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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and
Technical aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

Ninth session

Bratislava (Slovakia), 7-8 March 2006,
agenda item 2

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES
OF THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-TWELFTH SESSION OF THE WP.30**

Note by the secretariat

A. BACKGROUND

In order to facilitate the discussion by the Expert Group, the secretariat reproduces in Annex excerpts of the draft report of the one-hundred-and-twelfth session of the WP.30, dealing with the use of new technologies.

Annex

- Use of new technologies

The Working Party noted that the Russian language version of document TRANS/WP.30/2005/32-TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2005/18, prepared by the secretariat, containing the Reference Model for the eTIR project, had only been made available just before the beginning of the present session. It, therefore, decided to postpone the consideration of the document until its one-hundred-and-thirteenth session.

The Working Party endorsed the report of the eighth session of the Ad hoc Expert Group contained in document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/5. The Working Party took note of considerations by the Chairperson of the Expert Group that its work seemed, from time to time, to be overshadowed by discussions of a fundamental nature on the formulation of the mandates given by the Working Party over the years. The Working Party considered that the mandates given so far to the Group are clear, not needing further clarification, and instructed the Expert Group to focus its future work only on activities within its competence. The Working Party reminded the Expert Group that such discussions of a fundamental nature should only be held by the Working Party. In order to assess and, if required, review the mandates issued so far, as well as their application of the eTIR-project, the Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a document for discussion at its forthcoming session.

The Working Party, based on a presentation by the secretariat, considered document TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2005/2/Rev.1, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the European Commission, containing a description of the main principles of the future eTIR system. The Working Party also considered Informal documents No. 2 and 3 (2006), prepared by the IRU, containing comments to the above-mentioned document as well as proposals for the computerization of the TIR system through public/private partnership based on the synergies at national and international levels between the existing systems used in the private and public sectors. The Working Party considered that the proposals seemed to include many of the same elements, but also included distinctive differences. Some delegations were of the view that the developments of the eTIR system should be continued in line with its decision taken at the one-hundred-and-eleventh session (TRANS/WP.30/222, para. 35). The Russian delegation felt that various components of the TIR computerization could be developed in parallel, in view of different timeframes for their implementation as well as different goals and data contents, with their subsequent integration into one system.

The Working Party, after an in-depth discussion, decided that any issues of a political, strategical or financial nature needed to be addressed to or referred back to the Working Party. Furthermore, it requested the Expert Group to continue its discussion on the future technical

developments on the basis of the secretariat's proposal, requesting, at the same time, the IRU to provide the Expert Group with more technical details of its proposal, thus enabling it to make progress in its technical analysis of the eTIR system and undertake a technical evaluation of the IRU proposal and on that basis to report back to the Working Party at its forthcoming session (ECE/TRANS/224/draft).
