of a detailed report by the TIR Secretary on his activities during the past months (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/8).

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval of the final accounts for the year 2000

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/9; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61.

32. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its spring session, it had been informed that the final accounts of the TIRExB for the year 2000 had not yet been established by the competent Finance Services of the United Nations. It had therefore decided, as in the past, to formally approve the final accounts for the year 2000 at its October 2001 session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, para. 24).

33. The Administrative Committee formally approved the final accounts of the TIRExB for the year 2000 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/9.

(ii) Budget of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2001

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/10; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2002/2;
TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55.

34. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee. Furthermore, the agreement concluded between the IRU and the UNECE for the year 2001 on the transfer of funds to the TIR Trust Fund, established by the UNECE in accordance with the decision of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, para. 31), provides for the submission of an annual report to the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2).

35. Since the budget year will only be completed on 31 December 2001, financial statements showing the funds received (income) and expended for the TIRExB in 2001, in line with the internal and external auditing procedures of the United Nations, are not yet available. The Administrative Committee therefore welcomed the information provided by the TIR Secretary in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/10 providing an overview of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 31 July 2001.

36. The Administrative Committee noted that the complete and final accounts for 2001 are planned to be submitted for approval by the Administrative Committee at its spring session in February 2002.

(iii) Budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2002

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11 and Corr.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/11 and Corr.1.

37. The Administrative Committee took note of the budget proposal and cost plan providing for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in the year 2002 which had been prepared by the TIRExB at its eleventh session (Geneva, 18,19 and 22 October 2001) in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11 and Corr.1).

38. The Administrative Committee noted that the budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2002 differed from the approved budget and cost plan of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2001 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/11 and Corr.1) inasmuch it is proposed to recruit, for the year 2002, in addition to the present members of the TIR secretariat, an information technology specialist/programmer. His/her main duties will be to devise, install and maintain, together with the EDI specialists of the UNECE, on-line access to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and to install and maintain a local area network to streamline further the work of the TIR secretariat.

39. The amount of the resulting levy on each TIR Carnet and the procedure for its collection will be contained in an annex to the agreement to be concluded between the UNECE and the IRU which will be submitted to the Administrative Committee for endorsement at its session in spring 2002.

40. The Administrative Committee approved the budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2002 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11 and Corr.1.

(iv) **Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2004**

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57.

41. The Administrative Committee reiterated its decision, taken at its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions, to continue the initial funding arrangements for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention and to make efforts to have the costs for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat included into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of the next United Nations budget cycle (2004 and 2005).

42. In line with a proposal made by the TIR Secretary, the Administrative Committee requested the UNECE secretariat to inform all relevant bodies within the UNECE of this request of the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and to take all necessary administrative steps in this regard already as of 2002. The TIR Secretary would transmit in due course pertinent information on the measures to be taken in this respect to all Contracting Parties and to the IRU.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS IN THE YEAR 2002

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53.

43. The Administrative Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention, the TIRExB shall 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 of the Convention. Taking account of the agreed procedures and conditions in this respect (TRANSWP.30/AC.2/53, para. 20), the Administrative Committee, at its spring session in 2000, had authorized the IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for a period of five years as of the year 2001 and to finance, as long as its expenses are not covered by the Regular Budget of the United Nations, the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 29).

44. In a communication received from the Secretary-General of the IRU dated 22 March 2000, the IRU has declared its acceptance of the authorization by the Administrative Committee to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for a period of five years (2001-2005).

45. The Administrative Committee confirmed that, as long as the conditions set by the Administrative Committee were fulfilled, the IRU would be authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2002.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNECE AND THE IRU

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11 and Corr.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49.

46. In line with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session on the procedure for the collection of a levy on TIR Carnets for the financing of the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, para. 31 (ii)), the Administrative Committee authorized the UNECE secretariat to negotiate and arrange with the IRU the required arrangements for the transfer of funds: (a) in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention; (b) on the basis of the approved budget for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2002 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11 and Corr.1) and (c) in line with the requirements for authorization of an international organization to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 29).

47. The Administrative Committee noted that the amendment to the relevant UNECE/IRU Agreement would be transmitted to the forthcoming session of the Administrative Committee in spring 2002 for endorsement.

REVISION OF THE CONVENTION

(a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5.

48. The Administrative Committee considered the application of the provisions that have come into force through Phase I of the TIR revision process on 17 February 1999 (ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1).

49. In this context, the Administrative Committee reiterated that Contracting Parties are expected to fully comply with the provisions of the revised Convention, also with regard to the transmission to the TIRExB, within the stipulated time frames, of the following information (refer also to document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5):

- (a) A certified copy of the written agreement or any other legal instrument between the competent authorities (Customs) and the national association as well as any modifications thereto;
- (b) A certified copy of the insurance or financial guarantee contract as well as any modifications thereto;

- (c) A copy of the (annually to be renewed) insurance certificate;
- (d) The particulars of each person authorized to use TIR Carnets or whose authorization has been withdrawn (within one week);
- (e) A complete list of all persons authorized to use TIR Carnets, as per 31 December each year.

50. The Administrative Committee also stressed once more that it was very important, in line with Article 38, paragraph 2 and Article 42 bis of the Convention, to inform the TIRExB immediately of any exclusions of TIR Carnet holders from the operation of the Convention and of any national control measures planned to be taken by competent national authorities.

51. In this context, the Administrative Committee was informed that in July 2001 the TIR secretariat has transmitted to all Contracting Parties in which TIR transport operations can be established, a detailed questionnaire on the national application of the control system for TIR Carnets (IRU SAFETIR). The TIR secretariat has also established, together with the IRU, a Task Force with a view to further improving the functioning of the electronic SAFETIR system operated by the IRU on the basis of Article 42 bis of the Convention.

52. The Working Party welcomed the offer by the IRU to inform annually the TIR Secretary about the guaranteeing associations that had obtained insurance coverage through the international guaranteeing chain.

(b) Amendment proposals under Phase II of the TIR revision process

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59 and Corrs.1-4.

53. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its twenty-ninth session, it had adopted the complete package of amendment proposals which had been prepared by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) under Phase II of the TIR revision process. These amendment proposals are contained in Annex 3 to the report on its twenty-ninth session together with comments thereto contained in Annex 5 to this report (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 46 and Corrs.1-4).

54. The Administrative Committee was informed in detail about the legal status of the amendment proposals (see also paras 8-13 above).

(c) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/2001/19; TRANS/WP.30/2001/13; TRANS/WP.30/198; TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61.

55. The Administrative Committee recalled that, at its thirtieth session, it had agreed that the activities undertaken under Phase III of the TIR revision process should be separated into short-term priorities, such as revision of the TIR Carnet (increase in the number of loading and unloading places, etc.) and into long-term priorities (use of new technologies, etc.) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, paras. 42 and 43).

56. The Administrative Committee was informed by the Chairman of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) on progress made on these issues (TRANS/WP.30/198, paras. 48-68; TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 34-49) and in its ad hoc group of experts on the computerization of the TIR procedure (TRANS/WP.30/2001/13).

57. The Administrative Committee took note of this information and was informed that a session of the ad hoc group of experts on the computerization of the TIR procedure was planned to be convened in January 2002.

58. The Administrative Committee requested the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) to consider the possibilities of increasing the maximum number of Customs offices of departure and destination to more than the present four, taking account of the proposals made by the UNECE secretariat contained in document TRANS/WP.30/2001/19.

OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

(a) Draft amendment to Article 26

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/14.

59. On the basis of a document prepared by the UNECE secretariat, the Administrative Committee considered a proposed amendment to Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Convention providing clarification on the procedures to be applied in countries following suspension of a TIR procedure in another country. It also considered a comment on the application of this article for Contracting Parties in which no approved guaranteeing associations exist (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/14).

60. The Administrative Committee adopted the proposed amendment to Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Convention as well as the comment to Article 26 as contained in Annex 2 to this report. The Administrative Committee noted that the amendment procedure in accordance with Article 59 of the Convention would apply.

61. Since the representative of Hungary confirmed that his country would apply the meaning of the adopted amendment proposal, the Administrative Committee agreed that the amendment proposal would not need to be transmitted immediately to the Legal Office of the United Nations in New York for depositary action, but could await the adoption of further amendment proposals at future sessions of the Administrative Committee.

(b) Other amendment proposals

62. The Administrative Committee noted that no other proposals for amendments to the Convention have been submitted.

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

Comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.30/196; TRANS/WP.30/194.

63. The Administrative Committee endorsed the comments to provisions of the Convention which have been prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) at its ninety-seventh and ninety-eighth sessions as contained in Annex 3 to this report. These comments relate to Article 23 of the Convention on the use of escorts (TRANS/WP.30/194, paras. 62-64) and to Articles 5 and 46 of the Convention on the possibilities of examinations at Customs offices en route at the request of transport operators (TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 66 and 67).

TIR HANDBOOK

Documentation: UNECE Publication.

64. The Administrative Committee noted that the 1999 TIR Handbook has been updated to take account of new developments, recently adopted comments, modified recommendations, etc. The TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) and the Administrative Committee. It is available in a hard cover version in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Further language versions are available on the TIR web site. A limited number of hard cover copies are available free of charge from the UNECE or TIR secretariats.

65. A completely renewed TIR Handbook will be issued by the UNECE and TIR secretariats following the entry into force of the provisions under Phase II of the TIR revision process in the first half of 2002.

TIR WEB SITE (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)

66. The Administrative Committee was informed that the lay-out and content of the UNECE TIR web site has been modified to improve its user friendliness. In addition to the numerous language versions of the TIR Handbook, the UNECE TIR web site provides up-to-date information on the administration and application of the TIR Convention. It contains the latest information on legal interpretations of the TIR Convention, on Depositary Notifications and on national and international control measures introduced by Customs authorities, the TIR Administrative Committee and the TIRExB. Furthermore, the TIR web site provides detailed information on all TIR Focal Points who may be contacted regarding questions on the application of the Convention at the national level.

67. The TIR web site also contains all documents and reports issued in connection with the sessions of the Administrative Committee and the UNECE Working Party (WP.30). These documents may be viewed and downloaded (PDF format) in English, French and Russian.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

68. The Administrative Committee decided to hold its next session on 14 and 15 February 2002, in conjunction with the one-hundredth session of the UNECE Working Party (WP.30).

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

69. The Administrative Committee decided that there should be no restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session, with the exception of the international register on Customs sealing devices.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

70. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirty-first session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Annex 1

STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

<u>Contracting Parties</u>	<u>Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established ^{*/}</u>
Afghanistan	-
Albania	Albania
Algeria	-
Armenia	Armenia
Austria	Austria
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Belarus	Belarus
Belgium	Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-
Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Canada	-
Chile	-
Croatia	Croatia
Cyprus	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Denmark	Denmark
Estonia	Estonia
Finland	Finland
France	France
Georgia	Georgia
Germany	Germany
Greece	Greece
Hungary	Hungary
Indonesia	-
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland	Ireland
Israel	Israel
Italy	Italy
Jordan	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Kuwait	Kuwait

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.

Contracting Parties

(cont'd)

Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Yugoslavia

European Community

Countries with which a TIR transit

operation can be established (cont'd) ^{*/}

Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Luxembourg
-
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
-
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
-
The former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Kingdom
-
-
Uzbekistan
Yugoslavia (scheduled for 1 December 2001)

^{*/} Based on information provided by the IRU.

Annex 2

AMENDMENT PROPOSALS TO THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

Adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 26 October 2001

Article 26, paragraph 1

Add a new sentence at the end of the paragraph to read as follows:

"Where the Customs seals have not remained intact, the Customs authorities may accept the TIR Carnet for resumption of the TIR transport under the provisions of Article 25."

* * *

Note by the UNECE secretariat:

The Administrative Committee has also adopted a comment to this new sentence to Article 26, paragraph 1 which is contained in Annex 3 to this report.

Annex 3

**COMMENTS
FOR INCLUSION INTO THE TIR HANDBOOK**

Adopted by the TIR Administrative Committee on 26 October 2001

Add a new comment to Article 5, paragraph 2 to read as follows:

“Examinations at Customs offices en route or spot checks at the request of transport operators

The exceptional cases, mentioned in Article 5, paragraph 2, include those where Customs authorities carry out examinations either at Customs offices en route or in the course of the journey on particular request from transport operators, who have suspicion that any irregularity has occurred in the course of the TIR transport. In such a situation Customs authorities should not refuse to carry out the examination unless they deem the request not to be justified.

In cases where the Customs authorities carry out an examination on request by the transport operator, the charges involved will be borne by the latter, in accordance with the provisions of Article 46, paragraph 1 and its comment, together with all other costs that may arise as a consequence of the examination.”

{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, annex 3; TRANS/WP.30/196,annex 3}

Comment to Article 23: Escort of road vehicles

At the end of the comment, add the following sentence:

“...In such cases and in particular if no other written proof is provided to the carrier, Customs authorities are recommended, at the request of the carrier, to insert into counterfoil No. 1 of the TIR Carnet under item 5 "Miscellaneous" the word "Escort", followed by a short indication of the reasons which had led to the requirement for such escorts.”

{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, annex 3; TRANS/WP.30/194, para. 63}

Add a new comment to Article 26 to read as follows:

"Suspension of a TIR transport in a Contracting Party where no approved guaranteeing associations exists

Article 26 also applies to Contracting Parties where no approved guaranteeing associations exist and where, thus, the provisions of the Convention are not applicable, in accordance with Article 3, paragraph (b). A list of such Contracting Parties is established by the TIR Administrative Committee and TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) on the basis of documentation deposited with the TIRExB by Contracting Parties pursuant to the provisions of Annex 9, Part I to the Convention."

{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, paragraph 60 and annex 3}

Add a new comment to Article 46, paragraph 1 to read as follows:

"Charges for Customs checks on request from the transport operator.

Any charges related to Customs attendance on request from the transport operator, as laid down in the comment to Article 5 of the TIR Convention, shall be borne by him."

{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, annex 3; TRANS/WP.30/196, annex 3}
