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Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON CONCEPTUAL AND
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTERIZATION OF THE TIR PROCEDURE ON
ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION**
(26-27 November 2007)

CONTENTS

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CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

I.   ATTENDANCE

1.   The Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (further referred to as "the Expert Group") held its thirteenth session on 26-27 November 2007 in Geneva.

2.   The session was attended by experts from the governments of Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, Serbia, Turkey as well as from the European Community (EC). Experts from the International Road Transport Union (IRU) were also present but were not in a position to actively participate in the session. The IRU informed the Expert Group that they would submit proposals directly to Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) at its spring session.

3.   In view of the absence of Russian or French speaking delegates, interpretation services were not required.

II.   ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/12

4.   The Expert Group adopted the provisional agenda, prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/12). Considering that its work had entered a more technical phase, the Expert Group decided to revert to its previous practice to attach a list of issues and decisions to its agendas and reports in order to keep track of the discussions on draft Chapter 3 (including possible repercussions of any changes to Chapters 1 and 2) as well as their justification.

III.   ACTIVITIES OF THE EXPERT GROUP (Agenda item 2)

A.   Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

1.   Chapters 1 and 2

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/14 (version 2.0a)

5.   The Expert Group took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/14, containing the latest version of the eTIR Reference model (version 2.0a), now also including Chapter 2 as adopted by the WP.30 at its one-hundred-and-seventeenth session.

2.   Pending issues

6.   The Expert Group held a first round of discussions on the financial implications of the national implementation of eTIR and stressed the importance of collecting estimations of the national cost based on the description of the eTIR system in Chapter 2. It mandated the secretariat to prepare a draft questionnaire for Customs administrations for discussion at its

forthcoming session. The Expert Group proposed using the national deliverables, listed in Chapter 2.1.3.1. of the eTIR Reference Model as skeleton for the questionnaire and to introduce it by means of a short high-level project description.

3. Chapter 3 – Analysis

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/13

7. The Expert Group welcomed draft Chapter 3 of the Reference Model as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/13. It noted that quite some work remained to be done before this phase of the work could be finalized. In particular, the Expert Group referred to activities such as reviewing the draft sequence diagrams, devising the list of internal and external electronic message (interfacing with the eTIR international system), defining the content and structure of those messages, reviewing the class diagrams and devising the sequence diagrams for the fallback scenarios.

8. The Expert Group set out its work by carefully comparing the draft sequence diagrams with the adopted activity diagrams, while, at the same time, devising the list of internal and external messages. In continuation, the Expert Group verified and ascertained that all the data elements, identified in Chapter 2, were included in the detailed class diagrams of Chapter 3. All issues identified in the course of this process, together with any related decisions, are presented in Annex 1 and Annex 2 to this report, respectively.

9. The Expert Group mandated the secretariat to align draft Chapter 3 with its findings, to propose data elements and a structure for the identified electronic messages and to draft the fallback scenarios sequence diagram, for consideration at its next meeting. The Expert Group also requested to propose a revision of Chapter 2 in line with the comments provided in the course of the meeting. It decided to dedicate the main part of its forthcoming meeting to the revision of the fallback scenarios and the insertion of security data elements, taking into account the WCO Framework of standards and the requirements contained in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1875/2006.

10. Finally, the Expert Group decided not to use collaboration and statechart diagrams at this phase of the work.

B. WCO transit data model

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/15

11. The Expert Group welcomed document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/GE.1/2007/15, presenting the list of Data Maintenance Requests (DMR), submitted by the TIR secretariat and the IRU to the WCO, with the aim to achieve that the requirements of the current TIR procedure are included in the WCO transit data models. It also took note of the outcome of the latest Data Model Project Team (DMPT) meeting, which took place in Brussels on 5-16 November 2007. It encouraged the secretariat to continue to actively participate in the DMPT meetings.

IV.   OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 3)

12.   No other issues were discussed.

V.   DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda item 4)

13.   The Expert Group was not in a position to agree on a date for its next session. Therefore, it requested the secretariat to seek tentative date(s), possibly in the course of April 2008 and transmit them to the Group at the first opportunity. Considering the increasingly technical nature of the discussions and the absence of French and Russian speaking delegations at the current session, the Expert Group doubted the need to have full interpretation available at its future sessions, in particular when such session would not be organized in conjunction with meetings of the Working Party. Therefore, it requested the secretariat to raise this issue at the forthcoming meeting of the Working Party.

Annex 1 – Open and discussed issues

Issue No	Subject	Description	Date	Source	Related decision(s)	Solved
66	Intro to Chapter 2	Is it necessary to have digital signatures as data elements?	7-8 Mar. 06	ExG (Bratislava)	115	
68	Intro to Chapter 2	An efficient and cost-effective procedure for the submission of the declaration is necessary	7-8 Mar. 06	ExG (Bratislava)	112, 113	
70	3.1.1.1.	The eTIR administrator is not an actor.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	120	✓
71	3.1.1.1.	The message from the AC.2 to the Guarantee Chain present in the activity diagram is missing from the sequence diagram.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	121	✓
72	3.1.1.2.	The guarantee chain should not be in a position to register a guarantee for an unauthorized holder.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	122	✓
73	2.3.1.6	"The term ""operator"" is used."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	123	✓
74	3.	The serialization and deserialization is an intrinsic part of the web services functioning and is therefore not required in the sequence diagrams.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	124	✓
75	3.	A distinction should be made between technical and functional error messages. The technical error messages are dealt with at the level of the web services where the xml message structure is checked.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	125	✓
76	3.	"The method ""isunique"" of the class ""guarantee"" is misleading."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	126	✓
77	3.	"The method and status ""ProposedCancellation"" should be renamed ""RequestedCancellation"" to reflect the procedure described in Chapter 2."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	127	✓

Issue No	Subject	Description	Date	Source	Related decision(s)	Solved
78	3.1.1.4.	Before accepting a Guarantee, the eTIR system should make sure that it exists and that the holder is authorized.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	128	✓
79	3.	"The ""calls"" to the eTIR DB object should be replaced by ""runs"" (stored procedures)."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	129	✓
80	3.1.1.4.	"The message from the Customs authorities should be labeled ""accept guarantee""."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	130	✓
81	2.3.1.10.	"The ""Request guarantee use"" action should be replaced by ""accept guarantee""."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	155	✓
82	3.1.1.5	"Is the ""Get holder information"" web service required?"	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	-	
83	3.1.1.6.	The actor is missing.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	131	✓
84	3.1.2.1.	In the activity diagram, the Customs authorities return an accompanying document to the holder. This is missing from the sequence diagram.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	132	✓
85	3.1.2.1.	The declaration should not be recorded if the holder is excluded in one of the countries of routing.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	133	✓
86	3.1.2.1.	The Consignment class methods should be called by the Declaration class and the ConsignmentItem methods by the Consignment class.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	134	✓
87	3.1.2.1.	When multiple dependent operations are performed in the database, we need to ensure that all succeed.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	135	✓
88	3.1.2.2.	All remarks related to 3.1.2.1 apply.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	136	✓
89	3.1.2.3	Ensure that the holder is not excluded at the start of the operation.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	137	✓

Issue No	Subject	Description	Date	Source	Related decision(s)	Solved
90	3.1.2.5.	"The ""NotifyGuaranteeChain"" should be invoked after the operation has been discharged."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	138	✓
91	3.1.2.6.	The alarm is not a functional message.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	139	✓
92	3.1.2.6.	Add the guarantee chain as actor.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	140	✓
93	3.1.2.6.	The confirmation should be stored in the eTIR DB.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	141	✓
94	3.1.2.7.	Same issues than for 3.1.2.5.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	142	✓
95	3.1.3.1	External message are the messages exchanged between the private sector and the Customs environment.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	143	✓
96	3.1.3.2	Internal message are the messages exchanged within the Customs environment.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	144	✓
97	2.3.2.9.	In order to inform the guarantee chain of the proper guarantee status, the change of status should be the first action in the activity diagram.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	150	✓
98	2.3.2.11	In order to inform the guarantee chain of the proper guarantee status, the change of status should be the first action in the activity diagram.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	151	✓
99	3.1.2.5.	The notification of the guarantee chain should happen at the end of the sequence diagram.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	145	✓
100	3.1.2.6.	Remove the eTIR administrator from the sequence diagram and the related messages (not a functional messages).	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	146	✓
101	3.1.2.6.	Store the confirmation in the database.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	147	✓

Issue No	Subject	Description	Date	Source	Related decision(s)	Solved
102	3.1.2.6.	Add the guarantee chain as actor.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	148	✓
103	2.1.2.3.2 i) ii) iii)	"Replace ""Customs office/officer"" by ""Custom office""."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	152	✓
104	2.1.2.4.2. iv)	"Replace ""vehicle"" by ""mean of transport""."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	153	✓
105	2.1.2.4.2. v)	"Replace ""accompanying"" by ""attached""."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	154	✓
106	3.	Include security data element.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	149	0

Annex 2 – Decisions

Decision No.	Issue No.	Description	Date	Source	Version[1]
120	70	The eTIR administrator has to be removed and the actor interacting with the eTIR international system should be the AC.2.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
121	71	Add a message from AC.2 to the Guarantee Chain regarding the secure access to the eTIR international system for the registration of guarantees.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
122	72	Test the holder status before allowing the registration of the guarantee.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
123	73	"Replace by ""holder"""	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	
124	74	Remove the serialization and deserialization calls.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
125	75	Remove error messages and consider that the response messages can provide negative responses.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
126	76	"Rename it in ""Exists"""	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
127	77	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
128	78	"The guarantee class ""exists"" method should be called first and the ""GetHolderInfo"" web service should be invoked before the guarantee status is changed to ""in use"" if the holder is authorized."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
129	79	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
130	80	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
131	83	"Include a generic ""Customs / Guarantee chain"" actor."	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
132	84	Add a message from the Customs authorities to the holder.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
133	85	Include this in the preliminary test.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
134	86	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0

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[1] This column indicates in which version the results of the decision will be included for the first time.

Decision No.	Issue No.	Description	Date	Source	Version[1]
135	87	Using a transaction based access to the database would allow to rollback in case of problems within a transaction. A footnote should indicate that queries are performed within a transaction.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
136	88	Provide similar solutions as for the issues related to 3.1.2.1.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
137	89	An additional test has to be performed.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
138	90	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
139	91	Remove the message and the eTIR admin.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
140	92	The notification should be passed on to the actor.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
141	93	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
142	94	Apply similar solutions as for 3.1.2.5.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
143	95	Update the text.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
144	96	Update the text.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
145	99	Accepted proposal.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
146	100	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
147	101	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
148	102	Proposal accepted.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
149	106	See WCO framework of standards and EU regulation 1875/2006.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	
150	97	Include change in the next version of the Reference Model.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
151	98	Include change in the next version of the Reference Model.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
152	103	Include change in the next version of the Reference Model.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
153	104	Include change in the next version of the Reference Model.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
154	105	Include change in the next version of the Reference Model.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0
155	81	Include change in the next version of the Reference Model.	26-27 Nov. 2007	GE.1 (13th)	3.0

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