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Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board:

Activities of the TIR Executive Board

Programme of work of the TIR Executive Board for 2015–2016

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Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. With a view to improving transparency among the TIR bodies, at the beginning of each two-year period of its mandate the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) develops a prioritised 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. The programme below is not exhaustive. TIRExB is sufficiently flexible to enable itself to consider any unforeseen issue that might arise. Furthermore, it does not include some ongoing activities as part of the mandate of TIRExB carried out by the TIR secretariat, which do not require the direct involvement of the Board (e.g. maintenance of the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB), etc.).

II. Overall aims

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) with the aim to strengthen good governance by Contracting Parties.

III. Activities

1. Support the adaptation of the TIR procedure to modern business, logistics and transport requirements, including intermodal transport *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Prepare guidelines for the TIR Administrative Committee on how to promote the intermodal use of the TIR Carnet, in collaboration with the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24).
- Support discussions in the TIR Administrative Committee on the introduction of the concepts of authorized consignors and consignees in the TIR Convention and continue developing examples of best practice.
- Continue studying further mechanisms to modernize and strengthen the TIR system (taking into account the needs of the business sector).

2. To facilitate the computerization of the TIR procedure *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Facilitate the computerization of the TIR procedure, in close collaboration with the Ad hoc Expert Group on Technical and Conceptual Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1), the Group of Experts on Legal Aspects of the Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.3), the International Road Transport Union and countries involved in various pilot projects.
- Offer its good offices to achieve consensus among all stakeholders on the finalization of the eTIR Reference Model and the conduct of pilot projects.
- Contribute to the preparation of the legal framework for the computerization of the TIR procedure.
- Promote the computerization of the TIR procedure as part of the Board's training and capacity building activities, including the promotion of the use of EDI standards.
- Supervise and promote the ITDB and the ITDBonline+ web application as building blocks of the future eTIR system.
- Expand the scope of the ITDB to include, inter alia, data on Customs offices approved for TIR operations and certificates of approval of vehicles and containers.
- Review the functionalities of the ITDB.

3. To supervise the functioning of the TIR international guarantee system *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Monitor the settlement of Customs claims, on the basis of information provided by national Customs authorities and the IRU.
- Conduct a survey on Customs claims and the TIR guarantee level covering the years 2011–2014.

- 4. 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** *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Organize and substantially contribute to regional and national workshops and seminars on the application of the TIR Convention, where possible with particular focus on topical as well as technical issues.
- Update and distribute the TIR Handbook in the six official UN languages.
- Prepare and distribute, also via Internet, training material on the application of the TIR Convention.

- 5. To promote the geographical expansion of the TIR system** *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Promote the TIR Convention at regional and national workshops, seminars and conferences on transit, trade and transport facilitation or related issues, in particular, in regions where countries have expressed an interest to accede to the TIR Convention in the near future (such as, but not limited to, Argentina, China, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates).
- Provide technical assistance and advice to interested parties.

- 6. To supervise the centralized printing and distribution of the TIR Carnets, including the monitoring of the price of TIR Carnets** *Priority: 2*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Monitor the annual numbers of TIR Carnets distributed to various Contracting Parties, broken down by type (i.e. 4-, 6-, 14- or 20-voucher TIR Carnets).
- Monitor the price of TIR Carnets at international level (i.e., ex-IRU price) on the basis of information to be reported by IRU annually or when modified.
- Analyse the data on prices of TIR Carnets at the national level, as provided by national associations in line with to Annex 9 Part I, paragraph 3 (vi), and publish them on the TIR website.

- 7. To facilitate the settlement of disputes between Contracting Parties, associations, insurance companies and international organizations without prejudice to Article 57** *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Analyse and monitor disputes referred to the Board and make recommendations (if necessary) to facilitate their settlement.

- 8. To study specific measures (both legal and practical) to combat fraud resulting from the misuse of the TIR procedure** *Priority: 1*

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Identify possible weaknesses in the legal basis of the TIR Convention which could make it prone to fraud and recommend appropriate solutions.

- 9. To facilitate the exchange of information between competent authorities of Contracting Parties, national guaranteeing associations, IRU and other Governmental and non-governmental organizations. To coordinate and foster the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of Contracting Parties**

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Elaborate adequate instruments and find measures to improve international cooperation among Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and their national associations, and the international organization in order to prevent and combat fraud.
- Taking into account the views of other international governmental and non-governmental bodies, and in consultation with the IRU, identify fraud prevention measures, including risk analysis tools.
- On the basis of information provided by the TIR international guarantee chain, study the situation with regard to the new trends of fraud, the notifications of non-discharge and TIR infringements as a contribution to an "early-warning system" for identification and prevention of fraud.

- 10. To supervise the national/regional Customs control measures introduced in the framework of the TIR Convention**

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Identify national/regional Customs control measures introduced in Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention and check their conformity with the provisions of the TIR Convention.
- Address the respective national authorities in order to modify or abolish measures which are in contradiction to the TIR Convention for the sake of ensuring proper application of the TIR Convention in all Contracting Parties.

- 11. To monitor the application of the EDI control system for TIR Carnets**

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Continue activities, in cooperation with IRU, towards the full implementation of an international EDI control system for TIR Carnets, as foreseen by Annex 10 to the TIR Convention.
- Monitor performance and give feedback to Contracting Parties.
- Study, with the support of IRU, how the EDI control system for TIR Carnets is being used by the national issuing associations and Customs authorities for the purposes of fraud prevention.

- 12. To maintain the central record for dissemination to Contracting Parties of information 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**

Priority: 2

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Input to be provided by IRU in case of changes.

13. To provide support on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2015–2016:

- Consider, at the request of the TIR Administrative Committee, options to introduce more flexibility in the use of guarantees in the TIR Convention and in particular, at the request of the TIR Administrative Committee, on proposals to amend Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 3 (ii) and the impact thereof on other provisions of the TIR Convention.
- When required, draft recommendations and/or examples of best practice on the application of specific provisions of the TIR Convention.

14. Self-evaluation

Priority: 1

Output expected in 2016

- Prepare a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the Board's achievements during its 2015–2016 term of office in relation with its program of work and mandate for endorsement by the TIR Administrative Committee.
