



Economic Commission for Europe
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975
Eighty-second session

Geneva, 8 February 2024

**Report of the Administrative Committee for the TIR
 Convention on its eighty-second session**
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I. Attendance

1. The Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention held its eighty-second session on 8 February 2024, in Geneva. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Union were present. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Road Transport Union (IRU). The Committee noted that the required quorum for the purposes of taking decisions – of at least one-third of the States (26) which are contracting parties (according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the Convention), was attained.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

2. The Committee adopted the agenda of the session ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/166 amended by renumbering 4 (b) (iii) to 4 (b) (ii) and its corrigendum ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/166/Corr.1, with, at the request of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), the addition of the issue on the revision of the TIR Handbook, under agenda item (5) (c).

III. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

3. In accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure and established practice, the Committee elected Mrs. F. Coulon (Belgium) as Chair for its sessions in 2024. Contracting parties were strongly encouraged to nominate candidates for the post of Vice-Chair in order to facilitate any future election process. The Chair addressed the Committee and her opening remarks are included in Annex 2 of the report.

IV. Status of the TIR Convention, 1975 (agenda item 3)

4. The Committee was informed that since the entry into force of the accession of Iraq, on 27 September 2023, the Convention now has seventy-eight contracting parties and that, since the activation of the system for Qatar, TIR operations can now be established with sixty-five countries. Detailed information on this issue as well as on depositary notifications is available on the TIR website.

5. The Committee took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 9 submitted by IRU informing the Committee that Best Mobility - National Transport Association, Skopje (Best Mobility - NTA/101), will be the issuing and guaranteeing association for TIR Carnets starting its TIR activities from 1 February 2024 in North Macedonia. The Committee requested IRU, whenever possible, any information on introducing a new national association to be provided well before coming into force ensuring operational continuity of the TIR system.

V. Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (agenda item 4)

A. Activities of the TIR Executive Board

1. Report by the Chair of the TIR Executive Board

6. The Committee endorsed the reports of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) at its ninety-seventh (June 2023) and ninety-eight (October 2023) sessions as contained in

documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/1 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/2 and took note of the report provided by the Chair concerning the ninety-ninth session of the board (December 2023).

7. The Committee took note that the Board continued its work on the development of a roadmap on the geographical expansion of the TIR system and had extensive discussion regarding the financing of the eTIR international system, with the aim to start the financing of the hosting and operation of the eTIR international system in 2025.

8. Moreover, the Board continued its considerations on the proposal by the government of Türkiye to use the eTIR accompanying document to allow the continuation of TIR transports conducted under the eTIR procedure in Contracting Parties bound by Annex 11 which are not yet interconnected with the eTIR international system. The Board remained positive towards the idea but also stressed that before an Explanatory Note could be submitted to the Committee and, possibly, included in the TIR Convention, a number of issues would have to be addressed and possibly require the involvement of the Technical Implementation Body (TIB) to assess the changes in the eTIR specifications which would allow to put in practice this new idea.

9. Furthermore, the Board welcomed the organization, on 30 November 2023, of the informal meeting it had proposed to help resolving the issues related to regular checks of TIR transports at certain border crossing points. The informal meeting was attended by representatives from the Customs administrations of Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Türkiye. Members of the Board as well as representatives of IRU and the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines & Agriculture (ICCIMA) also attended.

10. The Committee took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 1, containing the IRU TIR Carnet prices for 2024. The Committee recalling Annex 9-part III point (f) of the convention which refers to the obligation of the international organization to provide the TIR Executive Board with details of the distribution price of each type of TIR Carnet, requested IRU to prepare the prices on electronic guarantees which will serve the eTIR procedure for consideration at its next session.

11. The Committee took also note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 2, with the number of TIR Carnets distributed by IRU between 2001 and 2023 as well as the distribution, in 2023, of the various types of TIR Carnet per association. The representative of European Union requested IRU to include in this report the number of TIR Carnets distributed by European Union member States in total.

2. International TIR databank (ITDB)

12. The Committee requested the delegates to refer to the report of the 165th session of Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/330, para. 11) to obtain the latest developments concerning the status report on the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB).

3. National and regional TIR workshops and seminars

13. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat on future workshops that will take place especially about the 100th session of TIRExB and the side-event that will be organized back-to-back with the TIRExB session with focus on the operationalization of the TIR system in Iraq. Furthermore, information provided for the participation of the secretariat at the landlocked developing countries third United Nations conference, 18–21 June 2024, in Kigali, Rwanda. Of the 32 LLDCs, 17 are also classified as Least Developed Countries. They are located throughout Asia, Africa, Europe and South America and the implementation of TIR system in those countries is of utmost importance. The secretariat works closely with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) secretariat preparing the organization of a side event in the framework of the third United Nations conference and ensuring that the TIR Convention or at least the United Nations border crossing facilitation agreements are being mentioned in the forthcoming Kigali program of action.

B. Administration of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat

1. Status report on the accounts for the year 2023

14. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Committee. The Committee was informed that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations were not able to formally finalize the accounts for 2023 by February 2024 and that, therefore, the report on the complete and final accounts would be transmitted, as in the past, to the October session of the Committee in 2024 for formal approval.

2. Procedure for financing the operation of the TIR Executive Board and TIR secretariat

15. The Committee recalled that the budget and cost plan for the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2024 had been approved by the Committee at its previous session (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/165, para. 24). The Committee was informed about the transfer of the required funds for the year 2024 by IRU to the TIR trust fund (Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 3). At its previous session, the Committee also approved the amount per TIR Carnet (\$2.70 (rounded)) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/165, para. 25).

16. In addition, the Committee recalled the procedure for the collection and transfer of the amount per TIR Carnet to finance the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/145, para. 57 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24, Annex II), i.e.:

"[...] (8) IRU maintains a separate account detailing the number of TIR Carnets distributed and the related amounts referred to in Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 1 received.

(9) The IRU independent external auditor produces an audit certificate providing an opinion of the above-mentioned account for the year in question showing the amount transferred and the total amount actually invoiced (15 January).

(10) The difference between the two amounts will need to be adjusted a posteriori.

(11) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if the amount invoiced was more than initially transferred by IRU, the Administrative Committee, at its spring session, will be informed and IRU shall transfer the excess to the UNECE¹ named bank account (before 15 March). This amount will be reflected in the UNECE TIR accounts to be taken into account for the next budget year.

(12) On the basis of the above-mentioned audit certificate, if the amount invoiced was less than initially transferred by IRU, the Administrative Committee will reflect this amount in the amount per TIR Carnet to be applied in the next budget year to compensate the difference and ensure the financing of the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat. If the amount invoiced is less than initially transferred by IRU to ensure the funding of the operation of TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the last year of this Agreement, or on the termination of the same, the difference will be absorbed by IRU without recourse."

17. In view of the above, the Committee was informed about the audit report and management letter for the year 2023 (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/4) and, in particular, that the number of TIR Carnets distributed in 2023 (509,395) was lower than the forecast for 2023 communicated at the end of 2022 (564,000) and that, as a consequence, the books of IRU were showing an internal deficit of SwF 110,482.86. In accordance with Annex II, point 12 of the 2023–2025 ECE/IRU agreement (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/24), the Committee decided to reflect this amount in the amount per TIR Carnet in 2025 in order to clear the above-mentioned deficit.

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

18. The Committee also recalled that, at its October 2022 session, it mandated the secretariat to discuss, on its behalf, with IRU the issue of past and, potentially, future deficits, on the understanding that, in accordance with the newly introduced provisions 4 of the preamble of the Agreement and 12 of its Annex II, for the last year of this ECE/IRU Agreement, the deficit should be absorbed by IRU without recourse, parties settle the issue through mutual consultation and report to the Committee at its last session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/159, para. 27). The secretariat considered that the tasks of finetuning the implementation of the current agreement between ECE and IRU and on exploring options to co-finance the TIR secretariat from funds additional to those collected by means of an amount per TIR Carnet, require legal expertise, which is currently lacking within the TIR secretariat. The secretariat informed TIRExB on this issue, requesting the approval of the hiring of a consultant / legal expert to assist the secretariat on this endeavour. TIRExB approved the request (TIRExB/REP/2023/95, para. 30) and the consultant was hired.

19. The consultant, Mr. C. Moreno was invited to present to AC.2 the preliminary findings of his analysis seeking further guidance and the views of the contracting parties. Mr. Moreno highlighted the main challenges encountered with the current interim arrangement for the financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat that were linked to the number of TIR Carnets forecasted and distributed. He pointed out that since 2015 up to 2023 the forecasts had been significantly higher than the actual TIR Carnets issued having as result the generation of (internal) deficits in IRU accounts during all these years. To address these problems and simplify the funding process, the consultant suggested the transition to a lump-sum funding system. Under this proposed system, the international organization(s) would accept to transfer to ECE in November of each year, the budget amount for the following year to cover the costs of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat from the income generated by the international organization(s) via TIR activities. Based on the consultant, this will inter alia facilitate the implementation of the eTIR system and its coexistence with the paper based TIR Carnet, eliminate IRU internal deficits, the forecasting of the number of TIR Carnets to be issued and the involvement of ECE in the approval of the amount to be charged per TIR Carnet. The international organization(s) will continue to be authorized by the Administrative Committee to take on responsibility for the effective organization and functioning of an international guarantee system and will cover the costs of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat. He took the view that to implement the lump-sum funding system an amendment to the relevant provisions of the TIR Convention will be required.

20. Furthermore, and in order to sustain the operations of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat with additional extrabudgetary resources (as recommended in paragraph 35 of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) Report 2019/010 of 13 March 2019 on the audit and management of the TIR trust fund), it was also suggested to transform the TIR trust fund into a multi-partner trust fund in order to accept earmarked and non-earmarked contributions from donors. Thus, the new TIR trust fund would accept contributions from governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. ECE would conclude a contribution agreement with each donor in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules. The new TIR trust fund would not modify the legal obligations of the international organization(s) towards ECE that will continue to be based on the TIR Convention

21. The Committee took note of the information provided by the consultant and requested the delegates to provide inputs and views on his preliminary findings to the secretariat not later than 20 March 2024. The secretariat based on the inputs received and in cooperation with the Consultant, TIRExB and if needed with ECE Executive Office will prepare a first version of a formal document for consideration by the Committee, if possible at its extraordinary session in June (see para. 51).

VI. Revision of the Convention (agenda item 5)

A. Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the Working Party

22. The Committee took note that, for the time being, no amendment proposals have been transmitted by the Working Party for its consideration.

B. Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by the TIR Executive Board

23. The Committee recalled that at its previous session considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/10, which included amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by TIRExB.

24. The Committee recalled that it had agreed with the amendments proposed in chapters II.3 and II.4 of document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/10, i.e., the prolongation of the validity of the certificate of approval to three years and the acceptance of the certificate of approval until the last date of validity. However, regarding the new Explanatory Note 8.10 (e) and the Explanatory Note 0.6.2 bis1, on the basis of a proposal made by the Russian Federation, the Committee agreed on a revised version of the text proposed by TIRExB.

25. The Committee mandated the secretariat to include the four amendments in a revised document to be submitted at its next session, thus providing a last opportunity to further improve the wording of the amendments and, possibly, include them in a wider amendment package to be transmitted to the depositary.

26. The Committee considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/10/Rev.1, however, due to lack of translation of the document in three ECE official languages the Committee decided to postpone decision for its session in October 2024.

C. Amendment proposals to the Convention transmitted by a Contracting Party

27. The Committee considered documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/5 and Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 5 on an amendment proposal to Annex 8, Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Convention submitted by the Government of Ukraine concerning the procedures foreseen for the election of members of the TIR Executive Board. The Committee also received Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 6 which includes the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly to which reference is made by the Government of Ukraine.

28. The Committee was of the opinion that the amendment proposal submitted by the Government of Ukraine did not provide a solution to a specific issue faced concerning the procedures foreseen for the election of members of the TIR Executive Board. Moreover, the Committee noted a number of inaccuracies, such as a reference to AC.2 instead of a reference to TIRExB in the English version. The Committee regretted that Ukraine could not provide clarifications as it was not represented at the session and decided to not further consider the amendment proposal.

29. The Committee did, however, have a lively exchange of views on the subject of whether there was a real need to change the current procedures for electing members of the Board and whether amending the Convention or limit its intervention to some decisions that would provide more transparency in the process. A number of ideas were proposed, such as counting of ballots in the meeting room and to be observed by volunteers or, the number of votes that every candidate gets to be disclosed. Some of the delegates were of the opinion that the current procedures are not sufficiently efficient, while others pointed out that since 1999 when TIRExB was established these procedures had served very well in almost all elections.

30. The Secretariat reminded the Committee that contracting parties could make any amendment proposals, also those concerning procedures foreseen for the election of the members of the TIR Executive Board to do so by sending them to the secretariat.

D. Comments and examples of good practice transmitted by the TIR Executive Board

31. The Committee recalled that at its previous session considered the draft text of a revision to a comment to Article 3 and four good practices transmitted by TIRExB, as contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/11, with the aim to have them included in the next revision of the TIR Handbook.

32. The secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/11/Rev.1, which includes a rewording of the comment to Article 3 on postal items in its Russian version and a revised version of the best practice on authorized consignors for TIR in Türkiye following recent changes in the procedure related to authorized consignors for TIR in the country for consideration and adoption by the Committee.

33. The Committee decided to adopt the revised comment and the examples of good practices as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/11/Rev.1 and requested the secretariat to include them in the revised version of the TIR Handbook.

34. The delegation of the Russian Federation reiterated that in its view the lack of controls on the part of customs authorities during the loading of goods by authorized consignors increases the risk of fraud for all customs administrations involved in such TIR transports.

35. The Committee agreed with the request of the Russian Federation to include a reference to the previous paragraph in a footnote to the title of the authorized consignors' good practice once included in the TIR Handbook.

36. The Committee considered also the request transmitted by the Working Party on customs questions affecting transport on the revisions of the TIR Handbook. Several Governments in WP.30 session raised the importance of having the TIR handbook updated as soon as possible, thus providing a consolidated updated version of the TIR Convention including all amendments that came into force since the latest version of the handbook that was published in 2018. The secretariat informed the Committee that it already started its work on updating the TIR Handbook and that it would be ready towards the end of 2024. The Committee decided that the online version of the TIR handbook should be revised annually and if the number of amendments coming into force require, every six months. The hardcopy could be produced every three years considering the administrative processes required in order to prepare those publications. It also suggested that the number of hardcopies produced should be kept at the minimum required, avoiding waste of paper. As it concerns the gender neutrality of the handbook, the secretariat should examine if there is a mechanism at the level of United Nations system established ensuring gender neutrality of United Nations legal instruments and inform accordingly the Committee.

37. To further facilitate the promotion of the TIR Convention, the Committee supported fully the position that, pursuant to ECOSOC² Resolution 1984/79, the United Nations secretariat continues to ensure that the TIR Handbook be made available in the six official United Nations languages, to further facilitate the promotion of the TIR Convention.

E. Accepted amendment proposals to the Convention pending formal adoption

38. The Committee took note that, for the time being, there are no outstanding accepted amendment proposals pending formal adoption by the Committee.

² Economic and Social Council

VII. eTIR (agenda item 6)

A. eTIR international system and its interconnection with national customs systems

39. The secretariat informed the Committee that currently, interconnection projects have been initiated and national consultants have been hired using funds from the United Nations Regular programme of technical cooperation (RPTC) account for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Also, meetings have been organised with the customs authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran where different solutions for interconnection of the national customs system have been discussed. In all cases, the eTIR National Application has been proposed as the interconnection tool, a solution that could drastically reduce the interconnection time and resources required. Secretariat will continue its efforts to finalize those four interconnection projects within the year, and start the project with Turkmenistan, aiming at a middle corridor using the eTIR procedure towards the end of the year.

40. The Committee took note of the statement made by the Customs authority of India to interconnect to the eTIR International system possibly with the use of the eTIR National Application starting this year. ECE was requested to conduct training sessions and hold stakeholder meetings in India. Further, a meeting will be organized between the Customs authority of India and the TIR secretariat for discussing the technical details.

41. The Committee took also note of the statement made by the representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) concerning the interconnection of national customs systems of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the eTIR international system. Technical meetings will be organised between the Customs authority of Iran and the TIR secretariat in Iran in order to proceed with the interconnection project.

42. The Committee also took note of Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 8 which includes a project proposal submitted to ECE Executive Committee for approval. The project refers to the hiring of an international consultant to coordinate implementation of the eTIR interconnection projects in Central Asia (eTIR Coordinator) and it is being financed by Islamic Development Bank.

43. The Committee was informed by the secretariat that following OIOS recommendations and for reasons of transparency the secretariat will submit to the Committee for its information any new project being financed by funds other than United Nations budget or project accounts. The Committee took note of the project proposal as contained in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 8 pending approval by ECE Executive Committee. The Committee requested the secretariat to inform about any developments on this project at its next session in October.

B. Activities of the Technical Implementation Body

44. The Committee took note of the outcome of the fifth session of TIB, which took place on 12 and 13(p.m.) October 2023 and endorsed the report of the session as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/10. It noted, in particular, that TIB adopted the minor corrections included in revision 2 of version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications, as described in document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2023/7, and took note of revision 2 of version 4.3 of the eTIR specifications, as contained in documents ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/2/Rev.2 ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/11/Rev.2 (Introduction), ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/3/Rev.2-2 (and ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/12/Rev.2 (and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/3/Rev.2/Corr.1-1 (eTIR concepts), ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/4/Rev.2-ECE/TRANS/WP30/AC.2/2022/13/Rev.2 (and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/4/Rev.2/Corr.1-1 (eTIR functional specifications) and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/5/Rev.2-ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/14/Rev.2

(eTIR technical specifications). TIB agreed with amendments to be included in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications, i.e. the inclusion the issuing association code in messages E1, E3, E6 and I6 and the inclusion of a rule to prevent the amendment of customs offices already visited.

45. The Committee also took note of the outcome of the sixth session of TIB, which took place on 5 and 6(a.m.) February 2024. The Committee noted, in particular, that Mr. P. Arsic (Serbia) had been re-elected as chair for the sessions in 2024 and that revision 2 of version 4.3 of the eTIR technical specifications (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/TIB/2022/5/Rev.2–ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2022/14/Rev.2) had been issued in French and Russian. TIB agreed with amendments to be included in version 4.4 of the eTIR specifications, i.e. the addition of the Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) at both consignment and consignment item as well as with the proposed rule and making the name and address for the consignee and consignor mandatory.

46. Finally, taking into consideration that, in the absence of a quorum, TIB had to revert to the silence procedure for its last two sessions, the Committee invited Contracting Parties to ensure their participation in future sessions of TIB.

47. The Committee due to lack of time could not consider the request of TIB included in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 4 on access to TIR transport data by holders. The Committee will revert to this topic at its session in October 2024.

C. Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union

48. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECE and IRU (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2021/8), the Committee considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/3 which includes the annual workplan of the P3 Information Systems Officer staff member, hired against the funds provided by IRU under the MoU. The Committee adopted the annual workplan of the P3 Information Systems Officer staff member as included in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/3.

49. The Committee recalled that the ECE-IRU MoU on eTIR based on which the financing of P3 Information Systems officer is coming to an end in December 2024. The secretariat informed the Committee that the P3 post is the primary responsible staff for the development of the eTIR international system and the interconnection projects and that securing funds for the position for the years to come is of paramount importance for the implementation of the eTIR procedure. The TIR Executive Board (TIRExB) informed the Committee that, recalling the provisions of explanatory note 11.11.3 of Annex 11 to the TIR Convention and considering the urgency for a mechanism to finance the hosting and operations of the eTIR international system to be agreed and implemented, it has already started discussions on the possible financing mechanisms.

50. The Committee acknowledged the urgency for a sustainable financing mechanism to be found for eTIR since the ECE-IRU MoU comes to an end at the end of 2024 and welcomed the initiative of TIRExB, which has already started discussing possible financing mechanisms. The Committee decided that the secretariat, with the assistance of TIRExB and ECE Executive Office, should prepare a document which provides:

- (a) explanations/clarifications of the relevant provisions to the Convention;
- (b) a list of possible options for financing mechanisms including the processes required for their implementation;
- (c) the proposed budget on eTIR for 2025 including descriptions and detailed calculations of each expense identified.

51. The Committee, while considering the most appropriate and efficient way to address this urgent request, decided the following:

- (a) TIRExB is invited to dedicate adequate time during its 100th session in March in discussing this issue and preparing some concrete proposals;

(b) During March, the Chair of TIRExB, with the assistance of the secretariat, should organize a friends of the chair meeting which could be online and in English only, ensuring participation of interested delegates of the Committee;

(c) An extraordinary half-day session of AC.2, the eighty-third session, should be organized during June in conjunction with WP.30 in order to discuss a preliminary document prepared by TIRExB and the secretariat. It should be noted that the deadline for submitting this formal document would be 26 March 2024. The secretariat is requested by the committee to undertake all actions required in order for this session to be organized having its own agenda and report.

52. The Committee invited IRU to consider extending the current MoU for at least one more year thus providing additional time for the Committee to consider and decide on sustainable financing mechanisms for eTIR.

VIII. Authorization for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system (agenda item 7)

A. Prolongation of the authorization

53. The Committee recalled that at its seventy-seventh session, it had formally decided to prolong the authorization of IRU for printing and distributing TIR Carnets and the organizing and functioning of the guarantee system, for a period of 3 years (2023–2025) (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/157, para. 35).

B. TIR carnet new lay-out – Prolongation of a transitional period

54. The Committee at its last session considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2023/13, which contained a request by IRU to prolong the transitional period for the use of the TIR Carnets passed on the old lay-out. The Committee considered this request and approved a prolongation for six months. Furthermore, on the basis of a proposal by the Russian Federation, in order to better understand the justification for this request, the Committee requested IRU to provide the Committee at its next session detailed information on the number of remaining old TIR Carnets by country and by when the countries would be able to exhaust this stock.

55. The Committee considered Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 7 where detailed information on the number of remaining old TIR Carnets by country and by when the countries would be able to exhaust this stock is provided. It also included a new request from IRU and Iran (Islamic Republic of) for prolongation of the transitional period for the use of the TIR Carnets with the old lay outs for an additional six months until 31 December 2024.

56. IRU informed the Committee that after the expiration of the prolongation date, TIR Carnets with the old lay outs that might exist in stock will be invalidated and replaced with the new TIR Carnets free of charge for the national associations. The Committee took note of the information provided by IRU and approved the prolongation of the transitional period for the use of the TIR Carnets with the old lay outs until 31 December 2024, with the note that no new prolongation could be granted.

IX. Other business (agenda item 8)

A. Date of next session

57. The Committee tentatively decided to hold its eighty-third session exceptionally on 4 June 2024, subject to potential adjustments due to the ongoing United Nations liquidity crisis.

B. Restriction on the distribution of documents

58. The Committee decided that there would not be any restriction on the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session. However, it was decided that the presentation of Mr. C. Moreno should not be uploaded on the website and it should remain restricted.

C. List of decisions

59. The list of adopted decisions will be attached as Annex to the final report.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

60. In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the convention, the Committee adopted the report of its eighty-second session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex I

List of decisions taken at the eighty-second session of the Administrative Committee

<i>Reference in final report (para.)</i>	<i>Short description of decision</i>	<i>Actor</i>
21	The Committee took note of the information provided by the consultant and requested the delegates to provide inputs and views on his preliminary findings to the secretariat not later than 20 March 2024. The secretariat based on the inputs received and in cooperation with the Consultant, TIRExB and if needed with ECE Executive Office will prepare a first version of a formal document for consideration by the Committee, if possible at its extraordinary session in June	Committee / Secretariat
36	The Committee decided that the online version of the TIR handbook should be revised annually and if the number of amendments coming into force require, every six months. The hardcopy could be produced every three years considering the administrative processes required in order to prepare those publications.	Secretariat
37	To further facilitate the promotion of the TIR Convention, the Committee supported fully the position that, pursuant to ECOSOC Resolution 1984/79, the United Nations secretariat continues to ensure that the TIR Handbook be made available in the six official United Nations languages, to further facilitate the promotion of the TIR Convention.	Committee
43	The Committee took note of the project proposal as contained in Informal document WP.30/AC.2 (2024) No. 8 pending approval by ECE Executive Committee. The Committee requested the secretariat to inform about any developments on this project at its next session in October.	Committee
48	The Committee adopted the annual workplan of the P3 Information Systems Officer staff member as included in ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2024/3.	Committee
50	The Committee decided that the secretariat, with the assistance of TIRExB and ECE Executive Office, should prepare a document which provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) explanations/clarifications of the relevant provisions to the Convention; (b) a list of possible options for financing mechanisms including the processes required for their implementation; (c) the proposed budget on eTIR for 2025 including descriptions and detailed calculations of each expense identified. 	Committee
51	The Committee, while considering the most appropriate and efficient way to address this urgent request, decided the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) TIRExB is invited to dedicate most of the adequate time during its 100th session in March in discussing this issue and preparing some concrete proposals; (b) During March, the Chair of TIRExB, with the assistance of the secretariat, should organize a friends of the chair meeting which could be online and in English only, ensuring participation of interested delegates of the Committee; (c) An extraordinary half-day session of AC.2, the eighty-third session, should be organized during June in conjunction with WP.30 in order to discuss a preliminary document prepared by TIRExB and the secretariat. It should be noted that the deadline for submitting this formal document would be 26 March 2024. The secretariat is requested by the committee to undertake all actions required in order for this session to be organized having its own agenda and report. 	Committee/ Secretariat

*Reference
in final
report
(para.)*

Short description of decision

Actor

56	The Committee took note of the information provided by IRU and approved the prolongation of the transitional period for the use of the TIR Carnets with the old lay outs until 31 December 2024, with the note that no new prolongation could be granted.	IRU
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Annex II

Text of the TIR Convention, published in the Official Journal of the European Union in all official languages

- OJ L165 (26/6/2009) TIR Convention up and until amendment 28:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2009:165:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ L 066 (6/3/2012): amendment 29
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2012:066:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 244 (8/9/2012): amendment 30
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2012:244:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 245 (14/9/2013): amendment 31
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2013:245:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 346 (2/12/2014): amendment 32
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2014:346:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 321 (29/11/2016): amendment 33
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2016:321:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 99 (19/04/2018): amendment 34
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2018:099:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ-296 (22 November 2018): amendment 35
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2018:296:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ-331 (20 September 2021) amendment 36
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:331:FULL&from=EN>
- OJ 193 (1 June 2021) amendment 37
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2021:193:TOC>
- OJ 459 (22 December 2021) amendment 38
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2021:459:TOC>
- OJ 167 (24 June 2022) amendment 39
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2022:167:TOC>
- (25 June 2022) consolidated version:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/477/2022-06-25>

Annex III

[Original: French]

Statement by the Chair of the TIR Administrative Committee

Avant toute chose je souhaite remercier l'AC.2 pour la confiance dont il m'honore en m'élisant à la fonction de présidente pour ses sessions de 2024.

Je remercie en particulier les représentants de l'Union européenne et le président de la TIRExB pour avoir exprimé officiellement leur soutien à ma candidature. Merci.

Hier, lors du WP.30, alors que nous évoquions dans le cadre de la stratégie du CTI quel rôle les douanes pourraient jouer dans le cadre des défis environnementaux contemporains, j'ai en particulier apprécié les prises de parole engagées des délégations. J'ai aussi pris note du commentaire d'une délégation qui nous rappelait que les douanes sont le plus souvent un acteur parmi d'autres, un instrument qui va pouvoir être utilisé, activé et orienté pour servir des objectifs d'autres autorités sur le plan local, national, régional mais aussi dans un contexte mondial, comme c'est cas dans le cadre de la poursuite des objectifs environnementaux affirmés par les Nations Unies afin de répondre à la crise climatique.

Nous, les administrations nationales représentées à l'AC.2, nous œuvrons à la mise en place d'un outil douanier applicable sur le territoire étendu de la Convention TIR, cad celui de 77 États parties contractantes. La portée de nos travaux dépasse largement le contexte local.

Nous travaillons en tant qu'experts et représentants à la préservation d'une convention commune à laquelle nos états ont tous décidé d'adhérer car il ont cru et continuent de croire en son utilité.

La convention TIR est aujourd'hui loin de sa forme initiale. Par nos décisions passées et par ses amendements visant à sa modernisation, à son amélioration, nous lui avons donné ensemble une forme lui permettant de s'adapter aux besoins communs, en répondant aux défis et aux crises d'un monde en continuel changement.

J'espère qu'en 2024, à nouveau ensemble, et dans la bonne collaboration qui nous caractérise, nous prendrons des décisions qui permettront à la convention TIR de continuer à être un outil utile et moderne permettant de faciliter le transit douanier de marchandises au travers des différentes frontières de façon sûre et fluide sur un territoire toujours plus étendu.

Je souhaite aussi remercier le secrétariat, les interprètes et les techniciens pour leur support essentiel à nos travaux.

J'invite aussi tout représentant intéressé par la fonction de vice-président à se manifester auprès de l'AC.2 ou du secrétariat. La désignation d'un vice-président est en effet importante et sécurise, facilite la continuité du travail de l'AC.2.
